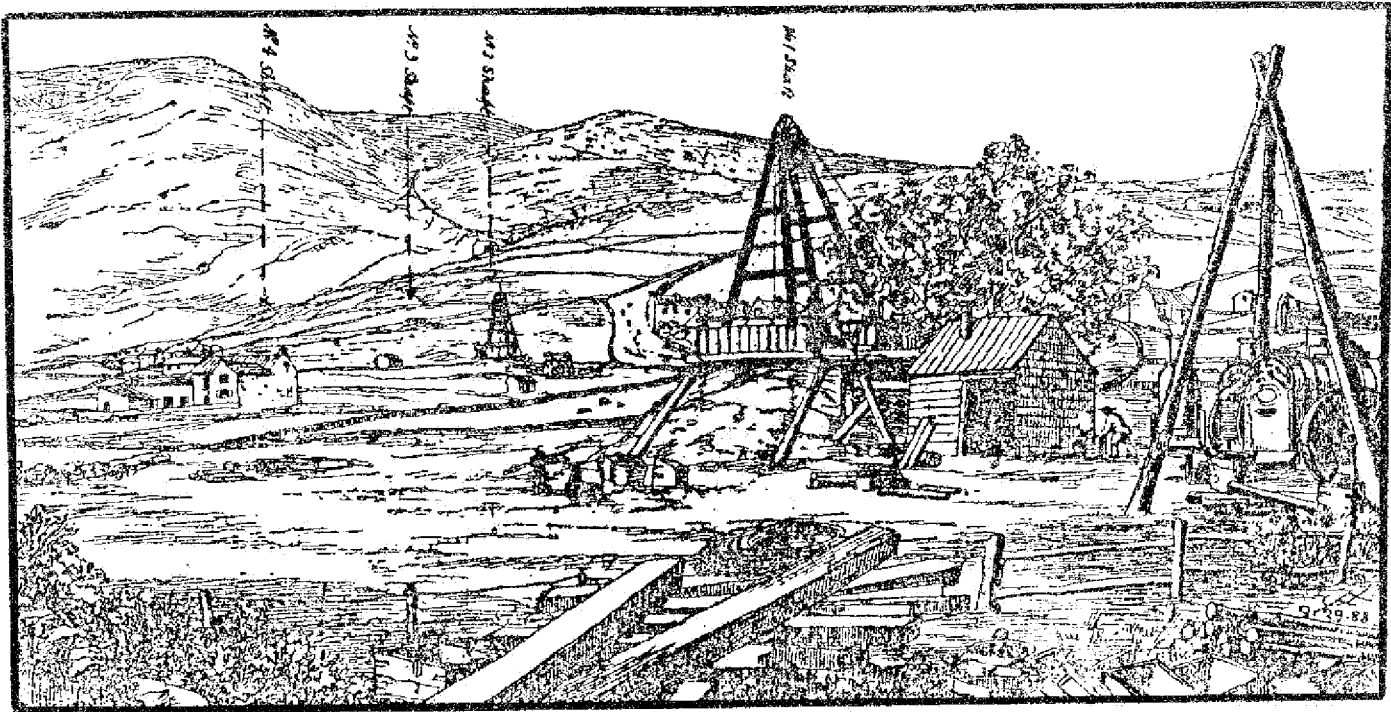


TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

Published by Totley Residents Association 12p NO 61

OCTOBER 1982

THE BREAKTHROUGH



VTFW AT TOTLEY BENTS, 1889, WITH THE POSITIONS MARKED SHOWING LOCATION OF THE FOUR SHAFTS.

TOTLEY TUNNEL

Ninety years ago, during the afternoon of October 23rd, 1952, far below the surface of Totley Moss and 3700 yards from the Totley portal, two teams of tunnellers performed the ritual handshakes through a hole in a wall of shale and rock which formed the final barrier between the two workings of the Totley Tunnel which at 3 miles 950 yards is the second longest main line railway tunnel in Britain. Only the tunnel under the River Severn is longer.

When the debris was finally cleared away it was found that, so accurately had the boring been carried out, the centre line was only $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches out horizontally and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches vertically! This, let us remember, was long before the days of the sophisticated gadgetry in use today. Simple theodolites, weighted wires, pick, shovel and wheelbarrow were the main tools - and, of course, human brawn.

