

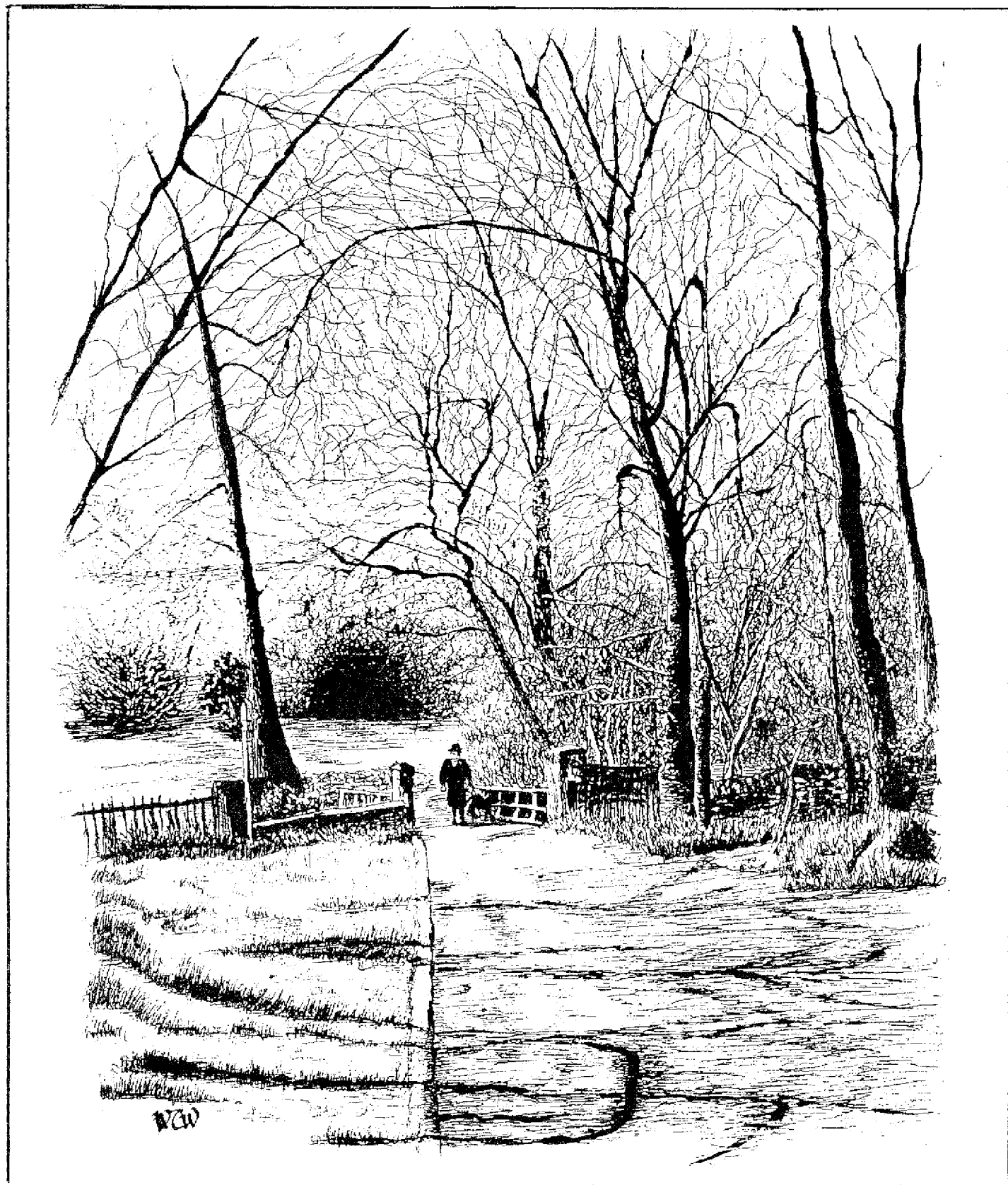
TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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MARCH 1995

No.181

15p



GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

"Spring is just around the corner", goes the song. I hope the rain stops a bit, so that we will notice it. Most gardens are a bit soggy to say the least and best left to dry out before doing much digging and planting. However we must be prepared, so let's get cracking.

FLOWERS. March is a good month to divide or transplant the majority of herbaceous plants and is also a good time to sow seeds of many herbaceous plants such as delphiniums, lupins, perennial gypsophila, perennial statice etc. At the end of the month make the first plantings of gladioli and montbretias. Take dahlia cuttings, sever the firm young shoots when they are around 2" (5cms) long, insert in deep sandy soil in trays or pots. They should be rooted in a propagator with a temperature of 60-70 degrees water well.

Start begonias and gloxinias. Prepare flower beds when the soil conditions are right. Work in balanced fertilizers such as Growmore round herbaceous plants. Remove weeds as they appear, remove all dead flower heads.

Put up sweet pea supports. Sow summer bedding plants in heated greenhouses, spray with fungicide to prevent damping off. Keep a wary eye out for slugs and lay bait if necessary. Lift, split up and replant snowdrops, if they are overcrowded.

VEGETABLES. Clear up areas, removing old crops. Prepare areas for salads and new vegetables, dig trenches for runner beans and celery. Start chitting potatoes. Sow cauliflower, broccoli and other brassicas in a frame or greenhouse. Runner beans can be started off in March in a cool greenhouse. I put 7 or 8 in a 5 or 6" pot.

TREES, SHRUBS & FRUIT. Feed cane and fruit trees with a balanced fertilizer, give blackcurrants a treat with nitro chalk. Firm in newly planted fruits, mulch and keep them well watered. Complete all planting of tree and bush fruits. Cut round damaged roots of blackberry to sound wood.

