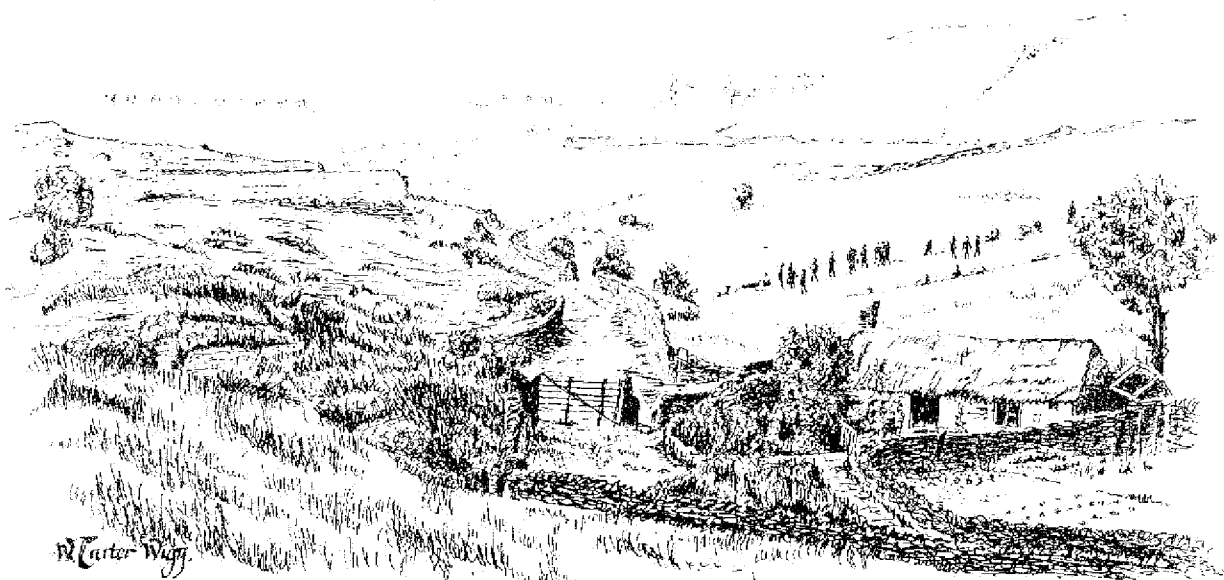


TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

Published by Totley Residents Association 12p NO 44

MARCH 1981

TAKE A TIP



MONNYBROOK HAMLET

IN THE September 1980 issue there appeared a drawing of a cottage in the old hamlet of Monnybrook. Here is another new drawing, based on an old postcard photograph, kindly lent to the artist by Mrs. Reeves of 12, Old Hay Gardens, Dore.

From this photograph it is clear that the Totley Tunnel was still fairly new. The waste tips are still very raw, with only a trace of vegetation on one of them, which, as the tunnel was completed in 1893, suggests a date around 1895 or a little later. The well tended garden just over the wall - and the open door of the cottage suggest that it was still occupied then and, indeed, an intriguing note on the back says: "Flo Siddall lived in cottage".

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**New Club ? and
New Competition** page 8

Diary page 12

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THUNDER

THERE'S CERTAINLY strength in numbers, as our Senior Citizens proved, when they turned out in force to examine the possibility of forming their own local club. No doubt, they had already foreseen that their major problem would be that of premises or accommodation, particularly if their high, enthusiastic numbers are maintained when their club is eventually formed. They are, of course, one of a number of sections of the community that would benefit (and make good use of) a suitable building; their advantage being that they could probably meet during the day and not be restricted purely to evening events. However, with the current economic climate, all ambitions seem to have to be long term. Strength in numbers is obviously the key. They are most certainly to be congratulated for taking the initiative. Their progress will be reported and followed with great interest. Hopefully, those other sections of a similar mind may be able to jointly offer them support in their ambitions.

T.R.A.



THE ANNUAL MEETING of the T.R.A. takes place at 8pm. on Wednesday 8th April at the Heatherfield Club, Baslow Road. New committee members are required, and nominations can be put forward. Members of other local associations are more than welcome to attend and can also stand for nomination to the committee if they so wish. The more the merrier. Membership of Totley Residents Association is open to everyone who lives or works in the Totley area whether private resident, council tenant, private tenant or temporary resident (e.g. students).



TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION would like to point out that they have no connection with a recent leaflet, that may have appeared through your letter box, under the title "HOUSING VANDALS". The leaflet invites you to join a local tenants or residents association, if you wish to take action. This is incorrect in the case of T.R.A., as by its constitution it is a non-political organisation.

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Unemployment

THE LATEST in a series of meetings about local unemployment took place in the Cross Scythes upstairs room on Thursday 19th February and this was followed by a meeting of the smaller steering group on Wednesday 25th February. Unfortunately, no representative from the Manpower Services Commission was able to be present at the 19th February meeting, but information received pointed out that the S.T.E.P. programme is now on the way out (this was basically a one year scheme) and is to be replaced by a more flexible, 3 year scheme, the Community Enterprises programme. One important point raised was that publicity for all the previous meetings was perhaps not as widespread as it might have been throughout the district and this will be rectified for the next and perhaps most important meeting, although there were several people currently unemployed who managed to attend. The proposals, suggestions and findings of the steering group will be given out in detail, either by leaflet or local posters and hopefully the city press and radio will be able to supply information. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th March. Please look out for full details nearer the date. Many thanks to Tony Oldham for allowing the use of his room.

