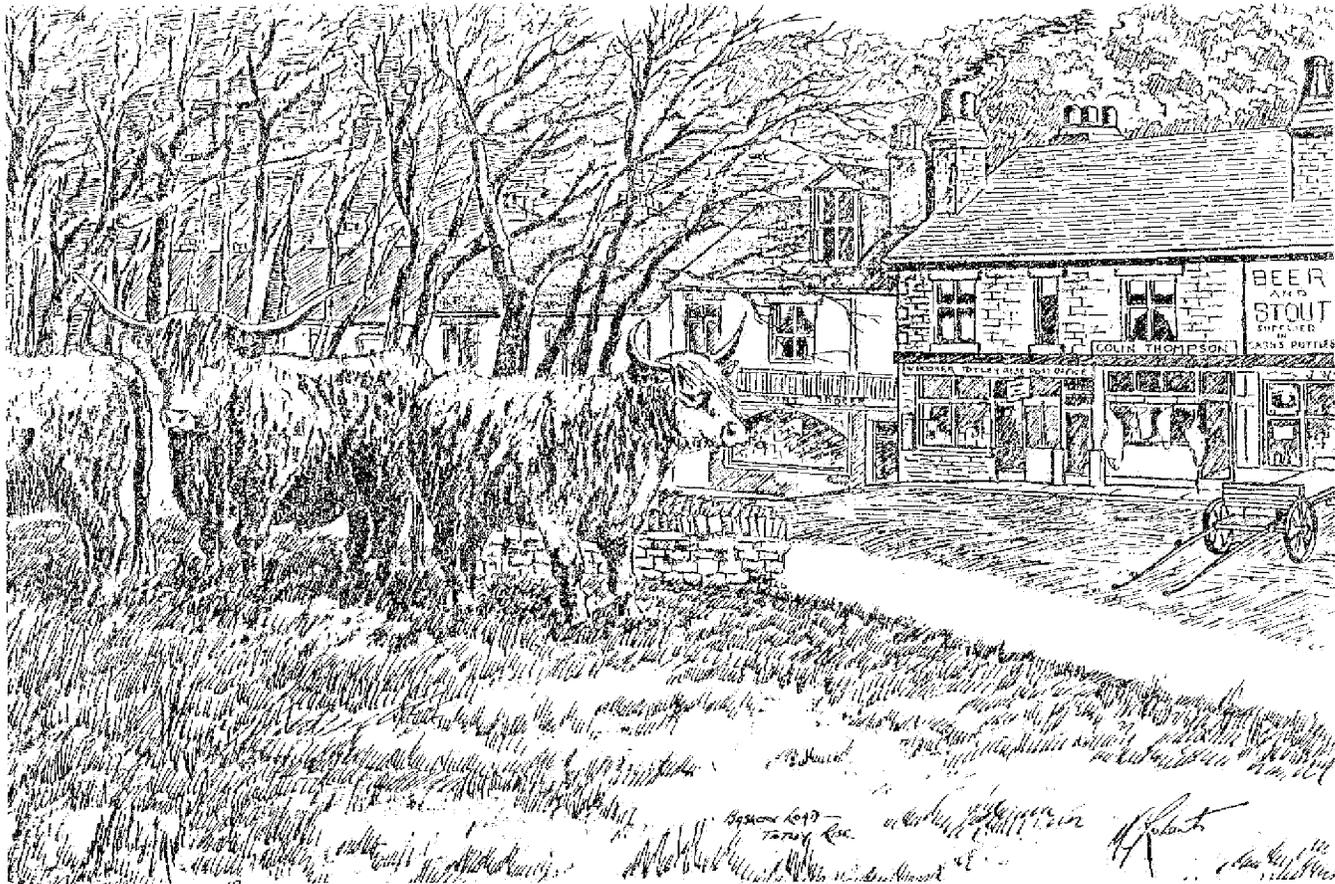


TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

Published by Totley Residents Association 12p NO 42 JANUARY 1981

HAPPY NEW YEAR !



HERD THE ONE ABOUT TOTLEY RISE ?

THIS RURAL SETTING depicts Totley Rise in the early 1920's, the exact date is unsure. The sketch was taken, by Mike Roberts, from a photograph kindly loaned by Frank and Peter Thompson. The original Butchers Shop and Post Office were situated lower down Totley Rise, the building

now housing Mr. Thompson's shop was originally planned as a Public House. When a licence was refused, the building was converted into three shops, as can be seen. At the time of the photograph, W. Booker had the Post Office - now Jacksons, Colin Thompson remained as it is today but now

owned by Mr. F. Thompson. What is now Wine Sellers was J.W. Morrison and lower down can be seen the Grocers owned by the Wint family - now Davys. The Highland cattle were owned by Colin Thompson and were no doubt, destined for slaughter in the abattoir located behind the shop.

