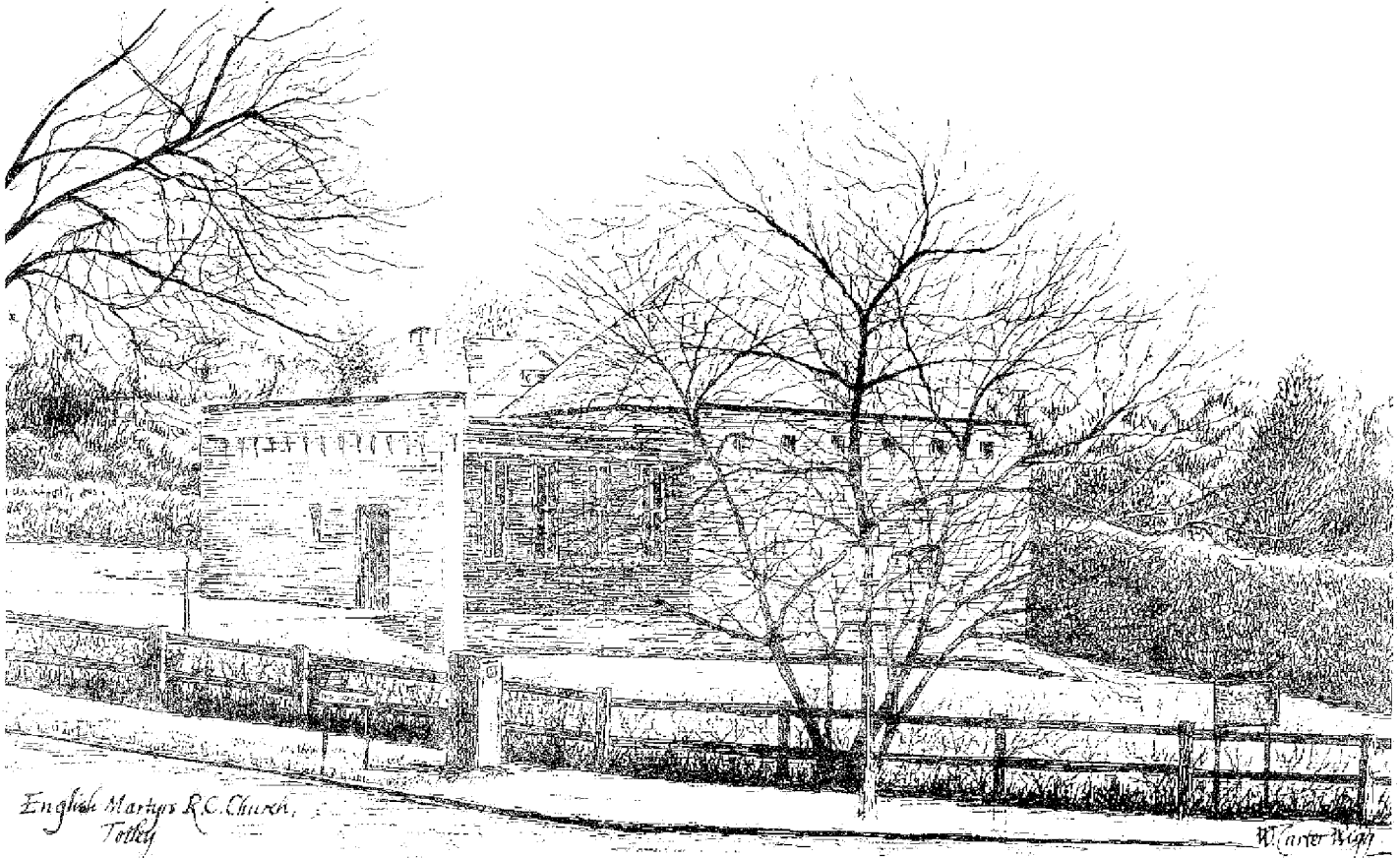


TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

Published by Totley Residents Association No. 94

APRIL 1986 15p



*English Martyrs R.C. Church,
Totley*

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and much more!

This month's drawing by Bill Carter Wigg, shows the Catholic Church of the English Martyrs, a Chapel of Ease to the Church of Our Lady and St Thomas, Meadowhead. The Church was completed in 1964 at a cost of £12,000 and the first Mass was celebrated on 23rd February that year. Since 1956, Mass had been said in an upper room of the Cross Seythes Hotel. The new Church, whilst small, was so positioned on the site that a larger Church could be built there, should that ever become necessary. This view of one of our local places of worship, prompts us to wish all our readers a Happy Easter and a joyous springtime.

whisperer...