Pet Project

Mrs. Pat Dixon of 24 Meadow Grove Rd. is collecting Pet Foods to sell at future events in aid of Cheshire Homes. If you would like to help with a donation, please contact her at the above address or tel. 368128.

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Mind Your Language

TOTLEY RESIDENTS with an interest in speaking, learning or teaching a modern foreign language may like to know of the Modern Language Association's fair 'Modern Languages in South Yorkshire', which will be held in Buchanan Hall on the Totley site of the Polytechnic on Monday March 30th and Tuesday March 31st. Each evening a programme of talks and demonstrations has been arranged and it will also be possible to sample a brief 'taster' course in one of the language laboratories, using Spanish, Italian, Russian or even Japanese. Details of each evening's programme will be displayed in the Totley Branch Library, or ring Mr. Maurice Potts in the Department of Modern Languages - 369941, Ext 237.

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COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS

SATURDAY MARCH 21st.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

YOU MAY be wondering what was the
outcome of the questionnaire on CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT AND SCHOOL UNIFORM
that was recently circulated by King
Egbert School. A lengthy report was
written on the results of the survey and
the following is a brief summary of some
of the findings.

Summary.

1. The high levels of response (68%, 46%,
94%, respectively) indicated substantial
interest in these matters among teachers
parents and pupils. The low levels of
undecided responses (usually around 5%,
never in excess of 10%) suggested that
firm views were held by the large majority.
There was a strong relationship between
the responses to the two issues (80% or
more expressing similar views on both
matters).

2. In all groups the majority expressed
disagreement with the council resolution
on discontinuing corporal punishment (69%,
78% and 59%, respectively, disagreed;
whilst 19%, 19% and 34%, respectively,
agreed. The majority of teachers and
parents disagreed with the council
resolution on discontinuing compulsory
school uniform (60% and 75%, respectively,
disagreed; whilst 31% and 22%, respec-
tively, agreed). Pupils' views on comp-
ulsory school uniform were less clear-cut
with variations from year to year (the
first two years were strongly opposed to
compulsory school uniform - by about 75%
to 20%, with 5% undecided) and variat-
ion of attitude depending on whether the
policy was to apply to all schools, or
only to King Egbert Lower School. On
the council resolution 53% expressed
agreement (with 40% in disagreement).
On the other hand, 50% wanted comp-
ulsory school uniform retained in King
Egbert Lower School (45% wanted it
discontinued).

3. A majority of all groups (ranging from
55% to 77%) expressed the view that the
decision on each of the issues should be
made by individual schools.

If anyone wishes to see the full report
there are one or two copies available
in the offices at the Lower and Upper
Schools.

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Spotlight on

THE LOCAL STAGE



PANTO, being such an adaptable form, is an ideal way of introducing youngsters to perform on stage. Cinderladdin was children (covering the full age range, including tinies), with an adult Widow Twankey (Phil Jubb, who brought back memories of much loved Will Hay), presented as a family show with a panto theme.

Although the plot involved two stories, it was easy enough for the younger members of the audience to follow. Due mainly to the age of the cast, the script was precisely maintained leaving only few opportunities for the audience to join in, which they were well pleased to do.

The surprise of Act 2 was a splendid 'STAR WARS' sequence with most of the well known characters in attendance, the two Robots and Darth Vader, in particular, being both first class and realistic. It was a pity this did not last longer as it was most skilfully carried out.

The main backcloth problems were cleverly overcome by the use of a giant storybook, at the back of the stage, whose pages were turned to spell out the scenes.

Perhaps the most interesting question raised by Cinderladdin is "what will it lead to?", for it was encouraging to see such a young cast, Peter Gronbeck as Aladdin showing competence and promise, with Wendy Ashmore and Lynn Edisbury merrily portraying the ugly sisters. Maybe next year some brave lads will take the plunge in playing parts such as these!

out of thin air

WITH THE DUST from Cinderladdin hardly having had time to settle on the stage floor, the Dramatic Society at the United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road, are rehearsing for their Spring production - OUT OF THIN AIR, by Derek Benfield.

This charming little comedy was first produced by the Salisbury Arts Theatre Company at the Playhouse, Salisbury, in 1961. It has been described, rightly so, as a "first-class piece of nonsense". The plot set in the manor house in a remote part of Ireland involving characters such as fresh-faced Peter Franklyn, Sir Wilfrid Jennings and Rupert Winthrop appears to have all the ingredients necessary to witness an ensuing chaos as the action progresses. For rest assured you will enjoy following the twists of this unpretentious piece of writing, which is a worthy follow-up to THE OTHER FELLOWS OATS, staged last October. Production takes place from April 1st - 4th, inclusive. Tickets are available from members of the Dramatic Society, Martin's Shop, Abbeydale Rd. South or the Box Office - tel. 361081.

