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TOTLEY HINTERLAND

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Totley
Residents
Association

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WODE TO TOTLEY GRANGE
FROM AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH
BYIAN EDWARDS 1944.

A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 1995

Dore Methodists

Dec.17th. 6.00pm. Carol Service
Dec.24th. 11.30pm. Midnight Communion
Dec.25th. 9.30am. Christmas Service

Totley Rise Methodists

Dec.13th. 8.00pm. Carols by Candlelight
Dec.17th. 10.30am. Morning Service
6.00pm. Christmas Celebration
Dec.24th. 10.30am. Morning Carol Service
11.30pm. Midnight Communion at
Dore Methodists
Dec.25th. 9.30am. Christmas Day Service

United Reformed Church Totley Brook Rd.

Dec.17th. 6.30pm. Carol Service
Dec.24th. 10.30am. Family Service
11.15pm. Midnight Communion
Dec.25th. 10.00am. Family Service.

Dore & Totley Christian Fellowship

Dec.24th. 10.30am. Carol Service
Dore Junior School

English Martyrs

Dec.24th. 9.15am. Mass
5.30pm. Nativity Celebration
for Children
Dec.25th. 9.15am. Christmas Mass

Christ Church, Dore

Dec.17th. 6.30pm. Candlelit Carol Service
Dec.24th. 4.30pm. Crib and Carol Service
11.30pm. Midnight Communion
Dec.25th. 8.00am. Holy Communion
10.00am. Christmas Morning
Service

St. John's, Abbeydale

Dec.17th. 6.30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols
Dec.24th. 5.30pm. Christingle Service
11.30pm. First Communion for
Christmas Day
Dec.25th. 8.00am. Holy Communion
10.00am. Family Service followed
by short Holy Communion

All Saints', Totley

Dec.17th. 10.00am. Young Saints' Christmas
Presentation
6.30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols
Dec.24th. 4.30pm. Family Crib Service
11.30pm. First Communion of
Christmas
Dec.25th. 8.00am. Holy Communion
10.00am. Family Communion

TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Friends

It does not seem very long ago since last Christmas when I wrote to you, but such a lot of things have happened in our community during the year.

Pentecost '95 was held for a week in Green Oak Park in June with Churches from Totley and Dore. The event started with a Carnival and the money raised was donated to Transport 17.

The five talks held in Totley Library during the year proved successful and the Produce Show held at Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall goes from strength to strength.

Our Christmas Party is being held in the United Reformed Church Hall on Saturday December 2nd. at 4-00pm. We have entertainment after tea and the party is always a merry occasion.

The Totley Residents Committee and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Margaret Coldwell
Chairwoman

ABBEYDALE BOWLING CLUB

The 48th Annual Dinner and Presentation was held on 27th October at the Pavilion, Abbeydale Park. Prizes were presented by Mr Peter Cooper, well known sports writer.

HARGREAVES CUP

Winner W I Colley
Runner up D Matthewman

ROEBUCK CUP

Winners H Foley
J J Bennett
Runners up D W Pilley
C H Talbot

HALLETT TROPHY

Winner E Burgin
Runner up G Torry

CURVACIOUS CUP

Winner J E Church
Runner up G A Sceats

LESLIE HULSE TROPHY

Winner E Burgin
Runner up R Lee

KEN GEORGE SHIELD

Winners J Perkinson
J Furniss

HARRY JOHNSON CUP

Winners J M Hastings
M Cross

AUTUMN SHIELD

Winners P W Thorpe
G Torry

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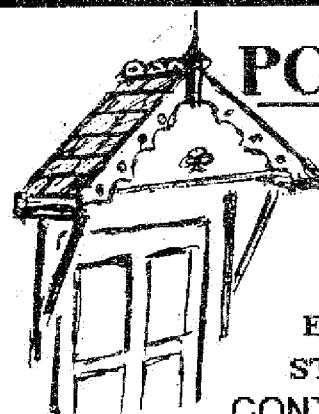
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Many families take their Christmas holiday abroad but what better area could they sample than our own English Lake District, which offers first class hotels for the tourist plus youth hostels galore for the keen hill walker.

There is no better scenery, so sample the delights of the Patterdale and Langdale Valleys. Maybe even scale the high ground of the Helvellyn Range and Langdale Pikes. Even our own fair city can boast of its own mountain; namely Sheffield Pike, showing a generous height of 2,232 feet; not a well-trodden peak nestling under the shadow of Helvellyn but certainly a grand walk from the village of Glenridding in Patterdale, through Glencoyne pine woods and across the slopes of Heron Pike, to stand astride our own noble hill-top to exchange glorious views of Ullswater and the Eastern Fells.

All the surrounding valleys of Borrowdale, Coniston, Langdale, Buttermere and Wastdale can offer first class catering facilities or, if you prefer the more commercial centres, how about Windermere, Ambleside and Keswick - all around; enough mountains to whet the appetite for anyone willing to walk.

The layman would classify all high ground above a height of 2,000 feet as a mountain. But do not be fooled by this simple rule, there is many a good little 'un that would rate the title of a mountain purely on shape and contours. Try to scale the ridges of High Rigg; a mere 1,163 feet above the vale of Saint John's - every inch a mountain, or maybe Horse Craggs at 1,760 feet above the Wrynose Pass. My own favourite little 'un is shapely Barf (1,536 feet) a real tough guy when tackled from the Swan Hotel above the shores of Bassenthwaite

Lake (Keswick to Cockermouth Road). Try the challenge direct from the Bishop of Barf; the white painted rock close to the roadside. This gem of a mountain will rival even the giants of Skiddaw, Great Gable and Scafell Pike.