Spray all fruits against aphids and caterpillars as soon as they show. Spray apples and pears with fungicide to control scab and mildew. Spray blackcurrants against big, bud mite. Clean up strawberry beds taking all dead or injured leaves and cleaning up the bed in general.

GREENHOUSES AND INDOOR PLANTS. Your greenhouse should now be filling with seedlings and young rooted cuttings. These must have plenty of light and air if they are to be kept short and sturdy, so watch your ventilation and shade delicate seedlings from the strong sunlight.

I find the automatic vents are a boon especially at this time when the weather is so unpredictable.

Gradually increase the watering of plants which have been resting. Feed actively growing plants with high potash fertilizer (tomato type liquid feed). Stop petunias and salvias at 4-6 leaf stage, pinch out the tips of bush fuschia and geranium. Pot up cyclamen seedlings and rooted cuttings of pot plants. Take cuttings of bedding and greenhouse plants such as heliotrope, marguerite, fuschia and pelargoniums (geraniums), as soon; as sufficient growth is made. Actual cutting will depend on the type of plant. Geraniums which have thick stems, cuttings of 3" or so are ideal, 2" cuttings will do for the thinner fuschia and heliotropes. Cut them cleanly below a joint and insert them in well drained boxes or in 4" pots filled with sandy compost inserting them just enough to keep them upright. They can be rooted on the greenhouse staging, but better results with all except geraniums are obtained by placing them in a propagator with a little heat under. Try propagating a few shoots of any perennial that is just making new growth, it is very satisfying to see your stock increase this way. If you have too many you could give them to the various cakes and cuttings events for charity. Sow cucumbers and tomatoes if you have a heated greenhouse, also melons. Do keep an eye on the weather. Don't let a sharp frost take you by surprise and ruin all your excellent efforts.

LAWNS. Prepare ground for new lawns ready for sowing at the end of the month or early April. Clean up all the winter rubbish from established lawns, spike or aerate and feed by raking in potting compost or peat mixed with a lawn fertilizer. Trim the edges, it makes a real difference to the smart appearance.

Happy Spring gardening to you all.
Cheerio for now, Tom, Busy Bee.

PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Meeting held on 13th. February 1995 at Totley Library and organised by the Totley Residents Association, was attended by about 40 people.

Margaret Coldwell took the Chair and the "Top Table" panel consisted of Crime Prevention Officer John Turner, Sgt. Bruce Lindsey (Traffic Police), Community Constable John West and Councillor Colin Ross.

Amongst topics raised and discussed were crime prevention, snow clearance (or lack of it) at Totley Rise.

The main topic was the current problems encountered with traffic and the confusion with the One-Way System (?) and No Entry at the Totley Rise service road. The whole matter was constructively discussed in detail by all present. Councillor Ross said he would take the reported problems and suggestions on board.

Also discussed in this context was the Bushey Wood Road/Abbeydale Road South junction, current works on Totley Bridge and possible future crossing points along Baslow Row#ad.

The other major issue was that of buses at the Totley Terminus/Cross Scythes. A representative from the Mainline Bus Company introduced himself and noted the comments, which had been directed at all the bus companies. Hopefully, this situation will now improve but individuals who witness problems and incidents, in the future, are urged to telephone the buss company concerned immediately.

The final topic of the evening concerned the closure of the Natwest Bank at Totley Rise. All customers were urged to write, as soon as possible, to register their objections.

The meeting closed at 9-45pm. and all present were thanked for their time and attendance.

Mike Williamson

STARS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

The City of Sheffield Young Choirs, who draw members from all over the City (and several from S17) are hosting a Gala Concert at the Octagon Centre on Saturday, 8th April. "Stars of Today" are the City of Sheffield Girls' Choir and their guests Hallmark of Harmony, U.K. Barbershop Champions, whilst "Stars of Tomorrow" include the eight and nine year old members of the Junior Choir. Also performing are two ex-members of the Choirs, Jessica Greaves and Mary-Louise Aitken. These two young ladies are certainly stars of tomorrow if their early progress as professional singers is anything to go by.

Presenting the evening will be Howard Goodall who is regularly seen on BBC 2 presenting their Choir of the Year Programme. Howard is perhaps better known amongst the music fraternity for his composition skills. He has six musicals to his credit, including The Hired Man - acclaimed the Best West End Musical in 1984 and has written for many T.V. programmes, most notably for Rowan Atkinson, whose music he has scored for the last eighteen years.

Sheffielders will remember his score for "As You Like It", which visited the Crucible.

The Choirs will be giving the North of England Premiere of a piece specially arranged for them by Howard. It was written in memory of Anne Frank as a celebration of this inspirational young woman. It is perhaps fitting that the youth of a city that was so heavily targetted during the war, should be performing this tribute fifty years after her death.

Tickets priced at £6 (£3 concessions) can be obtained by calling Steve Horton on 2620959.

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HANG ON TO THAT LINE

A light-hearted tale from the Second World war days.

This year marks a special 50th anniversary of the ending of the war and no one would wish to be reminded of all the grim details that endured. But those dark days did produce their share of humour.