THUNDERER

IT SEEMS THAT the initiative begun last Spring by the Glover Road Action Committee, in trying to make our roads safer, has unfortunately come to a standstill. Many of you will remember our report last April that a group of Glover Road residents were pressing Sheffield Council into making improvements in the safety of their road, especially at its junction with Totley Rise and Baslow Road, the scene of a series of recent accidents. The Glover Road situation stimulated a burst of activity and interest in local road safety which led to a public meeting in May and the formation of the Totley Residents Road Safety Action Committee. Now, however, with Chris Holmes and Roger Hines (the leaders of the G.R.A.C.) having moved from the district and all pleas for action seeming to have fallen on deaf ears, the initiative seems to have collapsed. (The lowering of the curbs across the dual carriageway was carried out almost as a secret exercise with no explanation of its intention). David Smith of Marstone Crescent, has been actively involved in trying to improve the situation and has done considerable research, producing a plan of the main roads in Totley, but even he has had to admit that with the current lack of support any plans are doomed to failure. Clearly what is most needed at present is someone, or ideally more than one person, to come forward and take a strong lead. We can only hope it will not take further tragedies to make people realise that the safety of our roads is far from what it should be. The Independent invites your comments on this issue and is more than willing to help in any way it can in getting a new initiative off the ground.

heads together

QUITE INDEPENDENTLY (no pun) Norton Parish Church have come up with similar observations and ideas about local unemployment as have been reported, by us, stemming from meetings held recently in Totley. A suggestion might therefore be, that perhaps an exchange of ideas should take place either before or at the next meeting, by interested parties from both areas. The date and venue of the next Totley meeting is still to be arranged.

PARTY

STAFF AND STUDENTS from Sheffield Polytechnic Totley Site helped out at the Totley Residents Associations fourth Annual Christmas Party for 150 Senior Citizens, held at Totley College on Sat. 6th December. It is the first time that the party has been held during term-time. The catering students, who prepared and served the food, were organised by Miss Barbara Hansforth. The students also contributed £50 from Hall Funds and presented each pensioner with a box of chocolates. Entertainments followed with the Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society giving a mixture of ancient and modern works from the 'Pirates of Penzance' to Novello's 'She may be weary'. The audience participated in 'My Bonny' and teenager Simon Green gave a good trombone solo. The musical interlude continued with the Freddy Boaden Trio including 'As Time Goes By', 'Paint Your Wagon' and a selection of seasonal songs. Vocalist Kenny Bardell was the special guest. John Scriven of Quarry Road was the 1980 trophy winner of the T.R.A. Best Kept Garden Competition. The raffle draw followed, with thanks going to Mr. Rawlings, who organised the prizes and Bingo was enjoyed, expertly called by Arthur Milnes. The evening ended with a beautiful violin performance by Robin Johnson and his able pianist (who stood in at very short notice).

His programme opened with 'Gypsy Carnival' and included 'Ole Folks at Home' - dedicated to the people of Totley, and finished with the immensely popular and lively 'Czardas'. Specific mention goes to some special students who particularly wanted including: Home economists Lynn Cowell and Gail Bulmer, Julie Ransom, Sandra Huss, Sally Chipperfield and three engineers who helped to clear up - Derek Williams, Paul Hirst and Steve Brecon. No doubt everyone will look forward to the next time.

Panto tickets

Subject to availability, tickets for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs being presented at All Saints School between February 6th to 14th, will be on sale at the ticket table in Totley Library between 2 pm. to 4 pm. on the following Saturdays in January, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Following the appeal in last month's issue for ladies shoes for the pantomime dame, Ray Atkin tells us that the response was tremendous and he now has an excellent choice of shoes.

whisperer...

..... From Derbyshire side, Mickley Lane now displaying notice "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles"..... Choice of two local pantomimes in February..... Interesting piece of Art/sculpture to be seen on surgery wall at corner of Marstone Crescent/Baslow Road.... New look to 'City Wall' magazine - now being published every two months..... Name of new Bradway pub appears to be top secret - will it take its name from the surrounding area?..... Don't forget closing date for names to be added to the War Memorial is 31st March..... Getting to be a habit - we missed the Polys December production of 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller at the Drama Studio, Totley Hall Lane given by the English Department (we did the same in '79)..... To 'Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog' (otherwise known as the Phantom Guinness Drinkers - there, you've got a mention! - now please don't put any more messages in bottles for the Park Keeper... or else 'Sam the Eagle and Animal' will be round to deal with you for dropping litter!.....