REMINDER

ANY ASSOCIATION with shows, plays, concerts etc., wishing to sell tickets are reminded that the ticket table in Totley Library is available for this purpose on Saturday afternoons only between 2 to 4pm. Please contact the Branch Librarian in advance either at the library or ring - 363067.

hobson's



choice

WHAT A PITY it would be, if the best (and largest) stage in the area, the one at King Egberts was not used to best advantage by the school itself. Fortunately, this is definitely not the case. Following in the footsteps of last years excellent "Billy Liar", Februarys 'Hobson's Choice' proved another winner. This time, by contrast, a costume comedy set in Salford, Lancashire in 1880.

This stage lends itself (and was given) splendid large sets. Even the delay before the last act was well worth the wait, as the living room was revealed. The cast was drawn from pupils in both the Upper and Lower schools, highlighted by their difference in height, which seemed to add rather than detract from the performances. Debbie Eke, as Maggie Hobson, the self assured and dominant Boot Shop owners daughter, played her role admirably (and enjoyed every minute of it). Willie Mossop appeared in the shape of a small bundle of talent called Iain Gillard, a part played with great success last year by T.V.'s John Noakes. The pace was bright and confident throughout. Apart from all the members of the cast, the school, its staff and the plays producer/directors Mrs. J. Jeffery and Mr. M. Radnan are to be congratulated for encouraging drama and entertainment to such a high standard and for the opportunity they allow the pupils, in doing so.

Heigh - Ho

The board in the Independent and the photograph in the Sheffield Telegraph and Star whet our appetites. What on earth did an erstwhile respectable University Lecturer want with a pair of size nine ladies' shoes? All was revealed when Totley All Saints School Parent Teachers Association presented "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in the School Hall.

It was the good old traditional pantomime that we have come to expect now from Trevor Wood, with all the right ingredients to keep both adults and children entertained. There was the delectable Snow White, looking so much like all the illustrations: a snooty, malicious Duchess who provoked boos and hisses from the audience: her brother, the hen-pecked King, splendidly portrayed by Mike Williamson: the seven dwarfs with their superb costumes and false feet - (have their knees recovered yet?). Of course there was a horse, who only moved when the children shouted a Barbara Woodhouse "Walkies", and a charming Prince to rescue Snow White from the evils of the French Golden Delicious - at least I think that is what it was, as a loud voice behind me was moved to say "British apples are best"!

But the two characters who stole the show were Gertrude, the Dame with the size nine shoes, and her son Sam. I remember Ray Atkin making a brief, embarrassed appearance in the first pantomime two years ago and could not believe that this was the same man. It was a very professional performance, complemented by fantastic costumes, wigs and outrageous hats. Who can forget his portrayal of Brown Owl complete with a large stuffed owl on his hat with eyes lit up? He was aided and abetted by Trevor Wood as his son. Trevor held the show together with songs, mime and dances along with the eight pretty girls, and encouraged audience participation. We happily threw back the snowballs that they bombarded us with, and shouted out warnings about the ghost.

The full houses for each performance are indicative of the popularity of this annual pantomime and must make all the hard work of the backstage staff and all the many helpers more than worthwhile. Thank you for a good laugh in these times of economic gloom.

Kate Walker.

A display of photographs of this panto are currently on view in the Library.

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Concert

TOTLEY RISE Methodist Church members are organising a Spring Concert in aid of Cherry Tree Childrens Home. It is to be held in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 11th April, at 7.30 pm.

The programme will be very varied - instrumental music, songs, verse, humour something for everyone.

Come along and enjoy an evening provided by local talent for a good local cause. Tickets are £1 for adults, 50p for children and this includes refreshments.

They may be obtained by phoning 366668 or 363803 and will also be available from the ticket table at the library on Sat. March 28th. 2 to 4pm.

LOST OWL

The Dore and Totley Brownie Pack at the United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road have recently had the misfortune of losing their owl. They are feeling, understandably, rather lost without it and would like to appeal, through our columns, for any information which might lead to its return. Failing this, any offers from people prepared to make a replacement or perhaps donate one, would be very welcome. If you think you can help, please contact: "Tawny Owl" Mrs. Cram of Wyvern Gardens, tel. 350476.

Comment

We are assured that any rumours alleging that this owl ended up on Ray Atkins' hat are totally unfounded.

A plan for the

GREEN BELT

The Story So Far

THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL LEAFLET THAT WAS RECEIVED BY TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AS WELL AS OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN EARLY JANUARY 1981).