I recount the following tale from the diaries of the 1st Royal Air Force Unit of the Mountain Rescue Service at Llandwrog, North Wales. This station was first opened in 1941 for the training of aircrews. Whitley's were the first aircraft in use. Later Avro Ansons were used for the special training of navigators in night flying exercises and in 1943 the unit became known as No.9 (Observer) Advanced Flying Unit. Unfortunately the close proximity of the mountains of Snowdonia caused many aircraft accidents. To the rescue came Flight-Lieutenant George Graham, Medical Officer and experienced mountaineer, who trained the very first rescue team. In their wisdom the Air Ministry recognised the extra aid of warning beacons. These radio transmitters were known in R.A.F. jargon as squeakers (sending out signals to low flying aircraft). One squeaker was situated on the summit of Foel-Grach 3195ft. (Carnedd range of mountains), the other on Craig-cwm-Slyn 2408ft. (the Nantlle range to the west of Snowdon). Weekly trips had to be made to replace and recharge the batteries. This job was first given to Radio Technician, Corporal Frank Brookes. He was tops as a mechanic but no lover of mountains. Everything was O.K. during the summer months, as he slogged up the steep slopes after leaving the jeep along the mountain track.

But one day he hit bad weather, thick mist and rain on the ridge of Cwm-Slyn. Gas cape and gumboots he sweated his route on to the summit plateau, then lost all sense of direction and finally wandered on to the wrong summit of

Carnedd Goch. Fully convinced he had not made a mistake for both summits were of a similar shape, he searched around the rocks and decided that the transmitter had actually been stolen. After descending the mountain he reported the loss to the local police station at Peny-Groes. The mind boggles as enquiries were made around the local villages for a missing 1/4 ton weight of transmitter. Plus was his face slightly red when it was proved he had simply wandered on to the wrong mountain.

But Frank was not defeated, not for him the use of map and compass, what enterprise and original ideas he produced next by taking reels of flex from the stores. He tied the wire on to the rocks at the base of the mountain and threaded the line right along the ridge, even repeating the same dose on the slopes of Foel Grach. Early in 1944 Frank was finally posted overseas. What a character, I can still picture him now with gas cape fluttering in the wind and hanging on to that line with grim determination.

After this period and until the end of the war the duties of servicing the squeakers were taken over by members of the Mountain Rescue team. One would like to think these squeakers did avert a few aircraft from crashing on the hills of Snowdonia. Even to this day budding mountaineers will still find traces of heavy duty wire lying across the flanks of Foel Grach from Melynlllyn (lake) to the summit. All credit to the unorthodox corporal.

On a serious note I recommend to you to read a new book published December 1994 "The Legend of Llandwrog" by Edward Doylerush (Midland Counties Publications) Price £8.95p.

John C. Burrows

P.S. R.A.F. Llanwrog is now known as Caernarfon airport.



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Whisperer

The paper skips on Totley Rise - two of these have been moved further down the front of the shops, but when the top one is full people still keep on leaving piles of paper around, and when it is windy there is paper everywhere, please use the bottom skips.

The Crown Inn has changed management after about 20 years John and Sandra have moved on to pastures new by moving to a restaurant in Spain. The new management at the Crown are Nina and Harry Crownshaw and family who have quite a few new ideas for the future.

Over the last few weeks work has been taking place around the lanes of Totley Bents the gutters have been cleaned out and filled with hard core which it is hoped will solve the water problems which has gone on for a few years especially in winter with icy roads.

Where have all the daffodils gone that were planted down Penny Lane over the last two years.

Old Hay Lane is to be closed in the near future for work to take place.

Abbeydale Road South is also to be closed for road reconstruction. The road is to be closed from Five Trees to Dore Road and traffic will have to use Bushywood Road, Savage Lane and Dore Road when this happens.

The National Westminster Bank at Totley Rise is due to close in March which leaves us with more empty properties in the area and no bank as such as the nearest will be Millhouses or Dore. People can of course use either the Post Office Giro service or the Halifax Building Society as an alternative.

Does anyone know why the old telephone box at the corner of Totley Brook Road has been refurbished and not replaced with a new one while the one near Totley Post Office was replaced with a modern one when in a green belt area and an old one would have been more in keeping with the area.

TRANSPORT 17

Our next fund-raising event is a Coffee Morning and Soup & Sandwiches at Olive's. This will be at 63, Chatsworth Road, on Saturday on 18th March 10a.m. till lunch is finished. Coffee & Biscuits will be 50p and Soup & Sandwiches £1. If you have never tasted Olive's soups you haven't lived.

If you want to come let us know and we will get tickets to you or let your club organizer know you want some. We will be providing transport but we must have requests for this well in advance.

The A.G.M. will this year be held on Monday, 27th. March at 7-30 pm. The venue will be Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall and refreshments will be provided free of charge.

On Saturday, 22nd April we will be having a T.17 Coffee Morning at All Saints' Church Hall from 10a.m.- 12 noon. Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Books and Refreshments, but no Jumble. There will be a charge 50p paid on the day.

Lynne Enzor from Help the Aged has got Y.E.B. to sponsor their Brass Band to do a Concert on Friday, 12th May in the evening, at King Ecgbert's School. Tickets will be £4 and this includes Coffee & Biscuits during the interval. The Band is coming from the other side of Leeds and we hope to have a good crowd not only so that we make some money, but to show the musicians that we appreciate them giving up their time for us.

Once again if you have any queries or want transport please ring our office 2362962 or speak to any of the T.17ers!!

Tickets for the Concert are not printed yet but you can give us your names. We will get them to you. Many thanks for your support.

Look forward to seeing you at our events.

Margaret Barlow.

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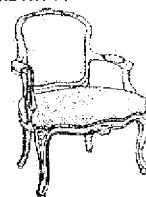
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PENTECOST '95

For some months now representatives from the Churches in our community have been busy preparing for an event in Green Oak Park called "Pentecost 95 - Meet Jesus". The date is the 17th to 24th. June. A marquee will be erected in the park and this will be the venue for a variety of events and activities.