215th SHEFFIELD (1st TOTLEY)
SCOUT GROUP

Many thanks to all who attended and those who helped to make our Carols and Coffee Evening on the 9th December 1980 such a pleasant evening. We tried to keep the event purely social but in fact made a profit of £204.

Winners of the raffle were all local people, as follows:

- 1st Prize Meal for 2 persons at Bemis Inn, Mrs. Hawksworth, of Rowan Tree Deli.
- 2nd Prize Frozen Turkey, c/o Mr. Wragg, of Dore.
- 3rd Prize Bottle of Whisky, Mr. Steward, of The Grove.
- 4th Prize Bottle of Sherry, Mrs. Sayles, of Aldam Way.

We hope to have news of the lease situation on the Group Headquarters in Totley Hall Lane, in the spring.

John Turner
Group Chairman

COUNTY SCHOOL



Concert

When Mr. John Stanton, (the predecessor of Peter Furniss, Community Worker), undertook a survey of elderly persons in Totley, Green Oak area, many of them said they would be pleased to hear about activities and entertainment in their neighbourhood. With this in mind, Mr. Hukin, the Headmaster and the Staff and Pupils of Totley County School (along with Peter Furniss) sent out an invitation to their Christmas Concert held on Friday 12th December at 2 pm. Some 60 Senior Citizens enjoyed this delightful concert presented by the staff and pupils. Help with transport for those unable to make their own way, was provided by parents of the school and the Totley Polytechnic Student Union Community Action Minibus.

Talent

WE WERE DELIGHTED to read in the local press of the success of the Christmas Cantata called, "The Christmas Gift", the words and music of which were written by Mr. Geoff Hayes, the music teacher at Totley County School until July last year. During the summer holiday, he spent much of his time and tremendous talent composing "The Christmas Gift", which the children at Chamock Hall Middle School performed with enthusiasm at their Christmas Show for three nights. Mr. Hayes has also written nearly 30 songs and hymns, which await some generous publishers. These are written in the popular style - all words and music are entirely original and are particularly suitable for children (and teachers!) in Junior and Middle schools.

Ladies Club

Totley All Saints Ladies Club would welcome new members to meetings which are held on Tuesdays in the Church Hall at 7.30 pm. On 6th January we have our A.G.M. on 20th January Mrs. Ainsworth will give a talk on Patchwork. On 3rd February Mr. & Mrs. Drinkall, the Globetrotting Pensioners, will tell us about their visit to the Arctic Circle in their three wheeler car. This is an "open" meeting. Everyone is welcome - even Gentlemen !!

AHOY !

WEBBED FEET AND RUBBER SUITS

An archaeological "dig", fascinating though it may be, has always had its problems. The work has to proceed slowly and laboriously as the workers methodically observe, draw, label and excavate their findings. One type of "dig", however, requires members of the team to be even more dedicated - even masochistic - than usual, to be prepared to work under the most difficult and hazardous conditions and to be able to use an aqua-lung. These are the researchers who undertake archaeological exploration underwater, and their work is to be the subject of the next library talk, "Sunken wrecks and sunken cities", by I.D. Harris, on January 27th. The slide show covers some of the major underwater archaeological discoveries which have been made since 1945 (the aqua-lung was not invented until the Second World War) in Europe and the Mediterranean and we shall be able to see skin divers surveying, mapping and photographing the site of wrecks and of ancient sunken cities, and also lifting ships and their contents to the surface. The Mediterranean sites range from a bronze-age Syrian merchant ship, off Cape Gelidonya in Turkey, to Appolonia harbour, near Benghazi, a 4th century classical Greek ship near Cyprus, and 5th to 7th century Roman ships off Yassi Adaa Island, also in Turkey. Nearer to home, we shall see Henry the Eighth's 800-ton man-of-war, the "Mary Rose", in the Solent, the 800 ton Spanish Galleass from the Armada, the "Gyrona", off Northern Ireland, and the 1300-ton Swedish Galleon, the "Vasa", which has been raised from a depth of 120 feet after sinking in Stockholm harbour in 1628.