A final tribute to the pure magic of the Lake District is to scale the ridges of Blencathra - a supreme top rising above the village of Threlkeld. There are enough hills to last one a lifetime of enjoyment. No need to go abroad; the Lakes has it all.

John C. Barrows

SCOUT NEWS

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CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our annual Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday 2nd December 1995 at St. Johns, Abbeydale Church Hall.

The fair will be opened by Father Christmas at 2 p.m. and admission will be free. Afterwards, children and adults can visit Santa in his Grotto for a present and photograph.

There will be many craft stalls, games and amusements as well as refreshments and a tombola. The draw for our Grand Raffle will take place at 4.30 p.m. just as the fair is closing.

We do hope that you will come along at sometime during the afternoon and are sure you will find plenty to entertain you and possibly find some Christmas presents to purchase.

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FARMING SCENE

I was going to start this epistle by saying "a lot of water has gone under the bridge" since my last Independent Article, but given the amazing weather over the last six months, I will have to say a "little water" instead!

This long, dry, warm period has enabled farmers to get their work done on schedule, in good conditions, and with very little stress.

Although due to the drought the amounts of both hay and silage made are down on a normal year, the quality of both is excellent. Many livestock farmers, particularly those on very high land like the Peak District, are short of winter fodder. This is driving up the prices of hay, silage and barley straw to new highs as they compete to buy enough livestock feed to see them through the winter. The warm October has encouraged a late flush of grass, which has turned a desperate situation into a more manageable shortage.

Our sheep enjoyed the warm summer spending 90% of their time sat under any available shade, and although they had virtually no grass, were quite content. The old adage that a lamb with the sun on its back is content and does well, even if it has little grass to eat, has again proved correct. In fact we have had more trouble with our sheep since the rain came, even though they have had plenty of grass. Whether it is a delayed reaction or not I don't know, but some of our ewes have made a habit of walking round the field they are in just looking to see where they can force their way out!!

This has caused consternation all round, as the last thing we want to be doing is rounding up sheep 2 or 3 times a day when we are busy drilling our autumn sown cereals etc. Those of you who regularly walk through, or past, our fields will have noticed that we have had the tups in with the ewes for over a month now, and most, if not all, of the ewes will have a coloured raddle mark on their back. This not only tells us that the ewe has been tupped, but by putting different colours on each tup we can tell if he is "working" well. The two tups we bought this autumn appear to be "on top of the job" to quote a phrase, but one we bought for £400, two years ago, seems to be celibate.

We rather suspected this last year, but now it has been confirmed, he will have to go the way of all flesh! His sale value will be approx. £40 - quite a loss.

Talking of things getting out and going the way of all flesh - I am afraid Angus our resident bull calf has done both

of these. Not content with the companionship of his Mother, Katy, he decided to pay a visit to the herds of our neighbouring farmers. This did not please us or them! Despite repeated warnings he continued his walkabouts! This I'm afraid led to the ultimate sanction, a trip to the abattoir somewhat earlier than originally planned.

This may seem to some people a very callous reaction but there is really no alternative. He was about ready for marketing anyway, weighing nearly half a tonne and selling for £600, at only 16 months old. Katy is in calf again and is due to calve in the spring.

Talking of beef prices, most farm produced commodities seem to be realising quite good prices at the moment. This is due to a reduction in supplies, but more especially the fact that the E.E.C. intervention stores are virtually empty, and world stocks are at all time lows.

Due to the quota system and a drop in output during the drought, milk prices are very firm at the moment with some cheese and butter plants having to close through lack of milk. Many processors are now importing from other E.C. countries.

Lamb prices are very good at the moment due in part to higher marketing's earlier in the year, but also because large quantities of the smaller, hill types of lambs, not normally liked by our consumers, are being exported to France, Spain and Portugal etc. Most of these now go in chilled carcass form. Another factor is the lower imports of frozen lamb from New Zealand.

Pig prices are good at the moment. This is due to a reduction in the breeding herd in this country, leading to reduced supplies of pork and bacon pigs. We have got our timing just right?? in that we have now sold all our pigs and have no intention of starting up again! Having lost money on them for 2 years and with our buildings and equipment needing repair, we decided enough was enough. These days you have to carry a big herd, ie. at least 200 sows, to be able to buy and sell at a very competitive rate, and thereby make a reasonable profit.

A dry October enabled us to harvest our potatoes in ideal conditions, with the fields ploughed and drilled into wheat earlier than ever before. our potato yields were not outstanding, but considering that they had very little rain on them, they did remarkably well. Although a bigger area of potatoes was planted this year, yields and total harvested tonnage is down on last year. Potato prices are above those of this time

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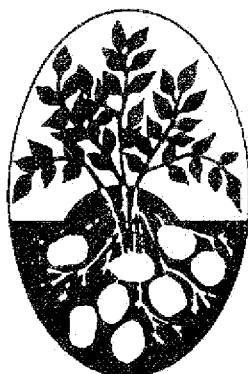
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last year, and look certain to rise after Christmas as stocks are depleted with the bigger "baking" type of potatoes being particularly short. Seed potatoes are also short and dear, I have been quoted £450 per tonne for some Scotch seed.

Talking of Christmas - our turkeys are growing and fattening up! This year we have brought in four week old poults, all hen birds, as they grow into the best "bigbreasted shape" Word has it that Turkeys will be in short supply this year, so early ordering is essential.

The cereal harvest was the easiest ever. We, like nearly everybody else, managed to avoid having to use in house grain driers, as the sun more than did the job for us. Some crops were over dry when harvested, causing quality and germination problems. Our wheat yielded nearly 3 tonnes per acre, and being a bread making variety was sold to Rank Hovis at Rotherham. It is quite possible you have eaten some bread, or cakes made with flour produced from the wheat we grew this year.