A team of young people will join us part way through the week, under the leadership of a Methodist Minister called Rev. Rob Frost. These young people will partner members of the various Churches in Dore and Totley called the "Home Team". We are hoping to visit schools, homes, churches and other organisations who might invite us. There will be children's, young peoples and adult meetings, where the Christian message will be shared in drama, music, conversation and, of course, preaching. The purpose of the week is 6 fold:-

1. To demonstrate to the Community the unity of all Christians in our area as we work together.
2. To create a non-threatening but specific place, other than a church building, where we can talk, not about Denomination, but about our faith in Jesus Christ.
3. To be available to people from our community of all ages who may wish to share in the various events to be presented during the week.
4. To have a space where Christian people will gather to be available should an individual want to talk to somebody about "Anything".
5. To meet to worship God and show that Christian life is about living life to the full.
6. To take time to share God's love with all who are sure life must have a meaning and purpose - to demonstrate that Christianity is about a personal encounter and relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ.

Will you come and share the week with us? I hope you will.

George Palmer

Coming event:-

MARCH OF WITNESS

On Palm Sunday, 9th. April there will be processions from all the Churches in the area to Green Oak Park.

BANK CLOSURE

Customers of the Natwest Bank Totley Rise, were shocked and surprised to receive a recent letter advising that there branch is due to close on the 17th. March 1995.

No specific reason for closure is given but customers are being offered a transfer of accounts to the Millhouses Branch or another branch of their choice.

The "improved facilities" at Millhouses would appear to be totally inconvenient to customers, particularly senior citizens, local business and traders. The whole point of a local branch is that it is easily accessible and not a bus ride away.

The customers who have been loyal and long standing would seem to have been given a raw deal, by the banks' hierarchy.

No doubt, many objections will be sent and locals will make their point of view known most strongly, but in today's climate and in practice amongst major operators it will probably all be in vain.

Mike Williamson

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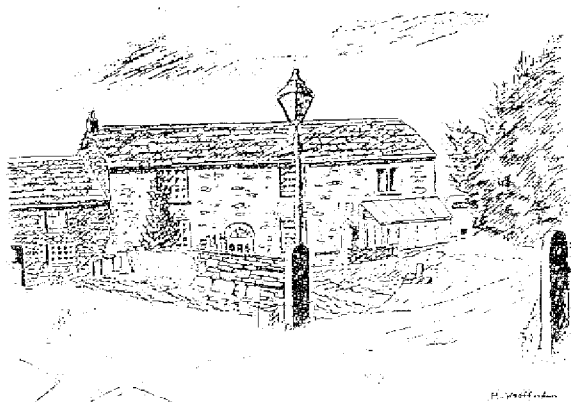
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LIMOUSINES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

THE TOTLEY COLONY; ST. GEORGES FARM

PART 2



The Community engaged one man to work for them and then another. Visitors flocked to see them to such an extent that a profitable side industry grew up to supply them with tea. Fruit, eggs and vegetables in small numbers were taken by the members to be sold in Sheffield. Many became hopeful that it would become a fully residential community.

The cobblers wished to accelerate this movement but the committee and management did not wish to become further indebted to Ruskin. They refused permission to one cobbler who wished to lease his cobblers shop and take up permanent residence in the Totley community. This cobbler then appealed to William Harrison Riley. It was probably inevitable that with the absence of Ruskin from the project there would be disagreement between the colonists as to how the project should be organised. At first they tried to get on by vote of simple majority but Ruskin became aware that they had entirely convinced themselves of the impossibility of getting by in that particular manner. Things were to get worse with the arrival of William Harrison Riley, who proclaimed himself as Master of the project, arousing bitter resentment among the others.

Riley was a person of unusual calibre. For a long time his association or his background had not been appreciated in connection with the Totley enterprise. He does not figure in any biography of Ruskin or any biographical dictionary.

Riley was the son of a Manchester local preacher, who learned the art of engraving and later emigrated to America where he worked for three years. Returning to England, he became a commercial traveller for his father, who was connected with a cloth printing factory and in doing so, became interested in the thoughts of socialism. In 1866 he was in America again, this time in the jewellery trade and journalism. He met Walt Whitman, the poet

and by 1870 decided to return to England.

Riley settled for a time in London where he published his "Yankee Letters to British Workmen" and joined the International Working Men's Association, for who he published, beginning in March 1872, the "International Herald" which became the voice of the English section of the International Working Men's Association, the title being changed to The Republican Herald and in April 1874 to The Herald and Helpmate.

In April 1875 he moved to Bristol where the last copy of the paper appeared. At the same time Riley and his wife were managing a Mutual Help Club, the object being co-operative distribution and educational work. Riley objected to the sale of intoxicants on the premises, so he moved and formed a wholly temperance society in December 1875, called the Social Improvement Institute. However, due to financial problems this folded after eighteen months and he moved from Bristol to Sheffield.

In Sheffield, Riley edited and published The Socialist, a monthly which ran from July to December 1877. He proclaimed himself a Christian Socialist. His vigorous opinions brought him to the attention of John Ruskin and Edward Carpenter, who was then settling at Millthorpe in Derbyshire, only a short distance from Totley and he became the unacknowledged leader of the social reformers in Sheffield.

Riley's own brand of utopianism was laid down in his twenty two clause "Draft of a British Constitution", printed in the final copy of The Socialist in December 1877.