□□□□□□□□□□

The City Council is preparing a plan for the green belt in Sheffield. The green belt is an area of countryside where only certain types of development are generally allowed. These are for purposes which are considered appropriate to rural areas, such as agriculture, recreation and forestry. The City has had a green belt for some time now and this has helped check the spread of industry and housing into the countryside. It has also helped to preserve the special character of certain villages and towns in Sheffield district. However, not all of the existing green belt (shown overleaf) has been formally approved and much of the countryside around Woodhouse and Mosborough remains unprotected by green belt. The Green Belt Plan is being prepared with the help of a number of interested organisations, including South Yorkshire County Council. It will conform generally with the provisions of the approved Country Structure Plan. The plan will look at the needs of the countryside of the whole district. It will consider the best ways to protect farmland, woodland, important buildings and areas of natural history. More land will be needed for housing, industry and other building purposes in the city, and the plan will have to make sure that enough land is set aside for this kind of development. The plan will also examine the need to improve certain areas of the countryside and promote opportunities for recreation in the area.

The City Council would like to know what you think of the countryside in Sheffield and the pressures placed upon it. Overleaf are some of the main issues which the Council feels the plan should tackle. What are your views on them? Are there other problems it should consider? Now is the time to make your views known. All comments will be taken into account in preparing the plan. A draft of the plan will be drawn up in Spring of next year, and there will be an opportunity to comment on the plan's proposals when it is published. The closing date for comments at this stage is 31st January, 1981.

□□□□□□□□□□

THE FIRST REPLY

16th January 1981.
"A Plan for the Green Belt"
Following a meeting of the Committee of the Totley Residents' Association held on 12th January, I have been asked to write to you in strong terms. Your letter dated 29th December was received during the week beginning 5th January, and you seek public participation in an exercise due to be completed on 31st January. Whilst it has been possible for the Committee to give just a certain amount of consideration to this subject, the time scale you have set effectively precludes any local publicity either through our local community magazine, the Totley Independent, or through church magazines. The January issues had already gone to press before your letter was sent, let alone before it was received. Furthermore, we note that whilst copies of the leaflet are being circulated to libraries at Mosborough, Chapelton and Stocksbridge, as well as the Central Library, other libraries are not being included. Do you not wish to let the public know of this exercise in public participation at Hillsborough, Ecclesall, Greenhill, Broomhill or Totley?

Perhaps it is not considered that areas such as these have any views to express; or that the Green Belt on their doorsteps is not so vulnerable (or so valuable) as those parts of it elsewhere? Whatever the thinking, the fact remains that the leaflet distribution is selective in the extreme, and one wonders what sort of decisions are going to be made, what consideration is going to be given, to the views expressed as a result of this exercise.

We would strongly urge that the closing date be extended at least another month - and that in the meantime a better and more fully spread coverage be achieved.

Alan Jockey Chairman T.R.A.

□□□□□□□□□□

THE SECOND REPLY

26th January 1981.
"Green Belt Consultations"
On behalf of the Totley Residents' Association, I wish to submit the following comments in reply to your enquiry.
1. In general terms, the existing "Green Belt" should be preserved, and changed from "provisional" to "definitive" in status. As long as it remains "provisional" there remains an incentive to speculative action causing the retreat from secure agricultural & management into short-term policies hoping for reclassification and making for neglect and dereliction as a positive pressure towards such change.
2. Where possible, firm "Green Belt" status should be extended, especially in the Woodhouse and Mosborough areas. It is also important that, where boundary changes have obscured existing boundaries (e.g. between Sheffield and Grenoside, Sheffield and Loxley, and in the southern area - Dore and Beauchief etc) that existing "Green Belt" areas be not allowed to disappear in the interests of some paper logic about "in-filling". Areas mentioned are at risk, as are parts of Totley and Syecroft and Ecclesall - Roughs.

3. Land for housing and industry can readily be found in present inner areas, and with the rocketing costs of public transport it is important to resist and reverse the concept of spreading development into a wider area.

4. Not only should the Rivelin and Porter Valleys be protected; so should the Don and the Loxley and the Sheaf as much as possible. At present, far too little effort has been put into such "green fingers" with consequent spoliation of features that could have been, and could become again, an asset to the environment.

5. Sports and pastimes that should be discouraged, or at least strictly controlled, are those that damage the rural environment, such as motor-cycle scrambling and sports car rallying; those that should be encouraged include walking and rambling, sailing and angling - that harmonise more readily with the rural scene.

6. Mineral extraction and waste disposal. Mining is clearly a necessary industrial activity, but ought not to be pursued to the destruction of the environment. Controls should include land reclamation or cosmetic treatment to minimise the damage. Waste disposal needs even stricter control - and no toxic waste disposal should be allowed by dumping or burial. There is no guarantee of permanent safety, however stringent safety rules may be drawn up.

7. Derelict land. A lot of the present derelict land is so because of planning blight. Establish a permanent and stringent "Green Belt" and the conditions for blight around the present perimeter will be taken away, thus allowing for secure use and the return to good farming of land now deteriorating into dereliction.

8. Areas of geological and natural history interest. These need continual watchfulness, with the co-operation and advice of academic and voluntary bodies concerned for them. Gillfield Wood, Totley is one such area that calls for care in conservation, together with the woodland in the upper reaches of the Sheaf Valley (along Old Hay Brook and between Totley and Bradway).

