

# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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## GROVE HOUSE

TOMMY YODAN



Grove House was known as Totley Dale in 1868 when Tommy Youdan was living there. A short biography of Tommy appeared in the March 1979 issue of the Totley Independent. Briefly, he was born in Doncaster in 1816 and worked his way up to own first the Surrey Theatre in West Bar, until it was gutted by fire in 1865, and then the Alexandra Music Hall in Blonk Street. It was in 1856 that Tommy asked George Bassett, the well known Sheffield confectioner, to make a cake to celebrate the end of the war with Russia. It was a monster of 9,767lbs and was so large that it had to be wheeled through the streets on three trolleys abreast. The ingredients included over 10,000 eggs. In 1867, Mr. Youden bought for £427, land at Totley Bents together with Lower Hare Croft from Lord Middleton (then Lord of the Manor of Totley). On the second piece of land, the second school was built in 1877. Nearby stood the Totley Methodist Chapel, where the same George Bassett had been an early trustee.

GROVE HOUSE (now Totley Grove) was apparently built by John G. Waterfall in 1852, near the site of the old Upper Mill. In fact some of the mill outbuildings still stand to the rear of that house. It has also been known as Totley Vale and Totley Dale. The drive to the house began at Baslow Road on what is now called Grove Road and the original lodge stands on the left hand side corner, next to the Methodist Chapel. Of course the railway cut off the drive although the far end still exists at the end of Totley Brook Road. Only recently the tree lined drive was decimated when several large beech trees were blown down and still lay across the Old Hay Brook.

Grove House Drawing by Bob Warburton, Article from Brian Edwards Drawings of Historic Totley

## PLANNING NEWS

Planning Application 98/0276P will be of interest to some residents. It is the proposal by Taywood Homes Ltd (a subsidiary of Taylor-Woodrow) to erect 21 houses on the land behind the Totley Rise shops known as Thompson's Meadow. Access is via Laverdene Avenue. The plans are available in Totley Library. A meeting organised by the TRA to air views will be held at Totley Methodist Church Hall on May 11th from 7.30pm. Local councillors and the developers have been invited to attend.

Still no news about the Hallam University site but planning officers Messrs. Whithers and Jessop, appear to be steaming ahead with the extension of Stocks Green Drive over the farm track. This might be interpreted as a mechanism to secure the Stocks Green Drive access to the Highfield site prior to the matter going to committee, despite the fact that some residents have argued strongly (with the developer in this instance) for access to the Highfield site to be via Totley Hall Lane. Contact Paul Jessop Tel: 2734590, or write to him at the Town Hall if you have a view about this matter and/or the way it is being handled. This does not come under the terms of normal planning procedure and therefore seems to be progressing without any additional consultation procedure for residents.

The application to build a house at the rear of Baslow Road and Totley Hall Lane on land owned by the Thomas Earnshaw Trust has been rejected for two reasons: the difficulties of gaining safe access to it from Totley Hall Lane, and the difficulties of gaining access to and from the plot without inconveniencing existing residents. The land is an eyesore despite valiant attempts by some locals to keep the weeds in check.

The application to construct a Vodafone mast off Mickley Lane has been passed. Measures to screen the mast are a condition of the approval.

The application to erect a large extension on to Ash Cottage (Butts Hill), a grade II listed building, is likely to go before committee at the Town Hall on May 8th.

Any member of the public is entitled to attend a planning committee meeting. They are usually held every three weeks. If you wish to address the planning committee regarding a particular planning application, you may do so (or you may nominate someone to speak on your behalf) provided there are not too many others also wishing to speak. You will be allotted up to 10 minutes. For more information on this, contact Mr. Craig Rogerson. Phone the main Town Hall switchboard (Tel: 2726444) and ask for his extension.

Katie Bramall, Planning Group.

## COMMUNITY SKIP

The next placing will be on Thursday 14th. May in Totley Library car park.

## CHARITY NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SALE

SATURDAY MAY 2nd. ABBEYDALE SPORTS CLUB (MAIN ENTRANCE) 11am, to be followed on every 1st. SATURDAY IN THE MONTH.