As Riley confessed to himself: "I am glad to know that I am, to some extent, a visionary - a seer. I know that the blind - the non-seers - will grin and chuckle at this thankful confession and will continue to lead other blind men into every orthodox ditch. I will continue to respect the faculty of sight - insight and foresight - and will continue with other and greater seers to enlarge and improve the sight of mankind and to oppose the champions of darkness - the revilers and destroyers of sight". The arrival of Riley as custodian or Master of the Totley communitarian experiment was in accordance with the principles of the St. George's Guild. The colonists, however, had other ideas. They had existed as a group since 1874, originally meeting as members of a Mutual Improvement Society that met at the Hall of Science in Rockingham Street, Sheffield. It had been previously noted that their contact with Ruskin had been through Henry

Swan, the agreement being that they would repay Ruskin back within 7 years, the money that had been used to buy the Totley Farm.

Many were hopeful of settling in Totley permanently, in a community, rather than daily travellers to it; Communitarians rather than Commuters. The cobbler who had been refused permission to lease his shop and who turned to Riley upon his arrival in Totley, had been anxious to accelerate the movement as a whole and in July 1875, had succeeded in obtaining a cheque for one hundred pounds from Ruskin which he cashed and brought the money to the Committee of Management. The Committee, however, passed a vote of censure on him and returned the money to Ruskin. Ruskin did not reply.

The cobbler's disappointment led him to Riley who immediately communicated with Ruskin.

The conclusion to this complicated and deteriorating situation was startling. In the words of one of the original committee; "Riley went to the farm and took absolute possession of everything, telling our manager that he was Master. The poor man came to our meeting looking not too delighted at the change and gave us the information. Now, considering that the society had agreed to pay Ruskin back on his own terms this thing seemed impossible and a chosen number of the committee went to the farm to seek an explanation. Riley coolly informed them that he was Master there and they had no power. He met their remonstrances with sneers and in one case with threats of personal violence. Two letters were written to Ruskin seeking his explanation but no answer was returned. Then the committee wrote again declining all further responsibility or connection with the farm. The story is finished as far as we were practically concerned".

By this time, Riley seems to have exhausted his own and Ruskin's patience, so he emigrated with his wife and child to the United States of America. Ruskin's disappointment with him was heartfelt. "Mr. Riley was no friend of mine. I tried him as an exponent of modern liberalism and was as pleased with the results as your members were". So the Guild of St. George turned Totley to another purpose.

This new purpose was announced in the Report of the St. George's Guild for 1879. It was to be cultivated 'with the object of showing the best methods of managing fruit trees in the climate of Northern England; with attached greenhouses and botanical garden for the orderly display of all interesting European plants'. It was to be 'connective with the work of the museum of Sheffield', and be placed under the superintendence of David Downs, Ruskin's

own head gardener on whose real and honesty Ruskin said he could rely. David Downs would work for Ruskin without expense to the Guild.

Ruskin hoped that the gardens would soon become important enough to require the establishment of a curatorship in connection with them. On 29th August 1878, he wrote to a friend, 'I have just given orders that Abbeydale shall be made a vegetable and botanic garden, giving employment to any workmen or workmen's children who like to come so far - for any hour's exercise - and furnishing model types of vegetable produce to the Sheffield markets, while I am going to build good greenhouses for keeping out frost but not unhealthy hothouses, needing watching all night'.

David Downs was quite a character and well worthy of mention. He had been in the employ of John Ruskin's father and hence referred to Ruskin as 'the young master'. Ruskin referred to him, affectionately as 'Downsie'.

David Downs would not have been too keen on coming to Totley after having worked for Ruskin in the South, in the Lake District and also having travelled abroad with John Ruskin. However, he was a good man and always happy to work for the master, he loved so well. He had previously been in charge of seven gardeners and no doubt found that Sheffield community which was made up not only of cobblers and bootmakers but also ironworkers and opticians, along with their squabbling wives, a totally different environment.

Downs was a simple man and the work he was sent to do in Totley growing cabbages and grubbing up the roots of trees was very different to the Azaleas and sunshine he was used to. In appearance, he was regular John Bull looking man, with a good natured red face, bushy eyebrows which worked up and down and a squeaky voice. His eyebrows helped him look very wise at times, though his innocence and simplicity made him very comical and kept him in a constant state of surprise.

There is an amusing story of him sitting in Venice, reading an Italian newspaper upside down, with a group of wandering beggars around him to whom he would now and then dole out the smallest possible coin, telling them to go away and not make beasts of themselves.

It appears that even the presence of David Downs and his gardening expertise could not make the revitalised plan Totley work. Unlike the success of the Ruskin Museum, on the other hand, St. George's Farm languished and in spite of the efforts

to produce strawberries, currants and gooseberries on it, Ruskin was writing to Downs on 24th April, 1881; 'Suppose we sell all that good-for-nothing land at Totley and take somebody else in, for once if - we can - instead of always being taken in ourselves, for a change'.

Three years later he spoke of it in his Report for 1884 as, 'Thirteen acres of very poor land'. Luckily in 1885, a tenant found for it, through the agency of Edward Carpenter, a friend of Riley's and pioneer of Socialism in Sheffield.

Carpenter introduced one of his young friends, George Pearson to Ruskin and as a result, Pearson leased it from the Guild until 1925, when he bought it outright. The Totley experiment was not without significance. One of those who were, as we have seen, much stimulated by it, was young Edward Carpenter, then a young university extension lecturer, who stated, 'The year 1879 was in many ways the dim dawn or beginning of a new life for me', and began to 'knit up alliances more satisfactory to me than I had known before'.