Parliament granted powers for the construction of the Dore and Chinley Railway, as it was then called, in 1888 and the actual construction began in that year. Since a quarter

of its 21 miles would be in tunnel, it was well understood that the construction would pose great problems. It did. It took six years, chiefly due to the immense difficulties encountered in boring the two tunnels: Totley, 6230 yards and Cowburn - between Fdale and Chinley - 3702 yards. By March 15th 1894, the line was complete and officially opened throughout with due ceremony, on June 1st, 1894,

although contractor's and service trains had been running through for about a month.

CONT. PAGE 2

The contractor for the Totley Tunnel was Thomas Oliver and the resident engineer, Percy Richard. The line of the bore was set out from three main observatories: Bradway, to the east; Summit, on the moor above the tunnel and the Sir William Hill above Grindleford. The surveyors encountered difficulties sighting westwards across the Derwent Valley so sighting was usually done looking eastwards at sunset.

Shafts were sunk when the centre-line had been laid out over the moor and weighted wires were suspended down the shafts and a theodolite used. Four permanent and three temporary shafts were sunk within 1/4 mile of the Totley end. One was sunk where the Totley portal now is, the approach cutting alongside Totley Brook Road being excavated later. The rock was shale and millstone grit. The great hazard, as in so many tunnels nationwide, was water. When drilling started on September 24th, 1888, water was struck at a depth of only eight feet. When the full depth of this shaft was reached in November 1888, 10,000 gallons were pouring out every hour. Frequently five million gallons had to be pumped out of the whole workings daily. By the time temporary shafts had been sunk on October 28th 1888 and January 3rd 1889 the water problem was easier. Water from the shale had already been got rid of but it caused great delays in November 1891 when 1800 yards from the Grindleford end a stream broke through the roof and thousands of gallons cascaded into the workings.

Water is still a problem but as can be seen from the top of the cutting, it is now conducted away into the river through a proper trackside channel.

The two borings finally met on October 23rd, 1892, the lining was completed on August 4th, 1893 and the track laid by September 2nd of that year. Up to that point this man-made cavern had cost £74 a yard but this was increased when a further shaft, 3344 yards from the Totley end, almost midway, had to be sunk in 1894. This is the shaft you can see from the road to Fox House from Owier Bar.

And so our tunnel remains, approaching its century. It is patrolled daily by gangers, regular repointing is carried out and track has to be renewed every six years or so, which ensures the safety of those who, usually without a thought, are carried through one of the great examples of British Victorian railway engineering. And with the closure of its one time great competitor, Woodhead, its future use would seem to be assured.

//////

Many thanks to Don Clare of The Grove, for his help with this article on the tunnel.

//////

The front page drawing is reproduced by kind permission of Sheffield City Libraries and is taken from the Sheffield Weekly Independent of October 13th, 1888. The drilling of the first shaft had commenced on September 24th, 1888 and a descriptive report from the same paper will be printed in a later issue.

D.A.T. P.A.G.

DORE & TOTLEY PEACE ACTION GROUP

TWO MEETINGS have been arranged for November. On Friday November 12th at 7.30 pm., in Abbeydale Hall, the following films will be shown:

(1) NUCLEAR WASTE. Green Peace Protest. (This film was made in 1980 and is concerned with the protest against the dumping of nuclear waste at sea.)

(2) ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. (This is a new film made in U.S.A. and seeks to give an impartial view of the Middle-East situation.)

On Friday November 19th at 8pm at King Egbert Upper School, Hnqr. Bruce Kent, General Secretary of C.N.D., will speak on 'Disarmament - the Way Ahead'.

These meetings are open to anyone who is interested. (For further information, please contact Richard Hibberd Tel. 820833, Secretary Dore and Totley Peace Action Group.)

whisperer...

...Road Accidents continue in Baslow Road. Please remember, particularly those with young children, when crossing at the traffic lights please make sure you cross at the correct position. Extreme care is still needed....Have you noticed the posters picturing our Community Constable without his helmet - we take our hat off to him..
 ...Children at Totley County School have been moved from two classrooms, due to the current problems regarding asbestos. The material will be removed at the end of October, during the half-term holiday....Next Pantomime from All Saints P.T.A. will be "Sleeping Beauty", presented in February.....
 ..The Fleur De Lys gardens and the Cross Scythes rockery are looking very neat and colourful at the moment....
 ..Watch out for a quiz soon to be held at the Cricket when the home team will take on another local team - the Cricket has also offered a challenge to a team from Totley Independent for a later date.....New aluminium doors for Totley Library - and as you pass through them, an interesting variety of postcards and booklets are now offered for sale.....
 Nothing to report on progress at Totley War Memorial - as November draws closer....
 ..No specific details either on Community Centre, currently going before the appropriate committees...The friendly local Jackdaw is still with us, recently seen busking to bus queues and determined to board a bus - he obviously wants a "cheap" fare.....