Congratulations all round this month: firstly to Kathy Wilkinson (former Independent writer and now with The Star) on her recent marriage; secondly to Mr R.N. Robinson of Green Oak Road, who has won a prize in the Sunday Times Mephisto Crossword competition; thirdly to 13 years old Marcus Bingham of Totley Rise who has won a music scholarship to Repton School, Derbyshire. He plays the piano and the violin talking of music, wasn't Fritz Spiegl the chap who played the "Z Cars" theme back in the sixties? The prolonged emptiness of the former Micron Audio shop tempts us to wonder what kind of shop people would like to see in its place Totley's potholes are becoming so deep that we'll soon be able to see daylight in the bottom TRA's concern about unswept pavements might extend to the stretch between the Conservative Club and the library which has been littered with broken glass for ages A big disappointment for homebound commuters last month, after a fast-line bus (the ones with red destination boards) seen operating the 24 route during the rush hour turned out not to be a new limited stop service. Enquiries revealed that the vehicle was merely helping out on a normal 24 run

GEES BID FAREWELL

Ken and Mary Gee are reluctantly leaving Totley Post Office on 9th April after 2½ happy years. The move, necessary for health reasons, will take the Gees back to the village of Harworth near Tickhill and to the bungalow they still have there. "We are very sorry to be leaving," said Mary. "The time has passed quickly and people have made us so welcome that it hasn't felt like doing a job at all! We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone for their custom and friendship during our time in Totley. Thanks too to our newspaper girls and boys." Ken and Mary's five children have insisted that Mum and Dad take a well-earned holiday. So just three days after leaving Totley, they will be flying off to the sunshine in Majorca for a good rest, before settling down to life back in Harworth. We wish the Gees success and happiness and thank them for the hard work and long hours they have put in for the benefit of this community. (The Post Office and shop will remain open as normal during the handover to the new occupants).

John Butterwick

PLAYGROUP

Totley toddlers have been declared champion supertots in a nationwide search for the Playgroup of the year. The young playmates at the Playgroup, based at the United Reformed Church Hall in Totley Brook Road, beat off strong opposition from eleven other finalists to win the coveted award of "Playgroup of the Year" from "Mother" magazine. The Mums who run the 60-strong group of youngsters were presented with a bumper cheque for £1000 worth of toys by actress Susan Hampshire at a tea party at the Grosvenor House Hotel. And proud Mum, Pauline Hall, who nominated the Group, won a holiday of a lifetime to Canada for herself and her family, of Longford Drive, Bradway. All her children, Benjamin, aged 8, Maeve, aged 5 and 3-year-old Rose, have attended the Playgroup. The Playgroup is run by Linda Foster of The Green, Totley, who thinks the key to their success is the active involvement of all the Mums. "Our strength is in our mothers. Without them we would finish," she said. First priority for the Playgroup, which has been operating for 13 years, is a new climbing frame to replace their present equipment, which has been going strong for 10 years since it was bought secondhand for the knock down price of £10.

Jeremy Watson

Everything Up!

Totleyites this month face the prospect of soaring rates and bus fares and the likelihood of increases in council house rents in the Summer. Rates jumped 20 per cent in one of the highest rated areas of the city, where many homeowners can expect to pay more than the average £1.52 extra per week. Bus fares went up about 225 per cent, making the round trip to the city centre cost between 60 and 60p, compared with the 20p charged before the rises. Council chiefs are hoping however that if they can persuade the transport boards now run-

ning the service in South Yorkshire to accept a Sheffield-only plan to subsidise fares from the rates, the price of a ticket may fall again soon to a straight 100 per cent increase. As the Independent went to press, the final cost of travelling for GAPS and children was still not clear, although a figure of 5p was being floated. Council house tenants are not expected to escape the increases. Rents are likely to jump by 75p per week in June.

Jeremy Watson.



"No, madam, I asked if you would read the 'Independent' not vote it"

215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group.

February Lottery Winners

- 1st. £200 Holiday Vouchers and £50 cash: No 121 - Mr A K Durling.
 2nd. £10 Marks & Spencer Voucher: No 115 - Messrs Williams Knibb & Co.

The present lottery cycle ends with the draw in May and we will be delivering a letter with application form to houses in Totley during April for entry into the new cycle.