The talk concludes with a brief look at the examination of the sea-bed adjacent to Dunstanburgh Castle, off the coast of Northumberland, which featured prominently in the Wars of the Roses. This research has been taking place since 1975, and has been carried on by members of Sheffield Sub-Aqua Club, the archaeologist and historical adviser being our speaker himself. Besides his activities in the north east, Mr. Harris has done much research into the development of boats from Viking ships to Elizabethan galleons, and is currently working on the history and development of flat-bottomed fishing boats, known as cobbles, which sailed the coasts of Scotland, Northumberland and Yorkshire. He is a member of the Society for Nautical

Research, The Hakluyt Society (for discovery and exploration), and The Nautical Archaeology Trust. "Sunken wrecks and sunken cities" will start at 8 pm. on Tuesday 27th January in the junior section of Totley Library. Admission is free, no tickets are necessary and everyone will be welcome, whether library user or not.

T. Whitham
Branch Librarian

blue peter day

A Bring and Buy Sale is being held in All Saints Church Hall at 2.30 pm. on Saturday 24th January. The Hall will be open all morning to receive any items and contributions. Proceeds from the sale will be given to the Blue Peter T.V. appeal in connection with International Year of the Disabled. This sale is a joint effort between the Scouts, Guides and the Sunday School. A similar event has already been held at the United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road.

CHANGE OF SCENE

CAN ANYONE HELP the T.O.A.D.S. to find a scenery store? Through no fault of their own, they are having to vacate their present garage and urgently require another in this area. A garage, large outbuilding, anything deep would be considered. The scenery is only used two or three times a year, so they wouldn't be a nuisance to anyone. If you can help, please phone T.O.A.D.S. Secretary, Kate Walker - 364749.

KING ECGBERT ASSOCIATION

CEILIDH

Following the success of the Ceilidh held last January, another is being presented on Saturday January 24th in the Lower School Hall from 7.30 to 11 pm. Captain Webb's Channel Band will again be playing and there will be a caller on hand to explain the dances (square dance type) so that everyone can join in. Tickets, price £1.75 (including supper) will be available from January 8th from the school office or Committee members listed below. There will be a fully licensed bar and everyone is welcome.

Mrs. P. Mawson, 31 Rosamund Close, Bradway, 350900. Mr. A. Cooper, 5 Woodhead Road, Sheffield 2, 584043. Mrs. G. McAfee, 188 Dore Road, 367458. Mr. H.B. Wood, 222 Baslow Road, 361988.



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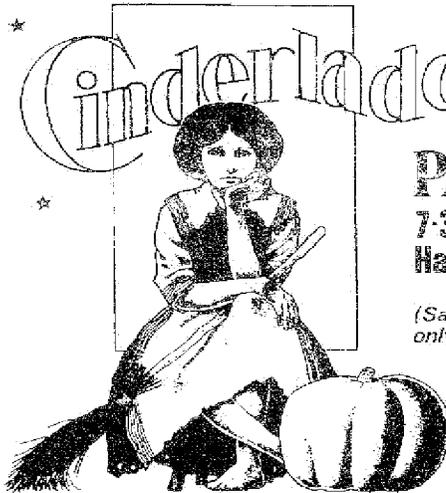
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IF YOU PREFER NOT TO CUT THE MAGAZINE, PLEASE SEND DETAILS OF
YOUR TICKET REQUIREMENTS ON A PLAIN SHEET OF PAPER.

cinderladdin

1981 sees the return of pantomime to the United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road. For the Dramatic Society has decided to re-introduce this popular evenings entertainment after a gap of eight years.

Not a few Totley residents will remember with nostalgia the excitement involved in auditioning, rehearsing and taking part in the Junior Church pantomimes produced each year through the fifties and sixties by the Reverend Frank Duckworth, who was minister at the Union Church for thirty years. Many young romances blossomed albeit briefly, amongst the young teenagers allowed out in the evenings to attend rehearsal and gaze stary eyed at the principal girl or boy.

When Mr. Duckworth retired the difficulties involved in finding a producer and a pantomime to suit the smaller cast of young people available meant that future productions had to be shelved temporarily. But members of the church Dramatic Society have from time to time discussed the possibilities of revival and at last, spurred on by the success of the Palace of Varieties show given in their Jubilee year, the wraps are off and it is all systems go with a six day production - Monday 16th February to Friday 20th each evening at 7. 30 pm, with a Saturday matinee only at 2.30 pm. With 170 seats to fill each performance, that is quite a lot of tickets to sell but they are confident they can do it.

"The big difference between pantomime and a play", says the Producer, Alan Muxlow, "is that in pantomime the barrier between cast and audience is taken down and you share the plot with the audience".

"We will certainly enjoy sharing Cinderladdin with our audiences, and they will be in for some big surprises!"