JAZZY CHEESE

The King Egbert Association are holding a Social Evening on Saturday 16th October. The evening will have a swing to it, with dancing to the King Egbert Jazz Band and Disco in Lower School Hall from 7.30 - 11.00 pm. Tickets £1.50 include a light cheese and pate supper, and there will be a licensed bar and raffle. Tickets available from either school offices or Mrs. Pauline James, 18 Devonshire Terrace Road, Dore. Tel. 360466.

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Warburtons World

It's reached that time of year when one can look back and begin to decide what kind of year it has been. At the time of writing (mid-September), I can honestly say that I have never seen so many butterflies in my garden. It has been a most favourable year for some species, especially Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals and Peacocks. This evening I counted over 35 in the garden on some of the flowers which I have planted especially for this purpose over the years. All the planning seems to have come off this year.

The most important thing is to ensure that there are some nettles quite nearby so that the larvae have a food plant on which to feed. Once the butterflies begin to emerge from the pupae, then there must be some of their favourite flowers close at hand, or they will go to your neighbour's instead! The best plant for late August and early September is Buddleia, the more lilac-coloured varieties seem to be the most attractive. The flowering period of this shrub can be extended by removing the flowers as soon as they die. The plant will ensure that some more develop quite quickly.

As the Buddleia comes to an end, the Ice Plant (Sedum) takes over along with any mint which has been allowed to flower. The final attraction of the year is Michaelmas Daisy, although Red Admirals in particular are very fond of over-ripe or rotting fruit.

The Red Admirals will soon be flying south, but the majority of them would seem to stand little chance of surviving back to the Mediterranean where they come from originally. The Peacocks have already disappeared into thick piles of wood and outbuildings, and the Small Tortoiseshells will very soon follow suit, both of them we hope will survive and breed next spring.

I must at this point thank those kind and interested people who phoned me with information about wildlife over the summer months. I just hope that this year's increase in populations will be followed by an even better year to come, so that we have some real rarities to report.

Most of the summer months since early May, I have been grubbing around the hedge-bottoms in Combs Dale, near Caiver. This is our nearest limestone dale and has many unusual plants and animals in it. I'm hoping to put all my slides together to make up a slide show so that everyone can see what is almost on our doorstep. After all, if I can make it 'over the top' on my bike about a dozen times this summer, there must be something worth seeing. If you want to see what I've been up (or down!) to, there will be an evening in the Library in the New Year when all will be revealed.

At the moment, I'm waiting for the saddest time of the year for me - the departure of the Martins and Swallows to the south. I still never understand why they come in the first place, there is surely enough food in their homeland. Perhaps they just like us. Safe journey to them, may they hurry back soon.

ROAD SAFETY ACTION COMMITTEE

AT THE September meeting of the committee, concern was expressed on a number of matters and action is being taken through our local councillors as a first step to attempt to rectify these.

Perhaps the most serious would appear to be the fact that some residents (or perhaps visitors?) have taken to driving motor cycles and cars out of the blocked Laverdene Road, over the pavement and verge into Baslow Road. The City Highway authority, as many residents will remember, blocked this access many years ago, when Baslow Road was still a single carriageway, in fact, on the grounds that vehicles entering and leaving constituted a danger. A stout barrier was erected to make access impossible to vehicles. When the dual carriageway was built this barrier was removed and the present, admittedly better-looking, fencing and verge erected. It was assumed that the termination of the roadway of Laverdene Road and the wide grass verge would make

it obvious that this was not an entrance or exit for vehicles. Folk living at this end of Laverdene Road got used to the idea of no "through" traffic; children especially. The thoughtless actions of the few could result in a tragedy. The erection of bollards at the kerb which terminates the road surface would not enhance the appearance of this location.

But if this continues it will be necessary to request the City Council to do this. Let's not have to go to the lengths of having to make this request. A little more thought, please.