9. As mentioned in my letter of 16th January, my Association regrets that the invitation to participate in this first phase of the project was sent out by you too late for us to give it proper publicity in Totley and involve as many people as we should have wished. It was only on protest that (a few) copies were made available in our local Library. We trust that better and more adequate coverage will be attempted when more detailed proposals are drawn up. We would certainly want to share in that opportunity.

LETTER RECEIVED

6th February, 1981.

GREEN BELT PLAN

I acknowledge with thanks your comments on the preparation of the Green Belt Plan. A substantial number of interested groups and individuals have already sent in their comments. However, others have indicated that they would be unable to reply by the end of January. In the light of the considerable public interest in the Green Belt Plan, the Chairman of the Environmental Planning Committee has agreed to extend the consultation period until 28th February. If you wish to add to the comments you have already made I will be able to accept any supplementary information up to the end of this month. All comments received from members of the public, Government Departments and environmental and community groups will

be carefully considered during February and March. These comments, a survey of the existing Green Belt and potential extensions to it, and other technical work, will form the basis of the Draft Green Belt Plan. It is hoped that this will be submitted to the City Council's Environmental Planning Committee in May, 1981. If the Committee approves the report for consultation purposes, there will then be an opportunity for you to comment on the plan's proposals. I will write to you in due course when the Draft Green Belt Plan is available for public consideration.

J. Winter Director.
Department of Planning & Design
Town Hall
Sheffield.

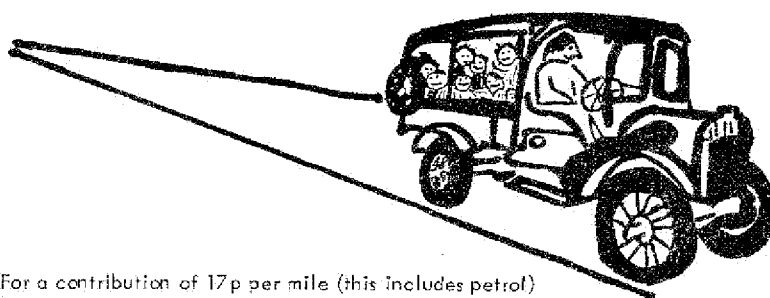
Footnote.
Individual members of T.A.D.E.S. are also involved with the current Green Belt issue.

STUDENT COMMUNITY ACTION

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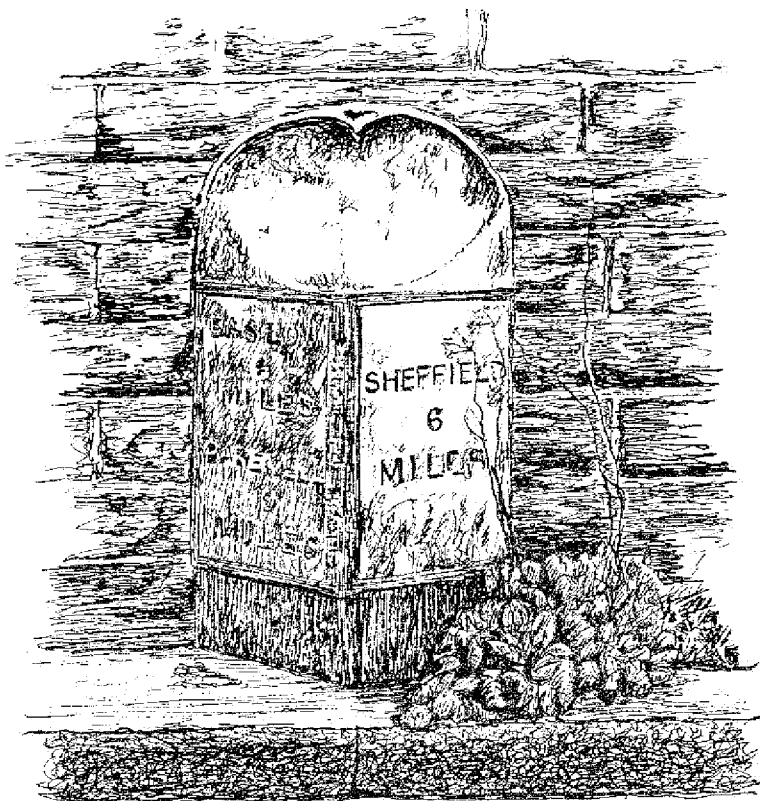
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TOTLEY TEASER No. 1.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS ?

THIS IS the first of a new series of Totley drawings by Mr. W. Carter Wigg, to test your powers of local observation. In the next few issues there will be a prize offered for the correct answer to every 'TOTLEY TEASER'. So start your postcards rolling in now. Closing date for entries to No. 1 is March 21st. Answer and Prize Winner next month.