As you might suspect, CINDERLADDIN is a combination of two pantomimes rolled into one. But some of the characters appearing have certainly never been in any other pantomimes you've seen.

Tickets are available from the Box Office; Mr. J. Langton, 1 Ryecroft View, Dore. Telephone 364298.

Forte - fied

CONGRATULATIONS to Totley pupils successful in the Christmas pianoforte examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music -:
Grade 3 Katy Bennett - Merit
Matthew Lumb - Distinction
Grade 4 Michael Hawkins - Merit

LETTERS

SERVICE 746

TOTLEY - KING ECGBERT SCHOOL.

With reference to your letter dated 7th November 1980 regarding the above service, I am pleased to be able to inform you that commencing Monday 1st December 1980, an additional morning journey will be provided at 0856 hours (4 mins to 9) from Totley, Cross Scythes, to King Ecgbert School.

The morning peak situation at Totley terminus for service 24 journeys towards City has recently been monitored but no problems were found. The number of students using the service was 121 but they staggered their use of the service between 0743 and 0915 hours. During this period there were a total of 11 departures from the terminus and the maximum number of passengers on any one bus was 38.

Your point regarding the evening peak service from City to Totley has not yet been investigated. If you could supply me with the loading point at which difficulty is being experienced then this situation can then be monitored.

H.E. Griffith 28.11.80.
District Manager
S.Y.P.T.E.
11a Arundel Gate
Sheffield S1 1DD.

GREEN OAK PARK

I refer to your letter regarding entertainment in the Green Oak Recreation Ground. Most of the entertainment taking place in the parks are booked by various organisations, and the larger parks are asked for simply for the potential crowds expected. If you have any organisation in the Totley area who would like to stage an event in Green Oak Park the application would be looked at sympathetically. Owing to the finances available I am no longer able to stage the children's shows during the school holidays, which I know were always popular with the children at Totley.

A.L. Winning 13.11.80.
Director of Recreation & Amenities
Meersbrook Park
Sheffield S8 9FL.

ANY IDEAS ?

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE has been received from Peter Fumiss, Community Worker who works for Family and Community Services Department. Anyone with any interesting ideas is asked, if possible, to try to get along to the meeting or contact Peter on 734910.

Dear Readers,

Attached to our Green Oak Residential Home for the Elderly, (Green Oak View), we have a self-contained meeting room which is available for community usage on Fridays during the day time, and on occasional evenings. The room is a warm cheerful well furnished room, suitable for 16-20 persons. There are facilities for making light refreshments, and nearby toilet amenities, and the room is already used at other times by local residents as a Day Centre, a Pensioners Club and Drop in Centre. We are seeking further ideas as to how this room might best be used to serve the local community and to this end we are holding a meeting to hear peoples views. Ideas already suggested include: Mother and Toddler Sessions, Coffee mornings for locals, Advice Centre Sessions (along the lines of a Citizens Advice Bureau) and Pensioners Club.

We are holding a meeting on Friday 16th January, 9.15 am - 10.30 am, in Green Oak View Day Room. (Entrance is at the back of the home, off Lemont Road, immediately opposite the Library Car Park).

We invite you to join us (feel free to bring toddlers) and share ideas with us - coming to this meeting in no way commits you to any further involvement. Morning tea - coffee is available after the meeting. If you are a parent, drop the kids off at school and then come and join us; if you are a housewife or pensioner - just come along! Look forward to seeing you, please feel free to contact me if you wish to have further details or to discuss any ideas in advance.

Peter Fumiss
Community Worker

NEVER ON SUNDAY

WE WOULD LIKE to inform our customers that we will not be opening on Sundays in 1981.

We regret any temporary domestic problems that this decision may cause i.e. unstuffed chickens, no gravy, black coffee, dry - bread etc., but - please believe us - it is all in a good cause.

Norman and Jackie Fletcher.

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Items for publication may be sent to or left at Perkintons shop, Main Avenue, Peter Swifts, Totley Rise and V. Martin, Abbeydale Road South.

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We look forward to receiving your news, views, articles and drawings during 1981.

THE WAR GAME

BANNED FILM TO BE SHOWN IN TOTLEY

The film "The War Game" was made for the BBC by Peter Watkins in 1965, but has never been shown on television. (It was on only as a result of widespread public demand that the BBC eventually agreed to its being shown in cinemas).

It depicts, in documentary style, the possible build-up to World War 3, and the effects of nuclear bombing on a medium sized British town. "The Observer" commented: "Probably the most important film ever made . . . should be shown everywhere on earth".