Most of our barley was sold as animal feed to another farmer near Chesterfield. However, some was of malting quality, was sold to a Maltsters near Tuxford and could easily be one of the base ingredients of your pint of Best Bitter!

World stock of cereals are now at an all time low, with world prices now above those of the E.E.C countries. In fact the E.E.C. stores are now virtually empty, and all grain exported out of the E.U. incurs an export tax. This is to try and prevent large exports causing shortages and much higher prices here. Doesn't take long to turn grain mountains into molehills does it! In an effort to rebuild stocks the E.U. has reduced the set-a-side requirement from 15% of total cereal area to 10%. Our 6 acres of set-a-side is at the top end of the farm this year wedged between Gillyfield Wood and Little Wood. Part of our cereal area is planted in oilseed rape this year. This is an excellent "break crop" in a rotation, its height and canopy smother any weeds, it improves the soil structure, providing fertile conditions for the following wheat crop, makes the bees work overtime and livens up the scenery! Come next May, our Rape field on Baslow Road will be a "pretty picture".

Talking of next May, this will almost be fruit picking time again. Preparations for next years crops are well under way, with staking, pruning, and training our current tasks. We have dug up our "old" raspberries, as a virus attack had greatly reduced their vigour and yield. Our "new" raspberry plantation has grown really well

this year and currently promises a bumper crop of large fruit over a long period next year.

Our early strawberry variety, Honeyoe, produced an excellent crop this year. We will have an increased area of these next year and the following year we will have an even better, and earlier variety to pick from. We have reduced the area of mid-season varieties, but increased the late variety area, so if all goes to plan, we should be able to provide a constant supply of freshly ripened fruit, over a 8 to 9 week period.

Even though we had a shortfall in raspberry production last year, we had a very good, but relatively short season. The hot weather not only kept many people in doors in the shade, it also prematurely ripened the late season varieties causing a mid-season glut. The medal for keeping quality must go to our redcurrants. Even now in mid-November, fruit that ripened in July/August, but was not picked, is still hanging on the bushes, much of it in edible condition, as I found out when I tried a few yesterday.

Our Fruit Area Ring Road is now operational and will be much used next year as we pick from newly planted areas alongside Gillyfield Wood.

Edwin Pocock



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CHRISTMAS ===== YESTERDAY and TODAY

The tribal nature of the human race is a great mystery and a great curiosity. The question: "Where do you come from?" means such a lot to people of every part of the world. This can be seen in two examples.

The first is experienced in everybody's life - - - namely, the house you grew up in. It is not for ever, is it? It is not the place for you to spend your whole life. When you begin to be a parent and have a family, you need your own house - - - and IT is your home.

Leaving your home is a universal custom - - - leaving your country is not. Why do we become nations? Why do we belong to a country?

First of all, sharing the earth is a necessity for peace. An agreement that "This is our land" is essential. Secondly protecting the earth is necessary for peace and people of common origin are the best to share the land. A common origin generates a common peace.

Leaders are needed for this and hence they are given power. They either force their power on others or get others to consent to their power by helping to generate such power as they need.

Before Christianity came Europe was a collection of Tribes. Some were mobile, others were settled. Whenever a tribe decided to move, it had to have the strength to conquer a rival tribe. Great honour was given to leaders who succeeded.

Christianity did not come as a tribe. It never had a single ethnic nationality. It was not interested in conquest of rivals. It was not designed to be a warrior or possessor of political power.

Its main function was liberation from all that could harm your humanity. By winning a war you could destroy your own very humanity, so Christians chose as their starting point the story of Christ's birth.

All pagans celebrated the New Year, so Christians opted for a Feast seven days before the New Year and called it Christmas.

The Feast of the Birth of Jesus. They based it on the movement of the stars in the heavens, just as the wise men had done. The brightest star represented Christ's Birth. The Crib represented the Stable in Bethlehem. Kings came with their presents. Songs were written to tell the story, and

later, Advent was invented to get everything ready.

So Christians fixed the calendar by fixing this feast. The pagan birth of the New Year was replaced by the Midnight Birth of Christ and we became the angels singing their songs and shepherds bringing their sheep.

The pagan ritual of the New Year gave way to the Christian Christmas by which a new era was announced.

This was a lovely piece of History and it has lasted. But, what does it mean today? First Paganism has returned. The most probable reasons are threefold.

One is that the Church became over-contented with its work of Christianization. It opted for being an institution rather than to be a movement. It built its bricks and mortars in Cathedrals and Presbyteries in order to settle and endure instead of offering itself as a sacrifice for the human race.

Secondly it copied the world in which it lived as a model. For example: Bishops dressed like Princes. Popes had to be bowed to like Kings. Priests became Masters and no longer servants. Something had gone wrong.

Thirdly, sacrifice became unnecessary for receiving the Sacraments. They were only celebrations. So Christianity no longer demanded ALL you had.

So, in many ways paganism had taken over again. Sacrifices were reduced. Safety First seems to have become the motto. Pay up and Shut up seems to be the method. Mission in the World seems to almost come to a halt. And once young people pass through our Schools we rarely see them again.

But at Christmas Christ is BORN AGAIN. That is what it means and that is what it means to those who believe.

So what should Christmas be?

First of all it should liberate us from all the enslaving bonds that society has put upon us - - - Bully Banks, Social Status, Big Daddy Boy, Flash Fittings for the Top Rank and Overslick Social Images. Make your way to Bethlehem and be free! Allow your spirit to be yourself. Do as Christ did. Try being a little baby in a crib. Be born again. Let it be your CRIB-MASS-TREAT.

G.Burke

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TALES of the UNBELIEVABLE

The great forest stretched over the hillside and down the valley almost to the city itself. Great fir trees crowded in the forest but almost in the centre stood one taller, straighter and finer than the rest. It was a very haughty, smug tree as it looked down on its neighbours particularly at a recently planted tree near its foot.

