

Sword dance honoured with boundary signs



THE Grenoside Sword Dancers were honoured this week by having their name and a representation of their distinctive dance displayed on a new set of unique road signs leading into Grenoside village.

Cllr. Victoria Bowden led a petition for the signs, and with the help of Cllr. Alan Hooper, guided the project through the Highways Agency's strict criteria regarding the wording and symbols allowed to appear on roadside traffic signs.

Joe Dunn, a member of the sword dancers, was active in the consultation process and helped gather support for the projects from village groups.

He said: "This is a wonderful honour for the sword dance team. We are delighted to represent the village of Grenoside through these signs and hope to repay the support received by making ourselves available to perform for the many village groups at their various functions."

This year, the Grenoside Sword Dancers celebrate 100 years since the visit of folk dance and song collector, Cecil Sharp. In 1910, Sharp visited the village and featured the Grenoside Sword Dance in his book 'The Sword Dances of Northern England, Vol. 1'. Sharp helped keep English folk traditions alive and founded the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

To celebrate, the Grenoside Sword Dancers are organising several special events, including co-hosting the Grenoside Gala and Dance Festival in June alongside the Gala Committee and other village groups. Grenoside will also host the Sword Dance Union's annual international sword dancing tournament in October.

In December the team will hold a special winter 'Celebration of Village Life' in Grenoside Community Centre, where the final performance of their special tribute piece 'To Slay a Bullock' will be held, with performances from many other local groups.

For more information and full details of this year's events, visit www.grenosword2010.com