He visited Bradway and Totley, he actually lived in Totley for a few months in 1880. After a lecture, a scythe maker, Albert Fearnough, became a close friend and in this way began the association with working people. In May 1880 he settled in a small cottage near Bradway, close to the Fearnoughs, before going to Millthorpe. He was a friend of the Riley's whom he visited in 1884 whilst on a visit to America.

Carpenter's own enthusiasm for sandal making, stemming as it did from his Indian friends, was undoubtedly encouraged by the very cobbling Communitarians who had originally enthused over the St. George's project. It was also through Edward Carpenter that William Morris, later famed for his textiles and wallpaper, became an observer of the Totley project. Carpenter left a history of the project, which had

been overlooked by the editors and biographers of Ruskin. It can be found in the newspaper published by William Morris - The Commonweal, for 9th March, 1889. In an article entitled A Minstrel Communist, Carpenter wrote

an obituary of Joseph Sharp, one of the original dozen of the group, for whom Ruskin bought the land in Totley. Further correspondence on the Totley project was published in The

Commonweal and asked for 'more light on these experiments at Totley, as perhaps the nucleus of contemporary tendencies in the evolution of Socialism'. As a result, part of Carpenters reply was, 'I think one reason why all these little communal schemes fail is their narrowness - and it is a good thing they do fail though it is also a good thing that they are started and succeed for a short time.

- - - personally I would not like to belong to a community of under a million people. I think with that number one might feel safe, but with less there would be a great danger of being watched. - - - all honour to those who have fought to establish these little communities. They have kept the sacred fire alight through a long and dark night.

Edward Carpenter was well acquainted with practical schemes in the Sheffield district and the wider current of radical ideas at the time. He obviously looked back, with some scepticism at the 'would-be Garden of Eden'.

Towards the end of his life Ruskin was not able to resume his writings, for, although he lived on until 1900, the smallest literary task - even the composition of a brief informal letter, was soon utterly beyond his strength. He had retired into a private universe of reveries and dreams.

He believed that his lifework had failed and from some points of view, a critic is bound to agree that his pessimism was not ill-founded. None of his schemes of reform had resulted in much practical benefit, some, indeed like the Guild of St. George had dwindled and decayed many years before his death. He had impressed his contemporaries but had not influenced them.

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SCOUT NEWS

The winners of the scout lottery for January :-

1st. Prize Large Gilt Edged Mirror
No. 107, Mr. & Mrs Smith, Queen Victoria Road.

2nd. Prize £10-00 Voucher
No. 15, Mr. & Mrs. Bevan, Sunnyvale Road.

St. John's Abbeydale Beavers, Cubs & Scouts.

Congratulations are due to the Cub section for winning the annual District Skills Competition. They beat other cub packs in Porter District in demonstrating their skill at tracking, map work, country code, home safety and others. They now have the honour of displaying the District flag for the next 12 months.

During February the Beavers have been looking at our weather, keeping a weather log and ways of measuring it. The Cubs and Scouts have been rifle shooting and ice skating. In addition the Scouts joined with Totley Scouts for an activity weekend involving climbing, walking - daylight and night, cooking - indoors and outdoors, pioneering and games.

On 18th. March Porter District is holding a Fun Event in the Cutlers Hall from 2pm. 4-30pm., all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures can attend, as well as their friends, admission is just 50p but there are many demonstrations and activities in which to take part.

All the sections are currently working hard on their entries for the Portercraft Handicraft exhibition and competition which is being held on 11th. March. During the month the Scouts will find time for a midnight hike.

Antique Fair, this popular event is on the 18th. March at St. John's Church Hall from 10-00 am. Come along and browse, sell or buy. Refreshments will be available.

M.Hollindale

WATER METERS

At the end of 1993 we elected to have a water meter installed. The estimated figures given to us by Yorkshire Water suggested that we would save money by doing so and would soon pay off the cost of installing the meter.

After a year we are pleased to report that the savings are greater than predicted.

Our usage in the 4 quarters has varied from 25 cubic metres to 32 cubic metres.

Our only economy on the use of water was to limit the amount used for watering the garden in the summer.

Based on using 30 cubic metres a quarter the annual bill would be £212 a year. This would be the maximum bill I would expect for a couple living alone as we frequently have people staying with us. The bill would be lower for someone living alone. To see if it is worth having a meter compare our bill with yours.

The cost of putting in a meter is about £120 and this cost can be spread over a year.

If you think it might be worth having a meter ring or write to Yorkshire Water. They will give you an estimate of the amount you are likely to use and the cost. In our experience the estimate will be the maximum that you could possibly use.

Have any other readers any figures for water metering costs that they could share with others?

C.Wells.

NEARLY NEW SALE

Childrens clothes, toys, baby equipment.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22nd.

8-00pm. to 9-00pm.

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Mr. OSWALD VARLEY

Totley's oldest resident Mr. Oswald Varley has recently died. Mr. Varley of Green Oak Avenue, would have been 104 this year.

He was blessed with a marvellous memory and many people were fascinated by his recollections of life in earlier days and at the turn of the century prior to, for example, the introduction of the motor car and planes, for when he was born, Queen Victoria was still on the throne.

For the majority of his life he was blind and lived alone but he was never lonely. He constantly enjoyed visits from a stream of friends, home-helps and wardens.