The little tree felt humble and ashamed and tried to hide in the undergrowth. As the year went on and the days shortened and fingers of winter appeared, there came a day in December when workmen with their axes and saws cut down the big tree. They were careful with the branches as they put it on a low-loader and took it off to the city. There in the square they set up the tree. Now, because the city fathers did not have any spare money, only a few coloured bulbs were set round the tree but at least they showed a little of the spirit of Christmas.

Meanwhile others were in the forest and they saw the tiny tree. "What a beautiful little tree" they said. It was carefully dug up, roots and all and taken to the city. There in a great house they set up the little tree in a pot and placed it in the window. It was decorated with all manner of ornaments: a star on top and hung with genuine, imitation gold sovereigns made of chocolate. The little tree was now quite proud and not at all jealous of the former haughty tree. The children rejoiced in the little tree, but at



length Twelfth Night came along and both trees were stripped of their finery. The big tree was roughly handled this time and taken off to the sawmill to become fine, long lengths of timber. The little tree had roots and so it was planted at the end of the garden.

Over many years the little tree grew and grew until it was almost as tall as the tree in the forest had been. "What a fine tree" said the men in the city and one day the men came with their axes and chain-saw and the low-loader took off for the city square. The big tree that had been a little tree, only dimly remembered the glory and finery of years gone by, but the memories stirred a little when it saw a little tree through a distant window; it sparkled with lights. The tree was sad, it was even more melancholy when it made its last journey to the sawmill.

Please remember next time you go to Tom's Busy Bee to buy six feet of two by one, that your timber has many memories.

There must be a moral in this story somewhere but I cannot find it. At least it enables me to wish you all a "Merry Christmas" - may your tree, big or little, be full of light.

CAT and CABBAGE

"Cat and Cabbage" is the title of an interesting book written by Harry Kelham. Copies, priced £4.00, can be obtained from either the Author (at 60, Sunnyvale Rd.), Dorothy Firth (6, Milldale Rd.) or the bookshelf at Totley Rise Post Office. Already, £400 has been raised for Hallamshire Asthma and Lung Trust from the sale of this book. Do buy a copy - - - you will be truly enthralled.

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CALOR



GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Well another season draws to a close, they seem to fly by these days. We've had a lovely summer despite the drought. It's been a bind watering by hand but well worth the show. I had a record 125 deg. F in my greenhouse, that's with all the shades on and vents open. The plants were really gasping. Now we have to watch out for lower temperatures, I keep one house fairly cool and the small one around 55 deg. F. This is just right for the cuttings etc. to get a good start and keeps the more tender plants happy. I shall be doing a bit of re-arranging in the garden over the winter, moving things around, new paths etc., so I won't have much time to put my feet up to study the seed catalogues. I hope you have a good winter and don't lose many plants, especially those earmarked for the Totley Show in September.

FLOWERS. Dig any vacant ground and fertilise or lime dress, depending on what you are going to plant. Protect the plants likely to be affected by frost, wrap with straw or horticultural fleece, sprinkle a few slug pellets or your favourite slug eradicators around to prevent damage. Plants used as Christmas decorations or received as presents should be returned to the more controlled temperature of the greenhouse, as they will not like the dry and ever-changing temperature of the house.

Root cuttings can be taken now off many plants such as oriental poppies, anachusas, perennial verbasums etc. The roots are cut up into 1" - 2" (25 - 50 mm) lengths and pushed vertically the right way up into sandy compost in well drained pots or boxes, the tops of the cuttings just level with the soil. Place in a frame or greenhouse - heated or unheated and water moderately. Shoots will form slowly and in late spring after proper hardening, the small plants can be established outdoors.

VEGETABLES. As with flowers, dig any vacant ground ready for the next crop. Test the soil for acidity and correct by adding lime etc., do not add lime to freshly manured soil. Protect cauliflowers from frost; bend a leaf or two over the crowns. Boxing Day, as I have said many times, is the traditional day for planting onion seeds, especially if you want to get a first at the show. The big ones are Kelsae or Robinsons Mammoth, there are some other specialist growers who supply seeds, so get cracking on Boxing Day. The seeds do not need a lot of heat (55 - 60 deg.) Plan your veg. patch and other seeds ready for an early start with no hitches (HA, HA).

TREES, SHRUBS & FRUIT. Continue pruning fruit trees and spray with winter tar oil wash to kill off eggs and aphids which may attack the trees in spring. Prune Clematis Jackmanii and allied classes, it is not essential to do it at once, so long as it is done before the

end of February, but it will look tidier. Two ways to prune it - cut back all growth to about 30 cm (1 ft) off the ground, this keeps the plant fairly small, or allow a framework of main vines to form then prune each side growth back to one joint.

Pot shrubs and roses should be given shelter either in greenhouses or cold frame, or well wrapped up in a sheltered corner. Birds can be a nuisance in January, pecking off fruit tree and bush buds; protect with fleece or black cotton strung around the branches.

GREENHOUSES & INDOOR PLANTS. If your greenhouse is empty (heaven forbid) give it a good clean and disinfect all round. Don't let disinfectant touch any plants. Start to take Chrysanthemum cuttings. Water plants sparingly, greenhouse calceolarias are particularly susceptible to bad watering and may collapse quite suddenly if given too much, yet dryness is equally bad.

Ventilation is also a problem, especially in a small one or one that has no heat. Try to keep a circulation of air at a constant temperature. Towards the end of January, start off begonias and gloxinia tubers - min. 55 deg. temp. is required.

Leeks can be sown at this time also to give you nice specimens for the Totley Show in September.