Fifteen years later, the BBC still refuses to show the film. The reason given now is that it is "outdated"; the Civil Defence plans in the film include mass evacuation, whereas the present instructions are that the majority of us (those not among the elite for whom the government has provided shelters) should stay at home, for there would be nowhere safe to go.

Much of the rest of the film is all too "up-to-date"; in fact some of the material in the opening scenes is almost exactly reduplicated in the government's booklet "Protect and Survive".

Should this film be shown on T.V. ?

People in Totley will have a chance to judge for themselves, for it is to be shown in Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall on Thursday January 29th at 8 pm.

This has been arranged by a local Peace Action Group formed after the meeting, "Prospects for Disarmament", which was sponsored by the Local Council of Churches and U.N.A. (Wrongly attributed in 'The Star' to CND; Totley Independent got it right!) The group includes people from five different Christian denominations, members of U.N.A., and other concerned individuals. The film will be followed by an informal discussion and people who have reservations about the World Disarmament Campaign are invited to share their views, for this is a debate which concerns all.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Plans are being made to try to give everyone in the Dore Ward an opportunity in the coming months to study the World Disarmament Petition and, if they support its aims, to add their signatures. Anyone (other than those who volunteered on November 18th) who would be willing to help in this enterprise, please phone 366668. A meeting of volunteers will be held sometime in February.

MUSICAL TOTLEY

The writer informs us that his research into the mediaeval music in our locality is unrivalled. He is an eminent authority on the subject although, out of sheer envy, few people will acknowledge his claim. However, he has every confidence in our ability to recognise genius.



"TOTLEY ? OR BUST !"

William Hempseed was the son of a knife-polisher. He lived for many years with his parents in a small cottage near Totley Hall, and at the end of the 18th century he was playing a primeval bass fiddle in the villages of North Derbyshire. Of William's career, few authentic records have survived although household accounts of the Duke of Devonshire for the year 1794 specify that sixpence was paid to a "W. Hempseed" for "musick at a masque". Shortly after this, a letter written by one of the Hardwick Hall family mentions William's spirited playing at a harvest festival. These are probably the earliest known references to music in Totley. In addition there are several here-say stories about William's accomplished musicianship. It is said that he was once sent for to tranquillize an irate bull in Yew Tree Croft, whereupon he played several long passages from Bach's "Saint Matthew Passion". The purist might regard this choice of programme as mildly incongruous but old customs often defy logical explanation.

Ludwig boarded the first available stage-coach to Grimsby: a tum of events which the gentry of Baslow Road regarded as well-nigh calamitous, shattering their dreams of international distinction and a lucrative tourist industry - plastic Beethoven busts selling like hot cakes from the two post offices, and Mr. Tym offering "Si-loin Eroica", (spelt with care - of course). Discussing the affair in later life, George Skidmore was inclined to blame Lily and the damned "Peace" gardens. "Who but a woman," he grumbled, "would have told that German about Charlie Peace being a virtuoso violinist ?"

Strauss was not in so great a haste to leave us. He stayed for over a week and composed yet another waltz. One would expect nothing less. Back home in Vienna his wife heard and was enchanted by the new masterpiece, but the title provoked her to some considerable indignation. "But !" Johann explained to her, waving his arms about descriptively, "I stood on this lovely little wooden-foot-bridge and the water looked so clear and unsullied. You could actually drink it, too. Utterly different from the brown sludge that meanders through our dear Prater." "Brown sludge or Vouvray 57 !" snapped Frau Strauss, "makes not a scrap of difference. If you don't use a more patriotic title the citizens of Vienna will lynch you with your own fiddle strings. And whoever heard of anything so ridiculous as 'The Blue Totley Brook' ?" Johann shrugged his shoulders and there the matter ended - Totley again robbed of everlasting glory because of political expedience and a craven little Austrian.

And history was running its customary incomprehensible course in nearby Russia. A young man named Peter Ilyich - described generally as neurotic - entered the Ministry of Justice and was very soon regarded as one of the most inefficient members even of the Russian Civil Service, so he gave it all up and instead put together half a dozen marvellous symphonies. Fortunately, this particular trend has never been followed whole-heartedly by our own bureaucrats, or Shakespeare's lovely Isle would now be knee-deep in swan lakes and sugar plum fairies. Tchaikovsky, being exceedingly ill-advised in 1893, never travelled any-

where near our beloved hamlet but went instead to Petersburg, drank some un-boiled water and died of cholera. How much better he would have fared in Totley where practically nobody dies of cholera - or joins the Russian Civil Service!