Paper Collections

Next collections are April 12th and May 10th.

Activity Weekend

Full use was made of our new Headquarters site on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd March, when our Ventures, Scouts and Cubs all combined for a most enjoyable weekend. The boys took part in various activities including first aid, bridge building, tent erection, etc and races and competitions were organised. A camp fire was held on Saturday night and was a great success. Many thanks to all concerned.

Alan Vitty

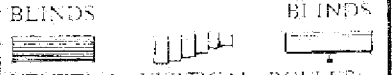
Petrol Station

Prime Garages, a subsidiary of oil company giant Mobil, has taken over the petrol-selling side of Totley Bridge Service Station, which was recently closed for several weeks while negotiations over the lease took place.

Site manager Richard Ewens told the Independent "This is a Mobil garage and we have come in to keep it going until a new tenant arrives. The old tenant is still in the garage on a limited basis but when the new one arrives in May, he will take over completely." Currently the workshops are still being run by the previous leaseholder.

Jeremy Wilson

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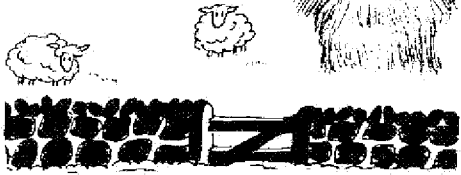
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FARMING SCENE



What do you know about agriculture? See if you can answer these questions. Answers next month. Watch out for surprises!

1. Is the annual output of UK agriculture in excess of £21,200,000, £60,000,000 or £12,000,000,000?
2. Does this make agriculture the 2nd, 6th or 12th largest British industry?
3. Milk costs 25p per pint on the doorstep, does the farmer receive 9p, 16p or 20p per pint from the Milk Marketing Board?
4. Are land prices rising by 5, 10 or 15%, or falling by 5, 10 or 20% per annum?
5. Was the total UK cereal production last year: 15, 18 or 20 million tonnes?
6. Is the oil from oilseed rape used in paint, margarine or soap?
7. What is lard made from?
8. Why were the Tolpuddle Martyrs deported?
9. Was the official average farmers income for last year: £4,500, £14,500 or £24,500?
10. Is suet made from beef or lamb fat?
11. Since 1973 has the price of

- wheat risen or fallen in real terms by 10, 30 or 65%?
12. Does a hen lay on average 200, 240 or 270 eggs per year?
13. Does a sow eat approx. 17, 27 or 37 cwt of feed per year?
14. Pork chops currently cost around £1.20 per lb. in the shops. Does the farmer receive 45, 65 or 85p per lb for his pigs?
15. Is a Hoggett, a baby hedgehog, a trap to catch escaped pigs or a lamb that is 12 months old?
16. Is the total number of people directly engaged in agriculture as owners or employees, in excess of 200,000, 400,000 or 600,000?
17. What product has "Silver Spoon" as its trademark?
18. The average ex-farm price for potatoes is £72 per tonne. Do they cost £40, £60 or £80 per tonne to produce?
19. Does the average cow produce 900, 1250 or 1500 gallons of milk per year?
20. Is the average life of a cow 4, 8 or 12 years?
21. Does agriculture owe the banks: £45,000,000, £845,000,000 or £6,000,000,000?
22. What was the average number of lambs slaughtered each week during January and February: 40,000, 140,000 or 240,000?
23. Does Eyespot affect cereals, sheep, turkeys or drunken farmers?
24. What have Angus, Charolais and Limousin in common?
25. Does cwt of seed wheat produce on average 15, 25 or 35 cwt of grain?

Edwin Roock.

TRANSPORT 17

Although the Transport 17 Minibus has been running for less than two years, it is in such demand that it is difficult to imagine how the community managed without it. The reality is that several extra luncheon clubs and afternoon clubs have been able to open, using the bus to get their elderly members to the various halls. To cope with the increased running time, additional manpower is being requested under the Community Programme to drive and accompany the bus. The organisers are even considering the possibility of buying a second bus to

cope with the demand. If a second bus could be bought without the assistance of "Help the Aged" it would be available to a wider range of community groups. Meanwhile the most urgent need on the transport front in Totley is to help the Cheshire Home to raise money to buy a replacement for their bus, but there is also a need to keep money flowing into the Transport 17 funds. Any offers of help would be gratefully received.

Colin Wells

PERENNIAL CLUB

Dore Perennial Club has been restarted by Mrs Sheila Hogg, who retired at Christmas from her job as Home Help Organiser for Toley.