SENIORS SHOW THEIR STRENGTH

THE MEETING of Totley Senior Citizens (see 'New Club' in last month's issue) was such a success that it had to be moved, lock stock and barrel into Totley Junior Library where there was more room. Well over 60 over 60's turned up and under the capable guidance of Peter Fumiss, of the Community Services Department, aided by Mr. Wooffinden, a lively and productive meeting ensued. To summarise briefly, the following points seemed to meet with general agreement, namely that:

1. There was a real need for a centre in Totley for a wide range of social activities enjoyed by pensioners, from Art through Darts to (shame !) Bingo.
2. The provision of a purpose built centre and all that would be involved was a long term objective, measurable in years, if not decades and would have to be undertaken with the next generation in view.
3. The present generation would have to avail themselves of existing buildings and facilities which should be assessed forthwith.

A working party of nine volunteers undertook to meet again on 20th February (too late to report in this issue) with a view to making a physical examination of all the halls and suitable rooms in the district and tabulating their desirability or otherwise in terms of size, availability, accessibility, catering facilities, comfort, cost and any other relevant factor. They were to report, with their recommendations, to another MEETING OF SENIOR CITIZENS OF TOTLEY to be held at the library at 2pm on 13th March.

So whether or not you attended the first meeting, please come along and exchange views. The total ages of those attending this meeting must have attained 4,500 years, so lets have 9,000 years at the next one. (We are not insisting on 45 centenarians either!) INVITATION & WARNING. There is no Club nor Committee as yet and the working party is simply a bunch of volunteers without official status, so whether you wish to help direct the fortunes of the club, which must surely now come to birth or to contribute

towards its operation by giving a talk, slide show, demonstration or leading or teaching a class or helping with a cup of tea and a bun or simply to find out what may emerge from the melting pot for your delectation and delight, you cannot afford to miss the meeting on 13th March. (Please pray for as good weather as prevailed on Friday 13th February. We have done our best by fixing it for another Friday 13th !)

SHEFFIELD CITY POLYTECHNIC

Department of History. Certificate in Local History.

A two-year part-time course involving attendance one evening per week and leading to the award of a Polytechnic Certificate. To start in October 1981, on the Totley Site of the Polytechnic. Further details from the Faculty Office (Ref. 539) Humanities, Totley Site, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Sheffield S17 4AB. Tel. 369941.

LETTERS

NOISE

In a recent Star Weekly it was reported that a person living on the Totley Grange Estate had said "we moved to Totley for the quiet". I think many people would agree with that statement. In fact, I believe the district is a relatively quiet one: though it seems to be getting noisier each summer.

There are now some people in the area who have to tolerate neighbours' transistor sets out of doors, loud indoor wirelesses/record players blaring through open windows and quite a number of what seem to be noisier-than-necessary machines for gardening or do-it-yourself work. Unfortunately many creators of these various noises do not understand the irritation that can be caused to some of those living nearby.

One example of noise that is heard by all of us is the chiming of the ice-cream vans. Last summer, hearing them go around the areas to the south of us and the areas to the north of us, as well as in our own vicinity, meant that we must have heard the strident first bars of 'Anchors Away' hundreds, if not thousands of times. And that was only one of the three vans that haunted the district. Once mid-day comes on Saturday and Sunday it seems that the various chimes continue intermittently for as long as daylight lasts. One of the vans has now reduced his chimes to about six notes, and this has been a very welcome relief.

I personally wish ice-cream vans could find some less irritating way of advertising their presence, unless of course they could stop sounding off altogether. I should be interested to know if any other people find this a particularly exasperating noise pollutant. Perhaps, something could be done via the Department of Environmental Health to bring about a reduction in the volume and frequency of the chimes.

And please when we are buying garden machines, could we try and get the quieter ones?

M.S. Haworth
10 The Grove, Totley.

ROAD SAFETY

I was sorry to read that very little progress has been made, in the area, on the matter of road safety, however, I would like to comment on this subject regarding some of the young Motorcyclists. I would like to appeal to the Parents of young Motor Cycle Riders and Owners to try and persuade some of them to stop commuting up and down Baslow Road, at speeds in excess of the legal limit. I spoke to a number of these young riders some weeks ago, who were parked outside the Chip Shop on Totley Rise. They all appeared to be sensible young riders, but several of them were unaware that a 30 mph speed limit existed in the area, however, they listened to what I had to say with reference to speed and road safety.

The pleasures of owning and riding a motor cycle are not lessened by observing the rules of the road, and if one is a member of a motor cycle club, a whole new outlook is gained, along with companionship of other motor cyclists. There are several motor cycle clubs in the area, but if a rider should wish to improve his ability to handle his machine under all road conditions, provided he has passed his test, he may wish to join the group of Advanced Motorcyclists. This group meets on the first Monday of each month in an upstairs room at the Big Tree Hotel, Woodseats. (You don't have to drink intoxicants), and we shall be pleased to welcome new members. There are film shows by various motorcycle manufacturers, and talks by the Police, Ambulance officers and Road Safety officials.

Other than aspects of road safety, training is available up to the advanced standard. It's surprising how many "budding" Barry Sheenes tell us what they have learnt when they become advanced motorcyclists.