The venerable burghers of Dore may be justly proud of their prize-winning Male-Voice Choir and their Gilbert and Sullivan Society, but lower down the valley at the bottom of Furniss Avenue, Brian Showcross lives in a house of indescribable memories. You might pass the building without a second glance, never suspecting that Debussy had lived there for over three years. A wooden plaque beside the front door used to solemnize this heart-warming fact, but it fell off one night when zeppelins were bombarding the snuff mill on Mickley Lane. The specious woodlands of our green vale so thoroughly captivated Debussy that he was inspired to write some elaborate musical passages to which he gave the title:- "Moonlight in the Totley Woods". Regrettably, the score was stolen - some say by a local naturalist who, daily and nightly, roamed Gillfield Wood with his camera, his beetle boxes and a coat pocket large enough to accommodate a very sick pheasant.



By comparison, Beethoven's two-night stay at the "Cross Scythes" is much more convincingly reported in Dr. Fanshaw's well-known biography. George and Lily Skidmore were the resident licensees and Ludwig was much taken by the delights of Totley and also, in some lesser degree, by the charms of Lily. "You must stay here longer !" she urged him. "Then you can compose your immortal 'Emperor' concerto." Ludwig nodded thoughtfully. She took him by horse-bus to review the picturesque by-ways and rookeries of Sheffield town and it was then that, brimming with Westphalian curiosity, the great man came to ask how the "Peace" gardens had acquired their unusual name. Lily's eyes grew moist and soulful. "They are a form of dedication", she murmured; "An expression of civic pride".

"Do not make your piece of music sound too romantic!" this character was heard to threaten Debussy, "my wife is suspicious enough already!"

Many of you will know Claud Martindale of Queen Victoria Road. His late grandfather, who also lived in Totley, had been both a guard on a famous express train and also a dedicated Wagner fan. He once wrote a letter to Wagner, extolling the virtues of the machine age in so persuasive a manner that the composer of "Lohengrin" agreed to commemorate, in a brilliant vivace, the actual engine lauded by this impressive Martindale fervour. However, although Richard's musical accomplishments were quite beyond dispute, his linguistic flair was rickety at its very best. In fact he completely muddled up the whole business and published his overture, not as the "Flying Scotsman", but as the "Flying Dutchman".

Handel, ever intimidated by lurid tales of harsh weather and the dark satanic mills of the north country, stayed away from our fair village. He did receive one pressing invitation from a rich widow, Henrietta Peat, who lived in a large house where Dore Road now joins the highway to Baslow.

The letter was accompanied by an oil painting of the lady herself which revealed to Handel and to posterity that comely features and a well-moulded geography were not the exclusive monopoly of the south; but in a reply overflowing with fine and courteous phrases, the maestro declined her invitation: "unless", the postscript concluded, "Arsenal are booked to play at Hillsborough". A ray of hope for Henrietta!

Periodically I am accosted by a Miss Evelyn Lambert of Chatsworth Road, and if Miss Lambert were blond and thirtyish I would not complain quite so bitterly but, dear me, she was playing "Chopsticks" even before Lord Roberts planned the relief of Ladysmith. At each encounter, this good woman seeks to persuade me that her grandfather, Ezekiel Lambert, was the true inventor of the semi-quaver. Now I am fiercely loyal to Totley and to all Totley's rights and privileges but, as Andre Previn said to me only the other day: "that sort of claim, even for Totley, seems a trifle far-fetched!"



"BUT GENTLEMEN, WE ARE STILL FOUR SHORT FOR A TUG-O-WAR TEAM".

PLOUGH

MONDAY

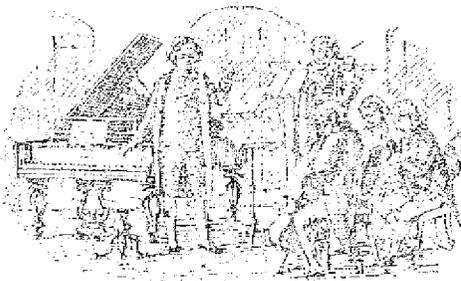
PLOUGH MONDAY, the first Monday after Twelfth Night (Jan. 6th) was at one time, in Sheffield and the surrounding villages, almost as notable a holiday as Christmas itself, and very much a time for various traditional events. The hiring agreement made between the farmer and his hands stipulated that, apart from attending to the stock, the holidays should extend from Christmas Eve to Plough Monday, the day after which the Spring Ploughing was begun.