WATCH YOUR WEATHER. December's weather is not very encouraging for gardeners, anything from weak sun-fog and frost to high winds, storms and snow - with such conditions give your outdoor plants as much protection as you can indoors. Don't disturb plants for a fortnight each side of Christmas by re-potting and the like. Most of them will need all their resources to cope with poor light in these short days.

LARNS. Keep clean and keep off when frosty or snow covered.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you all and a good gardening year to all you keen (and not so keen) gardeners.

Cheerio for now, Tom - BUSY BEE

TRANSPORT 17

It does not seem possible that we are at the end of another year already. Like many of you the T.17 personnel have had joys and sorrows in 1995. Our love and thoughts have been with them all.

This year saw the purchase of our new bus. This will replace our Volkswagen. We now have 3 blue Renaults. By the time you read this the new arrival will be well used and into the swing of things. Our thanks to each and everyone for their support but don't stop, we still need every penny. Our 'phone number is 2362962.

Mike Finn has done a marvellous job this year. He heads a team that works very hard and very well together. I can't name them all but nobody would be going anywhere without our DRIVERS !! We always need more drivers and escorts, so please give it a thought.

On a practical point, could I ask club leaders or secretaries to get in touch with Mike Finn at the office if you would like transport for events other than the normal ones: things like Coffee Mornings, local drama group productions etc.. Arrangements have to be made for drivers to do these and routes and pick-ups organised, so it is better to start at the top! We can't always manage it because sometimes there is such a lot going on in Totley and round about.

May I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Please put supporting T.17 down as one of your resolutions, we would really appreciate it.

Thanks.

Margaret Barlow

SHEFFIELD CONTEMPORARY ART TRUST

EXHIBITION 18th. NOVEMBER 1995 -
14th. JANUARY 1996

City Museum Mappin Art Gallery Opening Times:

Tues to Sat 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Sun 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

(Closed Mondays)

This exhibition looks at the range and diversity of work currently being produced by members of S.C.A.T. (Sheffield Contemporary Arts Trust).

S.C.A.T. is an artist led organisation which functions to promote artists and seeks to place their work firmly in the public arena, city wide and nationally. The Trust operates as a forum and encourages a broad cross-section of artists working in a variety of media. Artists' work and activities have been shown in the established galleries in the city and more unusual venues in Sheffield Cathedral and the Botanical Gardens.

The exhibition has been made open to all members and is an opportunity for artists to both sell and show their work. S.C.A.T. is also actively seeking new members and ideas for new projects which will hopefully be stimulated by the exhibition.

For further information about the exhibition contact Julie Milne, Keeper of the Mappin Art Gallery (0114) 2661310. For further information about S.C.A.T. contact Amanda Wray (0114) 2661310 or Max Presneill (0114) 2434681.

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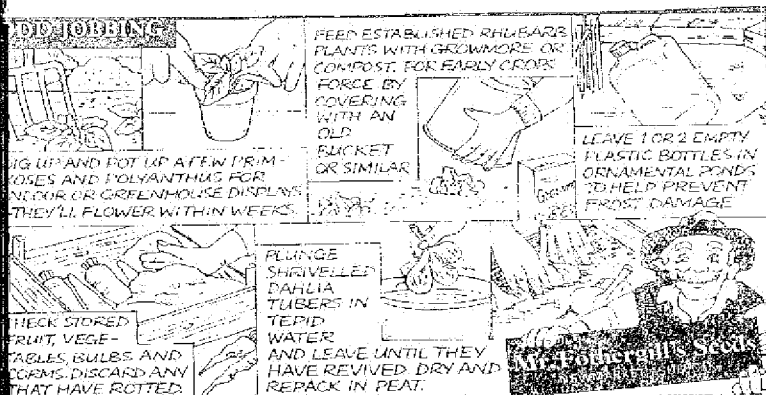
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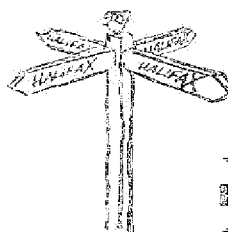
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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Monday morning dawned fine and sunny, it was the first day of our holiday. Julie and I had decided on a lazy week, just going for day trips into the country. We thought we would combine the holiday with looking for our ideal home; as self-employed people we needed more space to work and something like a barn conversion would be just right.

During breakfast Julie was scanning the pages of the property guide. "I think I've found what we're looking for" she exclaimed, "listen to this - Upperslack, West Yorkshire, Mount Zion House, a recent conversion of a former Methodist chapel built 1827, four large bedrooms, drawing room etc. with large basement area formerly the Sunday School. Also with kitchen and central heating throughout. Within easy reach of Hebden Bridge, Todmorden and Keighley etc., with superb views of the moors. Viewing by appointment only. We decided there and then to drive over and take a look, so I rang the estate agents and made an appointment for two thirty. Julie suggested a pub lunch when we got there and sandwiches for tea. "Sounds like a great idea" I said. Armed with an Ordnance Survey map, we set off along the A629 road to Halifax and then to Hebden Bridge. Following instructions, we started to climb up winding lanes and steep hills to the moors and keeping a sharp look-out for a suitable pub to have lunch.

The clouds had started to build up and the sky became overcast and grey with a hint of rain. Presently we came to a crossroads with a cluster of cottages and a pub. "This looks reasonable" I said. Julie agreed and turned into the car park.

We had a pleasant home-cooked meal and a chat with the landlord, who gave us directions for Mount Zion House, where we would meet the estate agent. Julie asked the landlord if he knew anything about the house. "Been empty for some time", he said, "I don't think the last owners were too happy there, I seem to remember they left in a bit of a hurry." Sounds encouraging, I thought. We said farewell to 'mine host' and drove on up the winding lane; with its hairpin bend, it was almost as if we were entering a different world.