When the instructors consider the rider is ready to take the test, an appointment is made with the Police rider examiner. This officer is a Class 1 advanced Motorcyclist, and there are no questions to answer. The officer gives you a route to follow, and follows on his own machine, observing your riding ability, positioning on the road, your attitude to other road users and conformation with speed limits etc. The test is approx. 40/50 Miles, and in some cases involves motorway riding. Machines under 200 cc are not really suitable, although we have several members who have taken, and passed, the test on 100 cc machines. We would like to get more advanced riders in the Sheffield area, and thus help

to cut down on motor cycle accidents, whilst improving the image of the motorcyclist in general. Further more, some insurance companies are drastically reducing their premium for riders who have passed their advanced test.

V.S. Bentley
President Sheffield Group of Advanced Motorcyclists
182 Baslow Road, Totley.

Comment

It is understood that the Baslow Road crossing was the subject of "County Council Summons, page B11, Highways Section 25", at a meeting on 28th Jan. The views of all relevant bodies are to be sought by members of the county engineers department, and a report will be presented to councillors. We hope to be able to bring you up-to-date with progress in the next issue.

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times change

"SHEFFIELD AS IT WAS" a trip from town centre to Totley", a slideshow with commentary by Horace Clayton, is the title of the last of the Totley Library talks for this season. Mr. Clayton will be taking us on an imaginary coach trip - horse-drawn, of course - from Fitzalan Square, along High Street, The Moor and London Road, past Abbeydale and Mill-houses, across the town boundary into Totley. We shall be looking back at a time when our grandfathers and great-grand fathers were young "swells", when women couldn't vote, when bustles and wasp waists were all the rage, and men wore silk hats and stand-up collars. "Sheffield as it was" will start at 8 pm. on Tuesday 10th March, in the junior section of the library, and anyone bringing photographs or postcards of old Sheffield will be particularly welcome. Please come early to make sure of a seat.

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T.A.D.E.S. are hoping to recommence work on the Totley Pinfold in the very near future, possibly with help from Totley students. A substantial amount of new material has been purchased, but following the donation of a stone path from a lady on The Grove, this suggests that there may be other stone (not concrete) flags, whole or broken in the district, lying unused in local gardens. Anyone who can donate any stone flags - or could help with transport (maybe the loan of a trailer) to get them to the Pinfold is asked to contact Stan Bingham, (366526) Rose Cottage, Hillfoot Road, any member of T.A.D.E.S. or the Independent will pass the information on.

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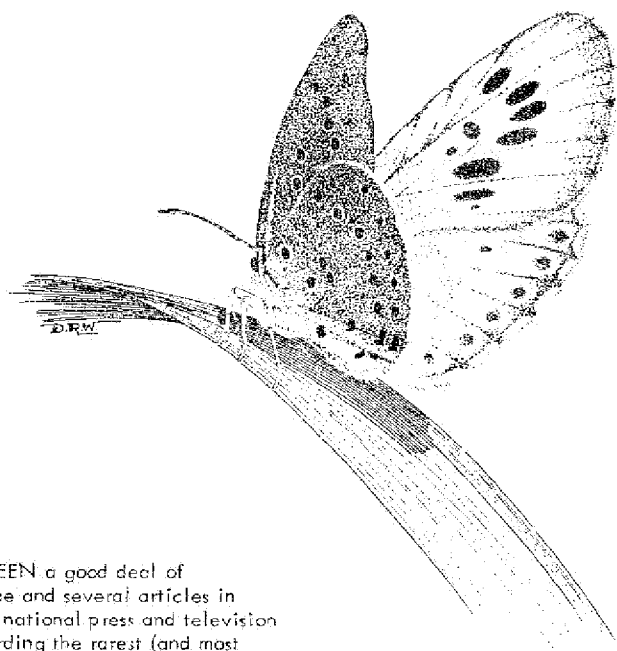
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THERE HAS BEEN a good deal of correspondence and several articles in the local and national press and television recently regarding the rarest (and most recently extinct ?) of our native butterflies - the Large Blue. A little background information may help you follow the articles a little better, since I believe the present discussion has a long way to go yet.

The Large Blue has never been common. It was first recorded in 1795, but has been thought to have always been restricted to the south of England, and has become markedly constricted during the last 100 years. Its distribution is limited by the insect's life-history. The egg is laid on wild Thyme, and the caterpillar feeds on this plant for a short time. Very soon however, it wanders from its foodplant and is found by a foraging ant of a particular genus. In return for a few drops of a sweet liquid secreted by the caterpillar, the ant picks it up and takes it to the nearest ants' nest. The caterpillar for the rest of its larval life feeds upon ant larvae, rewarding the long-suffering ants with a further few drops of sweet liquid. This may seem very odd behaviour for a traditionally vegetarian caterpillar, but in its early stages, the caterpillar is very cannibalistic, and would not hesitate to eat a smaller one of its own species.

The caterpillar pupates underground and the adult butterfly emerges from the ants' nest unmolested and with its wings still soft and undeveloped. On gaining the outside it climbs a stalk or twig and its wings assume their normal shape. You can see that such a complicated life-cycle can be easily upset and changes in the pattern of agriculture on its breeding-grounds have decimated the numbers of the Large Blue in recent years. Even such unconnected events as the epidemic of myxomatosis in the rabbit population caused great trouble, as this altered the length of the grass. The rabbits and sheep keep the grass length very short, allowing the Thyme and the ants to exist normally.