The club is for elderly people and meets at 2pm on Monday afternoons. On April 7th it is moving to St John's Church Hall Abbeydale Road South, when it will be open to anyone who can make their own way to the Hall.

The Transport 17 minibus is being used for the club, but it is already fully booked.

As well as weekly discussions, boardgames and bingo, the club has a regular bring and buy stall at its meetings.

The Club's most ambitious project is to organise a week's holiday to Eastbourne from 4th to 11th October. In order to fill the coach, bookings are also being taken from other elderly people's clubs in the area, but there are still a few seats left.

Further details of the Club and the holiday are available from Sheila Hogg (Tel 394131)

Colin Wells

TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The main items of business at the committee meeting on 17 March were as follows:

Safety

The wintry weather in February has taken its toll on road surfaces in the area, with potholes developing again in several places, notably outside Totley Rise shops and in Queen Victoria Road.

It was reported that footpaths between the Cross Scythes and Main Avenue were in an untidy state and ought to be swept more often.

Future Events

1. The TRA Barn Dance has been arranged for 14 June at Totley Hall Farm. Tickets will be on sale in May.
2. The TRA Annual General Meeting will be on 29 April at 8pm in Totley Library. An invitation is extended to anyone living or working in Totley.

John Butterwick

GOLDEN WEDDING

On April 11th relatives and friends will be celebrating the Golden Wedding of a real Totley couple.

Ernest and Edith Pearson were married in 1936 at Totley All Saints' Church. Ernest was born at Shrewsbury Terrace in 1909, and Edith was born in one of the Summer Lane cottages in 1907.

Ernest initially worked on his father's farm, Holt House Farm, on Long Lane, Cure and afterwards at the Hallfields farm on Strawberry Lea Lane (now the riding school).

After a number of years working as a driver at Totley Brick Works, he moved to Hookless Bros Garage at the bottom of Twentywell Lane. He was a popular figure on the forecourt for more than twenty years. His name hit the headlines in 1971, when he foiled raiders at the garage. Although beaten badly and threatened at knife point, he refused to part with the safe keys.

In his earlier years Ernest was a prominent sports participant and played both cricket and football for Totley. The football team of the late twenties and early thirties was a formidable outfit and "Pullet" Pearson was a direct left winger of repute.

Edith has devoted her time to the house they moved into on Lemont Road when they first married and where they still reside.

Their daughter Pamela and husband live at Dronfield and Edith now enjoys knitting for her two grand-daughters Tracey and Clare.

So on April 11th, if the weather is right, you may spot Ernest and Edith taking their favourite walk through Gillfield woods.

L. Bailey

BISHOP'S VISIT

The Bishop of Sheffield, the Right Rev. David Lunn, is to visit Totley All Saints' Church School on Friday 18 April. The Bishop will join pupils, teachers and governors for assembly, then tour the school with head teacher Mrs Jan Stratford.

ABBEYDALE HALL

The upper floor of Abbeydale Hall Adult Education Centre had to be closed off for safety reasons last month after an old age pensioner suffered an accident on the main staircase. Caretaker Eric Smith said the woman, who was leaving an evening class, stumbled on the stairs and hit her head. Soon after the incident, building inspectors checked the stairway and declared it unsafe. Classes due to use rooms on the upper floor had to be cancelled and others moved to other buildings. Workmen are now making repairs and the historic hall is expected to be back in business again after Easter. "The elderly lady tripped as she came down the stairs and it was thought she might have fractured her skull. I believe she is alright now though," said Eric. "The safety inspector came in and said the stairs were in a bad way and so we closed the upper floors until they are made safe again."

Jeremy Watson

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Totley Good Neighbour Scheme (inaugurated by the Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care) has a number of volunteers who are ready and willing to help local residents when they find themselves in difficult situations which lie outside the help of statutory services. They will do shopping, fetch prescriptions or pensions, provide escort/transport for hospital appointments, or appointments with the doctor, dentist or optician, sit with a sick or elderly person while the regular carer goes out, look after children in a temporary emergency, such as the mother's sudden illness or accident, or give general support to anyone living alone on their return from hospital etc.

Our local churches are all co-operating with this scheme. If you need any help please ring

Olwen	365357
Lynne	360653
Anne	350612
Zita	366204 (Dore area only)



Abbeydale Hall, Totley's own stately home, is to lose its present custodian Eric Smith, on Good Friday, when he retires after sixteen years of devoted care to this lovely mellow building and its flawless surrounds.