As the lane straightened out we caught our first sight of Mount Zion House, standing high and gaunt, almost on the edge of the cliff. The sky had darkened even more and it had started to rain.

We had arrived. The estate agent was already there. We got out of the car and stared up at the house. "Oh dear", said Julie as she gave a little shudder. The estate agent greeted us and led the way through the squeaking gate and up the steep path to the front door. Producing a huge iron key plus one for the 'Yale' lock, she opened the double doors and we entered.

There had originally been two staircases, one to the left and one to the right. The left hand one had been bricked up but the one to the right was still in use and incredibly steep and narrow. The agent explained that a modern staircase had been installed during conversion and led us through another door into the living room. We immediately went over to the windows and were suddenly taken aback by the breathtaking views; and then on with the rest of the house.

It all seemed in good order and nicely decorated, with a very nice, fitted kitchen, much to Julie's liking. In a corner of the kitchen however, was a little door which hardly seemed big enough for an adult to pass through. "What's through there?" I asked, "It leads down to the basement" the agent said, "It used to be the Sunday School room". She opened the door and said "Mind your heads and your step". It was like a well, with stone steps going down in a spiral and very claustrophobic.

The old school room was quite cold and had a different, rather sad atmosphere to the rest of the house. Its walls were covered with groove-and-tongue boards and some of the original bench seats ran along the sides. In a corner was a tiny kitchen which still had an ancient hand-pump. This would make an ideal office for us.

Throughout our tour of the house, Julie had been unusually silent. I could see that something was troubling her. I told the agent we would like to think it over and let her have our decision by the weekend. It was still raining, so we said goodbye and ran to our car. We sat there for a few minutes, gazing up at the house. I turned to Julie and said "well, what do you think? you were very quiet back there". "I know" she said, "it all seems a little strange in a way. It's like a feeling of sadness as if something happened in the past". "I know what you mean" I said, "I had the same feeling".

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At the back of the house we had noticed a little graveyard, very overgrown. "Would you feel uncomfortable living next door to a few graves?" I asked. Julie had fallen silent again so I started the engine and drove on up the lane to the top of the hill, not really knowing where to go.

At the top of the hill was a little lay-by with two or three cars parked and people admiring the view. I pulled in and stopped the engine. "Do you think it's haunted?" I asked half joking, "remember what the landlord said". "Yes I do" she said, "but it wouldn't bother me, it would be interesting to find out what it is and see if we can help". "I think we ought to give it a few days and then make up our minds, it's certainly unusual and it would make an ideal base for our work" I said.

It had stopped raining and the sun was beginning to poke through. I opened the car windows and let in some fresh air. "It certainly is very bracing up here" I said. Julie put her head out of the window, "listen", she said. We sat there in silence for a few seconds. "I thought I heard a steam train whistle" she said, "it was very faint, it must be some way off". I looked at the map and the penny dropped. We were near Oxenhope and the North Valley Railway, also Howarth - the home of the Bronte sisters. "That's a coincidence", said Julie, "it's as if the house was somehow connected with the Brontes".

"How about driving over to Howarth for tea, we could watch the trains as we eat our sandwiches" I said. "Good idea", said Julie, so off we went. The rest of the week soon passed and we really enjoyed ourselves. I think we knew in our hearts that we wanted Mount Zion House, ghosts or no ghosts.

On the Saturday morning I rang the estate agents and told them we would take it, after all, it was a snip at the price. A fortnight later we had moved in and the house felt friendly and lived in but that was soon to change. During the first week strange things started to happen, just little things like objects being moved and sudden cold draughts. Then on our first Sunday morning Julie woke suddenly and started shaking me, saying: "listen". At first I couldn't hear a thing, then very faintly I heard it too. It sounded like an old harmonium being played downstairs accompanied by singing. It was obviously a hymn and although it was very faint,

Julie picked out the words - "Bow down and worship for this is your God". "I'm sure I've heard that hymn before" she said.

After a few minutes the singing stopped and we just lay there wondering what would happen next; we didn't have to wait long. To the right hand side of our bed was the position of the blocked-up staircase which had originally led to and from the gallery, together with the one on the left. Suddenly we heard the sound of children talking and giggling and then a young woman's voice telling them to "shush". This was followed by the clatter of boots on the wooden stairs and out of the front door. Then all was silent again.

The rest of the day passed without incident, and that evening we decided to go out for a meal and returned about eleven thirty to find all the lights on! "They're at it again" I said. After checking round the house we retired to bed. At about 2.00 a.m. Julie nudged me gently "Are you awake?" she whispered. "Yes" I grunted, "What's wrong?" "I thought I heard voices again". We lay there in the dark hardly daring to breathe. Suddenly there appeared through the wall a young woman about five feet tall in Victorian clothes holding a hymn book or Bible. She had a sort of glow behind her head, and then at each side of her appeared two children, a girl and a boy aged about nine or ten. They stood there and stared at us for several seconds before turning and disappearing through the wardrobe.

"Well now we know what we have" I said. "Earthbound spirits" said Julie "We have to try to help them - we may find the answer in the little graveyard - tomorrow we could make a start on clearing away that jungle of weeds and undergrowth and see what we can find". It seemed ages before we eventually fell asleep.

Next morning after breakfast we went down to the little graveyard armed with shears and rakes etc., to try and clear away some of the jungle. The area contained about half a dozen graves, mostly from the last century. In a corner was a large memorial surrounded by iron railings. "This looks interesting" said Julie as she started hacking away at the weeds and brambles. After about ten minutes we could see names on the memorial -

cont. P12

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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OF MOUNT ZION CHAPEL
ALSO HER NIECE - SARAH PACKWORTH AGED 9 YEARS
AND NEPHEW - MARK PACKWORTH AGED 10 YEARS
WHO ALL DIED SO TRAGICALLY ON SUNDAY THE
15TH DAY OF MARCH 1887

We stood there for several minutes, just staring at those names and wondering about the tragic event which had taken their lives. Julie suggested we should go into Todmorden the next morning and visit the Local History Library. "They should have copies of the local papers on microfilm, let's hope they go back as far as 1887" she said.