Many pavements in the area, e.g. Mickley Lane, are in a dangerous state which could cause the elderly (and not so elderly) to trip. Some patching has been done but it would seem much more is needed. Whilst on the subject of pavements, an absence of any pavement between the junction of Totley Hall Lane and the last of the houses in Baslow Road (coming from city) constitutes a serious hazard for pedestrians and drivers alike. Pedestrians have to walk in the roadway and at this location drivers coming up the hill have not got a clear view. A similar situation applies in front of the Sheaf Garage forecourt.

Many other matters were discussed such as careless parking at the end of Glover Road, forcing pedestrians, again, to walk in the roadway, deteriorating surfaces on many side roads, the need for bus shelters at the terminus, the Crescent, (to City) and Bushey Wood Rd. and Glover Road (from City). Assistance on these matters is being given by our councillors.

One final matter. It would appear that for motor cyclists and pedal cyclists wishing to enter Baslow Road or the service road, the traffic light at the Glover Road junction refuses to change from red. An adjustment to this is being sought.

If you have any grumbles please let the committee know through the Independent. We shall do our utmost to live up to the word 'action' in the committee's title.

the poltergeist

THOSE OF YOU who have seen advertisements on the television or in the press for spine chilling films like THE OMEN may understandably quail when you read that the Dramatic Society at the United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road is staging THE POLTERGEIST on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th November, at 7.45 pm.

However, you need have no fears that Frank Harvey's play is going to make you sleep with the light on in future. For, whilst there are things that go bump in the night, and unaccountable fires break out on the furniture, it is all presented in a light hearted manner that is more likely to produce giggles than shrieks. Definitely family entertainment!

Tickets will be available from members of the Society or Martin's Sweet Shop, from mid October. Tel. 362403.

ANTIQUES

ST. JOHN'S SCOUTS & GUIDES

The parents committee of St. John's Scouts & Guides are organising an 'Antique Fair' on the 23rd October, 1982. It will be held in St. John's Church Hall from 10.00am. until 5.00pm. We invite you to buy, sell or browse amongst the antiques and collectors items which will include: vintage tools, pictures, prints, silver, jewellery, furniture, treen, pottery, porcelain, china and glass. Refreshments will be available all day.

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TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

water logged

AT A RECENT meeting of the Committee of T.R.A. concern was again expressed about the flooding that takes place, in bad weather, at the bottom of Mickley Lane. Not only does water come streaming down from Bradway Bank, but it also comes the other way from behind the corner houses in Glover Road and Mickley Lane. The result is to overload the system completely at the bridge, and so far the council's attempts to deal with the difficulty have been of little use. It was said that this would be taken up again.

AND AGAIN

ANOTHER MATTER of concern, mentioned before, was about rowdy behaviour in Green Oak Park. It is understood that a public playground is a focal point for young folk, and that noise there is inescapable. But there is no doubt that some of the behaviour and language there, upsets some of the elderly people who live close by, and in fine weather it often goes on far into the night. Also it spills-over into the area just outside the park fence, even closer to the residents concerned. Therefore, an appeal goes out to parents and to the children themselves to respect the feelings of their near neighbours, and try to keep things within reasonable bounds.

BRANCHING OUT

FOR THE BENEFIT of those local people who are (rightly) concerned to see our local trees preserved where possible, the Vicar informs us that there is to be some "tree surgery" carried out in the grounds of All Saints Church. Chiefly this will consist of lopping some dead branches off, but there are also two elms that appear to have "the disease" and it is likely that these will have to be completely taken down.

TOTLEY TUG-O-WAR CLUB

THE OPEN COMPETITION organised by the Totley Club on Saturday 18th Sept. proved an enjoyable occasion, with the following teams taking part:
Grange Farm (Scunthorpe), The Alfreton (Derbys), Raunds Woodbine (Northampton), Oxcroft T.O.W.C. Bolsover (Derbys), St. Pats (Leics), Uppertown (Matlock), Leeds Irish, Nags Head Borrowash (Derby), Ashover T.O.W.C. and Totley T.O.W.C.

Results.

Catchweight (Monc Annual Challenge Trophy). Winners - Leeds Irish. R/u Raunds Woodbine.