This beautiful house, given scarcely a bus-passing glance by many, has, unlike other nearby mansions, no dramatic past or salacious history to give it fame or notoriety and perhaps because of that, still retains a friendly welcoming atmosphere. Now stripped of its Victorian treasures and used for adult education and other functions, its old dignity is firmly stamped upon it and Eric Smith has clearly loved the benevolent charm of what has been the family home for himself, his wife and five children, of whom the three daughters have already left. Eric, a man of many interests and talents, knows a great deal of the Hall's history, of its past owners like Ebenezer Hall, (seemingly a kindly man for his time) and of its connections with the famous, Florence Nightingale being one example. Not that his interests stop within the walls by any means, because the grounds have a wealth of surprises for the keen Natural Historian that he is. A great down-to-earth philosopher, Eric is fascinating to talk with. Fortunately, he is not leaving Totley, but moving to 30 Mickley Lane in April. Totley Rec isn't quite the same as the neat lawns and gardens he is leaving, but with his outlook, Eric Smith will discover interests and excitements anew in his own backyard again. He's the kind of man to have a long and happy retirement, which is exactly what all his friends will wish him.

Adrian Schofield

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T.O.A.D.S.

But a few of the problems
 facing amateur entertainment
 groups are connected with the
 actual staging of a perform-
 ance - as Totley Troupers so
 recently found. No matter how
 brilliant the production, it
 still has to be presented in
 a cordial ambience and though
 St John's Hall is basically
 well equipped, much still has
 to be done for each perform-
 ance - stage apron, proscenium
 arch, curtains, scenery and
 seats have to be put up and
 taken down in a furious rush.
 These things wear out, and
 though time and labour are
 freely given, material costs
 are astronomical, with only
 enthusiasm to fuel the ingenu-
 ity needed to put the show on.
 So TOADS are hoping to rebuild
 the proscenium arch, with
 better curtain tracking as
 well as a new overcover to
 replace the unsightly
 laundry-like tabs which forever
 pose lighting problems.
 The next production, a comedy-
 drama, "Candied Peel" is on
 from April 23rd to 26th and
 is set in the days when people
 used to "dress" for dinner,
 which the cast indeed do.
 Frantically, between scenes!
 Prices are £1 and 70p for
 concessionary seats. Bsters
 will be around the shops mid-
 April.

Adrian Schofield.

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FRITZ SPIEGL

Austrian-born flautist, broadcaster and writer, Fritz Spiegl, provided a unique and entertaining evening of words and music, but mostly words, at King Egbert's Lower School on March 4th.

In a relaxed and amusing style, he related his experiences as a child wrestling with the eccentricities and ambiguities of the English language, then led us loosely through his career in music and broadcasting with a number of tenuous diversions. (Did you know for example that 'cart horse' is an anagram of 'orchestra'?)

The best audience reaction came from a slide show of original newspaper howlers, many with musical connections. Mr Spiegl must have been on the lookout for humorous cuttings for many years.

His collection of tape recordings, marred at times by poor sound quality, included the outbursts of flamboyant conductors at rehearsals, as well as broadcasting bloomers by radio performers (some suspiciously phoney, but funny nonetheless).

Mr Spiegl rounded off the evening with a short recital accompanied by Roger Bullivant at the piano.

In all, it was a "different" but enjoyable evening and thanks to Core and Totley Community Arts Group for arranging it.

John Butterwick

CONCERT

A presentation of "Carnival of the Animals" will be held on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm in Sheffield City Hall, in aid of Whirlow Hall Farm Trust. The performers will be Sheffield Youth Brass Band, Sheffield Youth Festival Band, Sheffield Senior Youth Orchestra and Myers Grove School Choir.

Ticket prices are £2 (adults) and £1.50 (children and OAPs) in the stalls and £4.50 (adults) and £1.50 (children and OAPs) in the circle.

Tickets are available from Whirlow Hall Farm or from Joan Ashford (tel 369721).

THE LOCAL STAGE

PALACE OF VARIETIES

Totley Troupers turned up at St John's with their "Palace of Varieties" show and turned up trumps.

A competent yet unobtrusive MC, Martin Challis, with help from a great musical backing from Bill Snape and Harry Heathcote pushed what might have been a string of amateur turns into a coherent presentation of slick acts relished one after the other by large nightly audiences - despite the competition from local drama unavoidably offered the same nights.