On Tuesday morning we had an early breakfast and drove over to Todmorden. The staff at the Local History Library were very helpful and soon found the microfilm of the paper we wanted to see. Julie operated the viewer until she came to the day in question and there, near the top of the page, was the required information - 'Fearful Accident Near Upperslack'. It was a typical piece of Victorian reporting, far too lengthy to be included here. In short, Miss Packworth and her young companions had been killed when their horse-drawn carriage collided with a wall at the bottom of Cornmouth Lane, Upperslack. Miss Packworth, the youngest daughter of local mill-owner, Joshua Packworth, had been appointed Sunday School teacher that very day. It had been raining very hard and her father had sent the carriage to collect her and the children from chapel. It seems that something had frightened the horses, which bolted down the hill. At the top of Cornmouth Lane the horses swerved violently to the left, severing their connection with the carriage and throwing off the coachman, who suffered a broken arm. The carriage then continued at ever-increasing speed until it reached the hairpin bend, where it was dashed to pieces.

After reading the report, we just looked at each other for a few seconds, then Julie placed a token into the machine for a photocopy. We thanked the staff for their help and walked back to the car, where we discussed our next move. Julie decided to invite a friend over for the weekend; the friend was a lady she had met some years ago who was a

medium and a member of the Spiritualist Church. "Let's find somewhere to have lunch" I said as I noticed the time. So off we went for a pub lunch and did some shopping.

On the Saturday morning our guest arrived and was given a tour of the house, plus all the information about our resident spirits. She told us how she could feel the same sad atmosphere in the schoolroom that we had experienced. After lunch she decided to try to make contact and was soon in conversation with Tabitha and her companions. Tabitha told us how much she loved the chapel and to be the Sunday School teacher was something she had looked forward to for a long time. In fact she had become so involved with the chapel that she just could not bear to be separated from it and so had been earth-bound for all that time. The children also did not want to be separated from their beloved aunt. Our medium told Tabitha that it was time to let go and to leave the earth plane behind. "Look towards the light Tabitha and Sarah and Mark, look towards the light and move into it" said the medium, who told us that another young woman had come along holding out her arms in welcome and saying "Come along Tabitha, we're all waiting to greet you". Tabitha and the children waved goodbye and disappeared into the light, on their way to the spirit world where they belonged.

Goodbye Tabitha and Sarah and Mark. God bless you. We then said a prayer for them. We all felt a wonderful warm glow inside us, knowing that we had been able to help them. Julie went down into the little graveyard and put some flowers on the memorial, then we had tea.

The past few years have been uneventful and we continue to be very happy at Mount Zion House. On the 15th March each year, we put red roses on the memorial.

THE END.

Ken Billingham

APOLOGIES

We would like to apologise to "FRIENDS of ABBEYDALE WILDLIFE GARDEN for publishing the wrong date of their "Coffee Morning" in the November issue of the Totley Independent. We hope the event was well attended in spite of our error.

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HIGH ABOVE TOTLEY

"Merry Christmas Dad" said Ann Margaret handing me an envelope, "Thank you," I replied eagerly opening it. The envelope opened, a card was revealed with a picture on the front of an aeroplane and Father Christmas parachuting.

"What have we here then, a gift voucher for an aeroplane, a parachute jump" "Open it and see," said Ann Margaret. So the card was opened to reveal a voucher for an introductory flying lesson. "That's great" said I, "if we have any problem flying on holiday I'll be able to help out."

Being exceedingly keen to have the lesson I booked it just as soon as I could get round to it on Saturday October 21st., (how's that for prompt action) for a morning flight. Arriving at the Sheffield Aero Club Thorpe Salvin, near Worksop, we met Ian my instructor. Yes I said we, as Dorothy and Ann Margaret had come along, I suppose if anything had gone wrong they didn't wish to waste time claiming the insurance.

What a fantastic choice of day Ian told me for he had already had a fly round and the visibility was perfect. Over to the plane we strolled, a Cessna with one engine and propeller at the front, where else, "Climb in" said Ian "and mind your head, you can sit in the pilot's seat". That was no problem as the plane had dual controls.

Once strapped in, the door shut and our earphones plugged in, we, or Ian, that is checked for clearance for take off and when confirmed set off down the grass track. Fairly quickly, what speed we reached I didn't particularly notice, the sound changed and we started to climb up to a clear blue sky. I suddenly realised no parachute, better not say anything, he might think I'm scared, silly me, what need of a chute, we have safety belts on.

Having determined that I lived in Totley, Ian headed in that direction pointing out various areas and landscapes as we flew at about 3000 feet. Looking North towards the cooling towers of the power plants a distant haze of pollution could be seen with a thin brown line of sulphur floating above it. We headed towards the Hallam Tower Hotel, an obvious landmark and then with left hand down a bit flew over our moors, Totley Moss, Stanage etc. at about 120 m.p.h (land speed, that's to

make it easy for those few of you who may not understand knots) seeing all the various footpaths that many of us have walked so frequently over the years.

"Over there" said Ian is Little Hucklow "I'll keep clear just in case there are any gliders about, although there's not many thermals today". Of course not thought I. "Glad we've got an engine" I replied to Ian, "That doesn't matter" he replied "we could fly for about 6 miles at this height, at this speed losing about 500 feet per mile" he then turned down the throttle and glide we did without any problem. The throttle back on we re-climbed to 3000 feet and it was my turn to drive. Left hand down a bit and we banked over and headed east by something or other to head back to "our" flying club. The interesting thing about most of the time was that neither of us held the steering stick and the plane just flew itself.