M. Williamson

TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION present in conjunction with TOTLEY LIBRARY

"LIFE AS AN ENTERTAINER"

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MARCH 13th. 8-00pm. TOTLEY LIBRARY
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SCHOOLS UNDER THREAT AT ABBEYDALE

Teachers from Sheffield and further afield are being urged to support the Schools' Working Day at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet on 10th. March, in order that the future of the special schools' event can be secured.

Working Weekends are held at Abbeydale in March, August and November and, traditionally, special Working Days for Schools have been included on the preceding Fridays in both March and November. Unfortunately school bookings have been gradually declining and this, combined with further rounds of council cut-backs, could mean that the Schools' Days could become another thing of the past.

A spokesperson for the Hamlet said "Of course, we have schools from within and without Sheffield visiting the Hamlet and its attractions all year round, but it would be a real shame for the children and students to lose this unique opportunity to see Abbeydale brought to life and experience the added dimensions of Working Days." The Working Days provide the opportunity to see the Abbeydale furnaces lit and extra craftsmen are brought in. Features like bread-making in a Victorian kitchen are extremely popular with the children.

It is hoped that enough schools will support the March Schools' Working Day to ensure that schoolchildren can continue to enjoy the Abbeydale experience in years to come.

MARCH WORKING DAY

10th. to 12th. March, 10am - 5pm.

Also Steam Gathering and visit by Members of the Road Roller Association.

Admission:

Adults £3-00, Concessions £1-50, Family (2+2) £6-00

Any further details contact Julia Waterhouse Tel. No. (0114) 2367731

CARNIVAL

Green Oak Park will be the site of a Carnival on Saturday 17th. June. It will be the opening event of a major happening under the general title of "Pentecost '95" which is being organised by the churches in Totley and Dore. More will be written about Pentecost '95 in later issues of Totley Independent for it will indeed be a significant event for our community.

The Carnival itself is being organised by Totley Residents Association and will be comparable in style and nature to the very successful Sport days which the T.R.A. has run for the past few years. Some readers will remember that these Sports Days used to be organised in Green Oak Park so there is a sense of returning "home".

The Sheffield Military Concert Band has been booked to play during the afternoon and there will be a wide range of Games, Sideshows, Stalls and "all the fun of the fair"! a great deal of work is currently going into the planning of this event and printed programmes will be available during May. Whilst it is not primarily a fund-raising event nett proceeds from the Carnival will be given to Transport 17.

It is expected that some stalls will be organised by charities or craft groups but only a limited number of spaces will be available. Anyone wishing to know more about the possibilities of running a stall should contact the Chairperson of Totley Residents Association, Mrs. Margaret Coldwell at 30, Glover Road (2367021)



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DEAR EDITOR

I used to enjoy browsing through local Jumble Sales, but since it seems to be common practice to allow dealers in long before opening time, there is nothing left worth having for local people and no point in going.

They should open at the time advertised and not before.
(name and address supplied)

FRIENDS OF ABBEYDALE HALL WILDLIFE GARDEN

Come and learn about the wildlife on your doorstep!

An illustrated talk
WILDLIFE IN MY GARDEN
by

Austin Brackenbury

Mon. 27th. March 7-30pm.

Totley Library

Coffee and Biscuits. Tickets available from the Library.

Please make a note of our OPEN DAY on 20th. May 2-5pm. during Environment Week. We will have Children's Activities, Plant Sales, Guided Walks, Displays, Stalls and Refreshments. Come and enjoy yourselves and support us!

COFFEE, CAKES & CUTTINGS

Just a preliminary notice to say that the date of this year's event will be a slightly later one of Saturday, June 3rd. It will be held, as usual, at English Martyr's Church from 10-00am. to 12-00 noon. If anyone would care to plant a few more seedlings etc. for the Plant stall, they will be gratefully received. Proceeds are for TRANSPORT 17.
J. Artindale

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

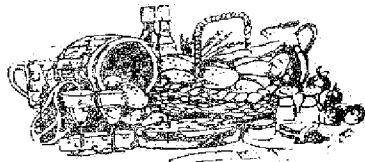
On Tuesday 7th. March at 8-00pm. the United Nations association invite anyone interested to come to "Newfield", Brickhouse Lane, Dore for a talk on the South Yorkshire Development Education Centre, followed by a discussion of current topics in the news.

Saturday 29th. April celebrates the 50th. anniversary of the U.N., and there will be a grand concert by the John Wade Singers, with proceeds for U.N.I.C.E.F. Full details in next issue of the Independent, don't forget to book the date.

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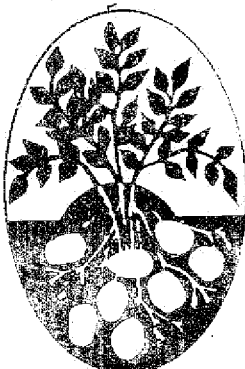
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TALES OF THE UNBELIEVABLE

We are very fortunate being situated in the North Midlands. It gives us a wide area of places of scenic beauty and historical interest. We have too, a number of coach companies, all anxious to give delightful days out, letting the driver take the strain of getting us there and back in good order. That was why, and how, I managed to be standing and gazing upon one of our oldest wonders of a bygone era - that of Hadrian's Wall. We were taught in our history lessons that the wall was built between 122 and 130 A.D. and that it stretched the 70 odd miles between the Tyne and the Solway, taking hill and dale, river and plain in its stride. In those many centuries ago, it was up to 16 ft. high and rarely less than 12 ft. wide (or did they use centimetres in those days). The amount of work which went into the construction is staggering. There must have been millions of blocks carved for the sides of the wall, before filling the centre with rubble. No wonder it took eight years to build, although there would be no suggestion of a 37 hour week and a foreman with a long whip and a strong arm would probably keep the work flowing along smoothly.