A smartly dressed and smiling company gave a tuneful introductory chorus, and from that moment the pleasure never flagged. Their appearance later as the Hillfoot Ladies Glee Club, complete with beards, is just poetic licence. Guests - Barbershop Quartets - struck just the right notes, and, infallibly as always, did the McWilliams, that very popular ballad team, choosing the right song for the right occasion.

Shades of Hetty King, "Burlington Bertie", Robb Wilton, Flanagan and Allen, and George Robey jostled with "I say, I say" sketches, nicely timed and all good clean giggly fun - even the very old jokes. And special mention must be made of one of the real hits of the show - Mick Warren - who, ukulele in hand, did a George Formby act which came near to a standing ovation from the delighted audience. Not all that long ago Mick was "busking". Clearly he's now well on his way to the top.

Kick yourself if you missed this edition of "Palace of Varieties." The Troupers are hoping to move around with their show, dedicating what proceeds they can to charity - this was for the Cheshire Home Minibus appeal.

Don't miss the next chance!

Adrian Schofield

THE SECRET TENT

And what dark secrets Ruth Martyn had kept from her husband in the United Ref-ormed Church Dramatic Society's production of Elizabeth Addyman's romantic drama, at the Church Hall from 12th - 15th March.

From the very beginning, Margaret Stone (who, after the players' previous production, seems to be making a habit of being killed off and coming back to life!) left the audience in no doubt of the character's troubled mind. Funny that husband Christopher didn't observe her mood too! But the naive and trusting partner had chosen to turn a blind eye to many things since the day the couple met. Richard Moffat's portrayal grew in authority to an emotional crescendo, in a dramatic scene with sarcastic mother Naomi, (played competently by Lesley Rowntree) when all his bitter resentment gushed forth.

In spite of her outspoken dislike of Ruth, it was Naomi who engineered a reconciliation between the partners and no doubt they all lived happily ever after.

The comic light relief was provided by two characters from "the village". As the ubiquitous gossip Miss Mitchum-Browne, Susan Bel came to earn a groan from the audience on arrival, but at least one round of applause on departure. Andrew Tabor was the lovable bumpkin, who would not have been out of place wearing a green woolly hat in a certain ITV series! He startled everyone with the suddenness of his first entrance.

At the heart of the play was the sorrowful Miss Pearce (an accomplished performance by Joan Lee) whose revelations of Ruth's past stunned both family and audience. The patient and reassuring policeman, Inspector Thornton, was played sensitively by Melvyn Dean.

The play was slow moving at times, but the actors made up for the lack of action by giving a well-timed and dramatic presentation.

The Autumn production will be "Time and Time Again" by Alan Ayckbourn.

John Butterwick

DIARY

April

- 4th 6.30pm The Circus comes to Totley Junior Library.
- 7th 2pm Dore Perennial Club for the elderly meets at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. New members welcome.
- 7th 7.30pm Totley Residents Association Committee Meeting.
- 8th 7.45pm Totley Independent Staff Meeting at 11 Stocks Green Drive.
- 9th 7.15pm Inrolment for Adult Education classes at Abbeydale Hall. (Languages, car maintenance, painting and drawing, photography, natural history etc). For details phone 584964.
- 11th 7.30pm Totley Ladies' Evening Guild: "The aims of Martin House Hospice for Children" - Mrs Hastings.
- 12th Totley Scouts waste paper collection. Skip at college carpark until 12 noon.
- 17th 10am Children's "Nearly New" clothes sale at Totley Rise Methodist Playgroup. Admission 25p. Phone Frances Dean (364718) if you have items for sale.
- 19th 7.30pm All Saints' Church Spring Barn Dance at the Church Hall. Live Band and caller, buffet and bar facilities. Tickets £2 (including buffet) from James Powell, tel 350612.
- 23-26 7.30pm TCADS present "Candied Peel" at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Tickets £1 and 70p for concessionary seats from members or at door.
- 25th 2pm-5pm) Abbeydale Arts Group Annual Exhibition at
26th 10am-6pm) Abbeydale Hall. Admission free.
27th 11am-3pm)
- 29th 7.30pm Totley Ladies Club Jumble Sale at All Saints' Church Hall. (Items may be left at the Hall during the afternoon of 29th, or to arrange collection phone 361964 or 366882).
- 29th 7.30pm "Carnival of Animals" at Sheffield City Hall in aid of Whinlow Hall Farm Trust. (See article in magazine).
- 29th 8pm Totley Residents' Association Annual General Meeting at Totley Library.

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