Over Chatsworth then on to Linacre Reservoirs we soon reached the airfield. The moment of truth had arrived, what was the landing going to be like. No need to have worried it was smoother than a holiday jet, and when I remarked on this to Ian he replied "So it should be, I land planes a lot more than your average pilot"

Out of the plane, a quick photo call then to the club for a bacon sandwich and coffee the lesson was over and a great experience finished.

Would I go again? You bet I would! Only time and money hold me back it was great to feel free in the air, to see the views and not to be hassled with other traffic.

Les.

WITHDRAWAL OF BUS SERVICES

Andrews Bus Service will cease to operate as from Monday December 4th. 1995.

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BERYL BARDEN

By Mike Williamson

Beryl Barden lives in Dronfield but spent her adolescence in Totley. She has written poetry for as long as she can remember, purely for her own amusement. "Usually when my poems are finished, I put them in a drawer without showing them to anyone". However, persuaded by her family, she is starting to dust a few off, so that others may enjoy her writing. The first to be printed in the Independent has a seasonal flavour. The last public airing of one of her poems was in 1977 at Totley All Saints School, to celebrate the Centenary. Beryl is a former pupil.
(Illustration by Rosie Irwin of Green Oak Drive)

SAINT NICHOLAS.



Saint Nicholas comes in the wild winter weather,
Amid snowflakes each dancing light as a feather,
Cheery round face with cheeks all aglow,
And long white beard like untrod snow,
Bright blue eyes, twinkling and merry,
And a little red nose that's quite like a cherry.

O'er the rooftops he glides on his sleigh full of toys,
Pulled by his reindeer, not one makes a noise,
For the children they visit must all be sleeping,
There's no fooling Santa, he knows if they're peeping.

Down each chimney he goes with his sack on his back,
In long red cloak and boots shiny black.
Up the stair then he creeps in the middle of the night,
To leave all the toys if eyes are shut tight,
Then this kindly old fellow once more takes his leave,
To return to his workshop 'til next Christmas Eve.

B C Barden, December 1974.

Whisperer

The two shops at Green Oak which were the beer-off and video shop now appear to have been sold and the rumours are that they are to be converted into flats, at least it will get rid of the eyesore.

Green Oak View old people's home is now in the hands of Sheffcare Trust.

Does anyone know why there are two school signs side by side at the end of Summer Lane which have been there for about two months and further down Hillfoot Road coming up the hill, there is none.

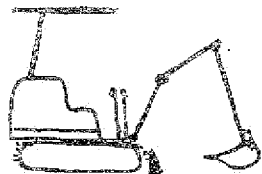
The war Memorial has had a tidy up and the trees cut back in time for the Remembrance Day service on November 12th. It has been noted that this work was carried out by a well known Totley resident who deserves a word of thanks for doing a good job.

THE INDEPENDENT is read by hundreds of people in and around our area every month but we also send copies to Oban in Scotland, North Walsham in Norfolk, Gainsborough in Lincolnshire and Torquay in Devon, but one reader, Robin Hawke late of Totley Bents, says is this a record - he has been a reader of The Independent for a number of years whilst living in Barnet Herts, Nice France, Barnet again, Macclesfield Cheshire, Stockport and now Wakefield Yorkshire, can anyone beat this?

PINFOLD - The deeds for the pinfold have been received by Totley All Saints School. Contrary to popular belief, the pinfold has been owned by the City Council. It is hoped that in future, the pinfold will be maintained by the scouts.



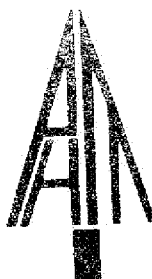
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TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

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 COFFEE in the LIBRARY 10-00 am. to 11-30.
 THURSDAYS OPEN DOOR, United Reformed Church, 10-00a.m.- noon

DECEMBER

SAT. 2nd. CHRISTMAS FAIR, St. Johns, Abbeydale Rd. 2-00 pm. Details inside.
 SAT. 2nd. U.N.A. COFFEE MORNING & MARKET, Dore Methodist Church, 10-00am. to 12 noon
 SAT. 2nd. T.R.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY, United Reformed Church Hall, 4-00 pm.
 WED. 6th. CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, Cheshire Home, 10am. to noon, Details inside.
 FRI. 8th. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD, Christmas Party, 7-30pm. Abbeydale Hall.
 TUE. 19th. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Methodist Church Hall, 10-00 am.

FOR A FULL LIST OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES PLEASE REFER TO PAGE TWO.

JANUARY

FRI. 12th. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD, 7-30pm. Abbeydale Hall.
 TUE. 16th. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Methodist Church Hall, 10-00 am.

THE INDEPENDENT FOR FEBRUARY

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on **SATURDAY 3rd. FEBRUARY**. Copy date for this issue will be **FRIDAY 19th. JANUARY 1996**.

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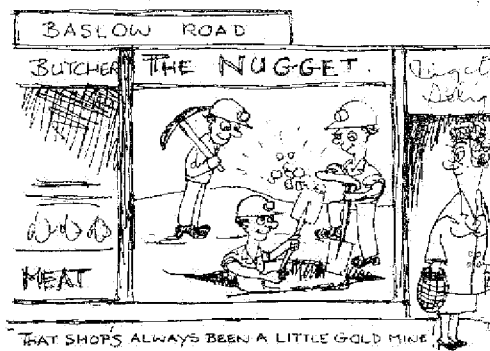
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Orders Delivered

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.



THAT SHOP'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE GOLD MINE