680 Kilos (Monc McLaren Cup) Winners - Leeds Irish R/u - Grange Farm.

600 Kilos (Monc Philip Ashley Trophy) Winners - Uppertown R/u St.Pats.

640 Kilos (Totley Trophy) Winners - Raunds Woodbine R/u Leeds Irish.

Unfortunately, (probably due to extremely short notice being given), none of our local novice teams entered or competed for the Totley Residents Trophy. This will now be held over until next season (unless anyone has any other ideas).

Although the Totley team did not fare too well in the contest, they have the satisfaction of having organised an event that flowed smoothly and was well presented, also attracting teams from far and near. No doubt, this competition will become an annual event to add to the Totley calendar. Hopefully, next time more local people can turn out to boost support for the home team.

★ ★ ★ ★

LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS Please Note: We welcome your contributions, news etc., and will be pleased to print your results if you send them in.

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LIBRARY

"There's a fascination frantico in a ruin that's romantic", or so said W.S. Gilbert in "The Mikado", whether those ruins be on the well-trodden tourist path or whether, as in this month's Library talk, they are in more exotic parts of the world: Peru to be exact. Machu Picchu, which was only discovered in 1911, is believed to have been the cradle of the Inca civilisation. 2,400 metres up in the Andes, it consists today mainly of monoliths and the remains of stone buildings. Not too far away is Cuzco, once the capital of the Inca world, whence metalled roads stretched to all other Inca cities until the annihilation of the Inca nation by the Spanish invaders, led by Pizarro, in 1533. These are just two of the places visited by Mrs. Wing, our guest speaker, who also visited such places as Lake Titicaca, reputedly the highest navigated lake in the world, and the Iquacu Falls where the river plunges over a 4 km crescent-shaped edge to fall past projecting ledges carpeted with tropical vegetation and festooned with creepers, down to the gorge 71 metres below.

"Ecuador and Peru", a talk given by Mrs. J. Wing, will begin in Totley Library at 8 pm. on Tuesday 26th October. Admission - as always is free, and everyone is welcome.

Terry Whitham
Branch Librarian

TOTLEY ALIGHT!

TOTLEY COUNTY SCHOOL are holding their Annual Bonfire on Friday 29th October, in the school grounds. Gates open 6.30 pm., Bonfire at 7 pm., Fireworks start at 7.15 pm. Please do not take your own fireworks. Prices to be announced, see posters.

TOTLEY ALL SAINTS SCHOOL will not be holding a Bonfire Party this year, due to the weeks holiday for half-term.

There will be a Bonfire at the rear of the Cross Scythes and at the time of going to print we were unable to establish whether or not the Colloge would be arranging one as a follow up to last years.

TOTLEY HALL FARM

WHAT A HARBEST task faced the new tenants of Totley Hall Farm! Mrs. Jenny Pocock revealed that when they first viewed the farm in February, it didn't seem too daunting, but by the time they moved in during July, of course all the weeds had grown and the extensive frosts of last winter had created havoc with the farmhouse plumbing. With great determination and by working from 7 in the morning until 11 at night, they are beginning to see the results of their labour.

Edwin and Jenny Pocock and their two sons, Christopher aged 6, and Matthew aged 3, came from a Nuneaton farm to Totley and are bringing their own ideas to a farm which has changed little over the years. Although we in Totley are surrounded by sheep covered moors, it will be quite new to see them at this farm. Edwin already has 100 ewes to lamb in January/February, which will increase to 200 by next year. These will be kept mainly in the Mickley Lane and Baslow Road fields, so please, if you are near to sheep, remember the golden rule and keep your dog on a lead.

Pigs will also be a new innovation on the farm with one sow and her family already in residence. The Pococks hope to keep some 350 pigs for the next two years and then change to around 30 breeding sows.

The land itself will also see some changes. After making ten thousand bales of hay (PHW!) ploughing has begun for wheat and potato crops. Many trees have recently been pruned to give access to farm machinery and residents are requested to please keep to footpaths, to avoid any damage to the crops. Certain fields are to be mowed again for silage, so when black sacks begin to appear, they will contain nothing more exciting than grass, (not early presents from Santa).

Looking forward to next year, Edwin and Jenny hope to open a farm shop for the sale of potatoes, eggs, hay and straw and two years hence pick-your-own-strawberries. It is certain that everyone wishes them well in their new home and the sight of spring lambs will be well worth waiting for.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY

On Sunday September 26th, riders from the Totley Tornadoes Cycle Speedway Team competed in the Sheffield Individual Championships.