When the rabbits disappeared the conditions were no longer suitable for the butterflies' precarious life-cycle. The other problem has been the collectors who have thoughtlessly and needlessly collected hundreds of specimens for their cases with no regard to the consequences of their action.

The Large Blue is the largest of our Blue butterflies and has a quite unique life-history. It is worth preserving if it is still present in this country. The possibility of it still being here is, I believe, quite strong. The Blues can often form quite tiny colonies which may be missed by even the keenest observer. They can be very particular about the time of day at which they fly, and so may exist in tiny unknown colonies. As an example of this, when I was attempting to photograph the rare and beautiful Adonis Blue a few years ago in Dorset, I met a keen collector coming from the hillside where I intended to work. He had travelled 120 miles to collect on this hillside and was returning very disappointed, having seen no Adonis Blue at all. I pressed on up the hill and suddenly Adonis Blues were everywhere - seemingly they had a particular time at which they flew. Thankfully I was lucky: the collector was not.

My particular interest in the Large Blue is that I would like to photograph it - it is my photographic Everest. My ambition is to photograph all our native butterflies and dragonflies. I'm over half way with both, but of course, the fraction remaining comprises all the difficult ones: the rare, the 'tree-toppers' which never come down, the distant (North of Scotland) and the totally unpredictable. Sadly it's an ambition which I may never realise, three species of dragonfly have become extinct since I began, and now the Large Blue?

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Bob Warburton would still like to hear from anyone who can help solve the puzzle of the local Q-shaped depressions which were the subject of his article last month. Bob can be contacted at 22 Rowan Tree Dell, tel. 369125.

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MARCH DIARY

- 4th Wed. All Saints School P.T.A. A.G.M. Cross Scythes 7.30 pm.
 6th Fri. U.N.A. Public Meeting. "Conserving our World - A strategy for resources, Environment and Wildlife". 8 pm. Speaker - Frank Coley M.P. Dore & Totley United Reformed Church Hall, Totley Brook Road.
 6th Fri. Barn Dance. Totley County School P.F.A. "Fiddlesticks" 8.30 pm. Tickets £1.75 includes cooked supper. - Roger Hart, 367034 or Jeff Knibb - 361531. Bar (subject to license). Everyone Welcome.
 7th Sat. A Working Day. Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet.
 8th Sun. " " " "
 10th Tue. Library Talk. H. Clayton, "Sheffield as it was: a trip from town centre to Totley".
 11th Wed. St. John's Wednesday Club, 7 pm. Church Hall, Abbeydale Rd. South. The Origins, Uses and Decline of Stone Circles. Lecture and Film Show by Mr. H. Beech.
 13th Fri. Totley Townswomen's Guild. Film Show and Talk by Mr. Kelham on "Switzerland". Abbeydale Hall, 7.30 am. (admission 10p).
 13th Fri. Meeting of Totley Senior Citizens in Totley Library. 2 pm. See inside.
 14th Sat. Jumble Sale. 2 pm. United Reformed Church Hall, Totley T/W Guild.
 16th Mon. T.R.A. Committee Meeting. 8 pm. 222 Baslow Road.
 21st Sat. Mad March Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon at Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. Stalls, competitions, talent display and children's entertainment. Adults 15p, children 5p. Everyone welcome.
 25th Wed. U.N.A. and Church Group Meeting, Working with Boat People Refugees in Sheffield. 8 pm. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall.
 25th Wed. St. John's Wednesday Club, Annual Dinner. Details tel. 366811.
 26th Thur. Cross Scythes, 8 pm. Meeting on Local Unemployment.
 27th Fri. All Saints P.T.A. Dinner Dance. Abbeydale Golf Club. (For details Tel. 364036. John Youdan).
 28th Sat. Jumble Sale, All Saints Church Hall. 2 pm. Admission 5p. Jumble received at hall from 9.30 am. Small items collected - phone 360328, 362516 or 365102.
 30th Mon. Modern Language Fair. Totley College. See inside for details.
 31st Tue. " " " "

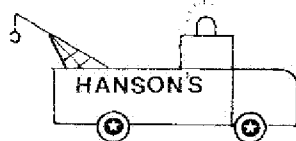
APRIL

- 1st Wed. to 4th. Sat. "Out of Thin Air". Dramatic Society, Dore & Totley United Reformed Church. Totley Brook Road. See Details inside.
 4th Sat. King Egbert Association. Jumble Sale. 2 pm. Dore Parish Church Hall, Townhead Road, Dore. Anyone able to help ring Mrs. Mawson, 350900.
 8th Wed. Totley Residents Association. Annual Meeting, Heatherfield Club, Baslow Road. Please give your support and offer your comments. 8 pm.
 11th Sat. Spring Concert for Cherrytree. 7.30 pm. Totley Rise Meth. Church Hall.
 28th Tue. Joint Meeting. T.R.A. and U.N.A. Totley Library, subject "The International Year of Disabled Persons". Details next month.

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