Games known as 'plough stots' took place in rural areas. A plough drawn by a number of farm hands, who were the stots (a Yorkshire word meaning oxen) was driven by a man who carried a blown bladder at the end of a stick. There was also usually a fiddler, a clown in female attire (sometimes called the Bessy/Betty, who carried the collecting box) and a Captain who was gaily decorated with ribbons and who wore a calf's tail round his hat. They sang and danced, generally enjoying themselves. The plough, which was sometimes decorated with four illuminated lanterns - two from the stables and two turnip lanterns from the field, was drawn round the houses - private and otherwise or wherever there was prospect of a contribution and this was encouraged by a little mummery and sword play.

No farmer would trust such a group with one of his ploughs, so a special one was made from the bole of a tree, to which were nailed a couple of bolts to act as handles. There was a special ritual about the tree from which the plough was to be made - it was either the first felled or

cut on a certain day. Morris Dancers also appeared in the city streets on this day, attired in knee breeches, buckle shoes and short braided coats. The performers were usually twelve in number and carried short steel swords, which at certain stages of the dance they clashed and twined together above their heads, in patterns.

In Sheffield, about the mid 1800's, the cutlers and many of the workmen from John Brown's and Cammells, the two big works in those days, 'played' on Plough Monday. Little bands of men, attired in tissue paper costumes or smocks, with faces blackened, paraded the town carrying their plough with them. Many of the public houses stood back from the road with an open space or pull-up in front of them. The plough men would threaten that if the Landlords did not pay up they would plough up the space in front of his doors. The money obtained in this way was spent in the evening at a favourite pub. (How would our local Landlords react if this happened today?) You can well imagine the shape and straightness of the first furrow ploughed on the Tuesday morning! Plough Monday celebrations would seem to have died out towards the end of the 19th century, although they still survive in some villages. What an excellent way of beating Monday morning blues. There is currently an exhibition in the Weston Park Museum 'Nowt as queer as Folk!', where there is to be seen an interesting print of a plough monday celebration which dates from about 1814.



"I suggest we audition for Friday nights at the Cricket".

JANUARY DIARY

6th Tues. Totley All Saints Ladies Club A.G.M. 7.30 am. Church Hall.
 9th Fri. Totley Townswomen Guild "Members Night" 7.30 pm. Dore and Totley United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road.
 12th Mon. Totley Residents Association Committee Meeting. 8 pm.
 12th Mon. U.N.A. Housegroup, 6 Dore Rd. 8 pm. Refugees-Whose Responsibility?
 13th Tues. TOTLEY FORUM. 7.30 pm. Green Oak View Day Centre.
 14th Wed. St. John's Wednesday Club (Ladies). Speaker - The Rev. Mr. Hudson - Vicar of St. John's Church. 8 pm. Details- Mrs. B. Bradshaw 366811.
 16th Fri. Green Oak View Day Centre. 9.15 am to 10.30 am. Meeting to discuss use of this room for the local community.
 20th Tues. Totley All Saints Ladies Club 7.30 pm. Mrs. Ainsworth - Patchwork.
 24th Sat. Ceilidh. King Egbert Lower School Hall. 7.30 pm.
 27th Tues. Totley Library. 8 pm. L.D. Harris. "Sunken wrecks and sunken cities".
 28th Wed. St. John's Wednesday Club. Sheffield Newspapers Ltd. Film Show - "The Star - One of the Family".
 29th Thur. Film "The War Game". Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 8 pm.

FEBRUARY

3rd Tues. Totley All Saints Ladies Club. 7.30 pm. Mr. & Mrs. Drinkall.
 6th Fri. to 14th Sat. Panto. Snow White & 7 Dwarfs. All Saints School.
 16th Mon. to 21st Sat. Panto. Cinderladdin. Dore & Totley Un. Ref. Church.

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MODEL SOCIETY

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A new society for affectionados of military pastimes has been formed, entitled - "Sheffield Military Modelling Society" and they would welcome any interested new members. Formed initially from devotees of figure modelling of the Napoleonic period in both metal and plastic kits, the range of activities has spread to Armoured Fighting Vehicles, Wargaming and Re-enactment groups who recontest bygone

battles of both the English and American Civil Wars.

The range of kits on the market today has meant that anyone with a little skill, some reference material and a whole lot of patience can construct almost any item of military subject from any period of history and especially with plastic kits, if your choice of subject is not available, conversions from one type to another can easily be effected. If you are interested in joining the society, contact Mike Hague on Sheffield 747559 who will give you all the information you require, or drop a line to him at 29, Allenby Drive, Greenhill.

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