In the Junior Final, which was won by Adrian Brownail of Sheffield's Stars, Andy Fearn, the Totley Captain, was unlucky to be only runner up, with 19 points after some exciting racing. Third place went to another Totley rider Paul Holmes. Other Totley scores were Rob Oxley 15, Steve Perkinson 12 and Andy Sawbridge 13.

In the Senior Final, Totley rider Darryl Holland was the winner with Andy Fearn finishing third after a run off.

So the Cycle Speedway League draws to a close without any hope of a Totley track this season.

When the Recreation Dept., was first approached about this in October 1981, of the few sites suggested, only the Abbeydale Road South site was offered.

This site was accepted in December, 1981 and in the new year dimensions were sent to the Rec. Dept. Promises were that a start would be made as soon as the Craftsmans Fair at the Abbeydale Hamlet was over.

However, this didn't materialise because the Rec. Dept., have still not submitted their plans to the Council Planning Department. Various excuses have been made, other priorities etc., but finally, Mr. John Bauer stated that the plans would be submitted to the October planning meeting, even if he had to do it himself.

dinner dance

ANYONE STILL WISHING to obtain tickets for the Totley Residents Association Dinner Dance, being held at Abbeydale Sports Club on Saturday 23rd October, can do so by contacting John Perkinson Tel 361601 or Les Firth - Tel 364190, (or any committee member). Tickets price £6.25 each.

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or left at J. Perkinson, 2 Main Avenue,
Peter Swifts, Totley Rise and V. Martin,
Abbeydale Road South.

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE
IS SATURDAY OCTOBER 23rd.

OCTOBER DIARY

11th	Wed.	Independent Staff Meeting, 2 Main Avenue, 8pm.
13th	Wed.	St. John's Wednesday Club, St. John's Church Hall, 8pm. Jack Spencer (Silversmith) talks about his work.
16th	Sat.	King Egbert Lower School, 7.30 Jazz etc., see inside.
19th	Tue.	Crimethorpe Colliery Band at King Egbert Lower School Hall, 7.45pm. Tickets - Mrs. K. Taylor, 364247.
23rd	Sat.	T.R.A. Dinner Dance, Abbeydale Sports Club, see inside.
23rd	Sat.	Antique fair from 10am, St. John's Church Hall.
26th	Tue.	Totley Library, 8pm. Mrs. J. Wing "Equador & Peru".
27th	Wed.	St. John's Wed. Club, 8pm. Adsett's Adult Training Centre our charity of the year, speaker - Mr. Martin Shaw.
29th	Fri.	Totley County School Bonfire. Gates open 6.30pm.
NOVEMBER		
3rd	Wed.	T.R.A. Committee Meeting, 37 Sunnyvale Rd, 8pm.
3rd	Wed.	4th, 5th and 6th, United Reformed Church Hall, Totley Brook Road, 7.45pm. "The Poltergeist".
13th	Sat.	Cheshire Home Christmas Fayre, Cutlers Hall.

champion

Robert Allinson, of 15 Main Avenue, now a pupil at King Egberts, added another title to his list of swimming successes when he became North East Derbyshire Champion winning the 100 Metres Free-style, in a personal best time of 1 min. 11.4 secs. The previous week Robert also won the Silver Medal at the Sheffield A.S.A. Gala, when he was only .7 of a second behind the Yorkshire Champion.

local history

RECENTLY, the Independent received a phone call from a gentleman who asked, "How do I join the local History Society?"

To his astonishment (and disappointment) he was told there wasn't one.

A keen interest does exist in our local history, particularly amongst the readers of this magazine. If such a society were to exist, its findings and studies would find an obvious home on these pages and it would relieve the work-load on the magazine staff. Hopefully it would also be of interest to all age groups.

If anyone has any wish to form or join a Totley Local History Society will they let us know, (in writing please!) and we can then put them all into contact with each other.

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SHOP OPENS :-

Sunday	- 9.00am - noon
Monday	- 7.45am - 5.45pm
Tuesday	- 7.45am - 5.45pm
Wednesday	- 7.45am - 5.00pm
Thursday	- 7.45am - 5.45pm
Friday	- 7.45am - 5.45pm
Saturday	- 8.30am - 12.30pm

(Closed for lunch 1 - 2pm)

Totley Residents Association have offered their help and encouragement in the formation of such a society and would be pleased to see one come into existence.