The smaller wall of today still looks impressive as I strolled along its summit. Whilst the day had started fine, there came one of those sudden mists (fog even), which soon took away the long vistas into what would have been heathen territory. It grew so thick that I could hardly see a hand before me. I was very glad to hear a voice in the distance "Ho there, friend!" "Good day to you", I replied. "A very devil of a day I do not like", he continued, "these are the days when we have to keep a keen look-out for the barbarians up there". (he vaguely waved his hand to the north). "They try to over-run us at every end and turn. Mind you there are plenty of us, about 40,000 stationed in the north and I understand that at Chester another 1,000 men have just arrived from Spain. But days like this just keep us on our toes. It does make a change from practising spear and javelin throwing and the the endless parades, drills and exercises or polishing armour or general bath-house duties. I am glad of the days off, when we can visit the temples of Isis and Mithros and that reminds me that a prayer to Mithros, the Sun-God, would not be out of place a day like this.

I like it when we can get down to Housesteads and call in Filius Donaldi for a Tiberburger and a drink, although I do not like your northern beer. I much prefer the wine from Italy when a consignment comes in. How did you get here? Up Dere

Street I suppose. Good thing that we cleared out the Brigantes at Stanwix or you'd never have made it. You came up by coach? I am not certain what that means in our language. I think that you must have come by chariot. Well, I must not stand here all day talking to you, I have my patrol to do to the next milecastle--- You don't happen to have a spare 200 drachmas on you, do you? ----No, I thought not". With that he turned on his heel and his outline soon disappeared into the fog. I heard his footsteps retreating. His voice came back to me out of the grey distance. "Legite Liberum Totleiese Cum Grano Salis". I could hardly wait until I reached home to look at my Latin dictionary. I should have known, of course, the background of his message-----, "Read Totley Independent with a grain of salt".

WELL DONE KING ECGBERT

Congratulations to the staff and pupils of King Ecgbert School, Dore for being singled out as one of the best of the top 52 state schools in the U.K. by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

With growing concern for the state of our education system it is good to hear that our local comprehensive is doing well.

Diane Wilkinson



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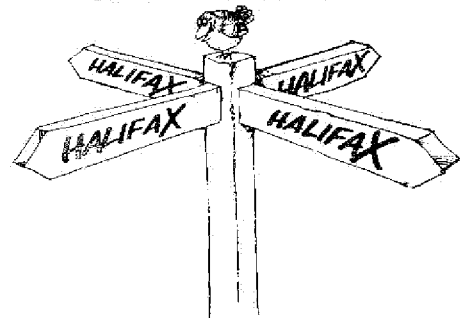
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We welcome letters about local affairs and will publish as many as possible. However the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Editorial Staff or Totley Residents Association and must not be imputed to them.

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TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

MARCH

MONDAYS COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10-00am. - noon
 TUESDAYS COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10-00am.- noon
 CRAFT GROUP Totley Library.
 WEDNESDAYS T.O.P.S. for the over 60's, Heatherfield Club 2-00pm.- 4-00pm.
 COFFEE in the LIBRARY 10-00 am. to 11-30.
 THURSDAYS OPEN DOOR, United Reformed Church, 10-00a.m.- noon

SAT. 4th. ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW, 8-00pm. The Poplars, Lane Head Road, Totley Bents,
 Tel. 2368948, Tickets £4-00 each, 1 item per person for evaluation, Cheese &
 wine refreshments.
 TUE. 7th. SOUTH YORKSHIRE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTRE, 8-00pm, "Newfield"
 Brickhouse Land Dore, Organised by the United Nations Association, All
 Welcome. (Details inside)
 FRI. 10th. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD, Gardening - Patio planters, hanging baskets etc. by
 Mr. Stuart Jackson, Abbeydale Hall, 7-30pm.
 FRI. 10th. to 12th. ABBEYDALE INDUSTRIAL HAMLET, Working Days and Steam Gathering.
 FRI. 10th. March to 4th. June, ABBEYDALE INDUSTRIAL HAMLET, Power Exhibition
 SAT. 11th. CELEBRITY CONCERT, Dore Male Voice Choir, Details page 15.
 SAT. 11th. MASS in B MINOR, BACH, Sheffield Cathedral, 7-30pm. (Details inside)
 MON. 13th. "LIFE AS AN ENTERTAINER" by Jimmy McWilliams, Totley Library, 8-00pm.
 Organised by the T.R.A. Tickets free from the library. (Details inside)
 SAT. 18th. TRANSPORT 17 COFFEE MORNING and LUNCH, Details inside.
 SAT. 18th. ANTIQUE FAIR, St. John's Church Hall, 10-00 am. (Details inside)
 TUE. 21st. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Methodist Church Hall, 10-00am.
 TUE. 21st. SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, 11-00am., 4, Grove Road.
 WED. 22nd. NEARLY NEW SALE 8-00 to 9-00 pm., Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall
 Children's clothes, toys and baby equipment (Details Inside)
 MON. 27th. TRANSPORT 17 AGM., Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall 7-30pm.
 MON. 27th. WILDLIFE IN MY GARDEN, by Austin Brackenbury, Totley Library 7-30pm.
 (Details inside)

THE INDEPENDENT FOR APRIL

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independent will be
 available from the usual distribution points on
SATURDAY 1st. APRIL. Copy date for this issue will
 be SATURDAY 18th. MARCH 1995.

EDITORS Les & Dorothy Firth,
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