## ENVIRONMENT

### TOTLEY SPRING CLEAN.

Over twenty people helped to give Totley a spring clean on Saturday 28th March. Local people of all ages helped. We collected twenty one bags of litter from Baslow Road and surrounding areas. Members of the 1st Totley scouts and the 99th St. John's Guides and Brownies cleared up Greenoak Park. They said that there was not too much litter in the park, but a lot of broken glass on the tennis courts. Among the more interesting items collected in Totley were a crowbar, embedded in the grass behind the Library, some blood-soaked rags, remnants of the previous night's road traffic accident on the corner of Baslow Road and Marstone Crescent, and various bits of barriers and empty tar pots left by workmen from the utilities. Thank you to everyone who helped, to Sheffield Wildlife Trust for help and the loan of litter pickers and to the Council for bags, gloves and prompt collection of the results of our labours. We shall be holding another clean up during the summer.

Much of the problem of Totley's litter is due to the lack of bins. We have lost two in recent weeks at the Marstone Crescent bus stop and outside the newsagent in Totley Rise. TRA has written to the Council to ask for extra full sized bins to be provided below the Co-op, by the Totley Rise newsagents and at the junction of Baslow Road and Laverdene Road.

CHAPEL WALK - There has been very positive feedback about the work going on to clear Chapel Walk and restore it to its original width. We shall be holding a community work morning to continue this work on Saturday 20th June, 10.00am to 1.00pm. Please come along any time. It is hard work, but the results are very rewarding.

GREENOAK PARK. Over 60 replies have been received so far to the survey. The results will be published in the June issue of the Independent. Initial analysis shows, not surprisingly, that dog faeces are a major concern for many people. On behalf of all park users, may I make a plea for dog owners to be less selfish. Either scoop it up and take it home or exercise your dog elsewhere (but not on the pavements or grass verges.)

Ros Stokes

## MORE BUILDING IN TOTLEY

A PLANNING APPLICATION TO BUILD 21 DWELLING HOUSES ON THOMPSONS MEADOW (OFF LAVERDENE AVENUE, by BACK LANE)

Residents of Totley are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the above Planning Application by Taywood Homes Ltd. at :-

TOTLEY RISE METHODIST CHURCH HALL  
MAY 11th. at 7-30 pm.

Plans are available to view at Totley Library or at the Town Hall.

## FARMING SCENE

Winter has finally arrived, albeit some three months late! The mid-April weather came as a shock to all of us, crops, livestock and farmers alike. I suppose the ultra mild winter has left us very soft and unprepared for the more normal wintry storms etc. Many hill farmers are now in the middle of lambing, the cold wet weather claiming the lives of many recently born lambs. Arable farmers are suffering as well, being unable to spray their crops, or get potatoes and sugar beet drilled at the optimum time. We had finished planting potatoes by the end of April last year, but unless there is a rapid and prolonged change in the weather, we will not have any planted by then this year. The poor prices of recent years, plus unreasonable demands by many processors has led to many producers cutting back, or ceasing, production this year. This, combined with a late planting season, should see a significant reduction in potato stocks this autumn along with higher prices.

You may remember how I included in a recent article, how the ex-farm price of milk had fallen to 21p per litre. This is now very much out of date, with some smaller producers receiving 15 - 16p per litre net during May and June. As far as I am aware the doorstep price is still the same. Many supermarkets are now selling milk as a 'loss leader' to encourage people into their stores, but this will consequently lead to a demise of the 'doorstep pinta'. For those of us who still work in 'old money' 16 pence per litre equates to 9 pence per pint, this really must be a bargain in cash and nutritional terms when compared to a pint of bitter.

We will shortly be reduced to our annual head scratching mode as we grapple with the intricacies of the I.A.C.S. form. This stands for Integrated Administration and Control System, and requires an annual update to record crop type and area changes. Failure to get it perfectly accurate can be very costly in financial terms, as farmers subsidy payments are based on this information. There is much talk at the moment of changing the system of production based payments to a socio-environmental system, where support is based on employee numbers and the environmental maintenance cost of a farm. Therefore a hill type farm with small fields, lots of stone walls,

hedges, ditches and shelter belts to maintain would get a higher grant than a more prairie type Lincolnshire arable farm. This should ensure that the bulk of support goes where it is most needed. The much heralded drop in food prices as a result of this change is a fallacy, as (a) Ex-farm prices are already at world market prices and (b) falls in ex-farm prices are not reflected in consumer prices, as can be seen by the milk price scenario above.

Those of you who walk down to the bottom of Totley Hall Lane will remember seeing a large dead Oak tree near the double gates. This tree is now becoming semi-rotten and is likely to need felling in the near future. In preparation for this, we have planted a Horse Chestnut tree near by as a replacement. This tree was kindly donated to us by Mr. & Mrs. Mashiter, as it had become too big for their garden. Hopefully this tree will become a focal point for local children in years to come when it starts producing champion sized conkers!

Our car park/picnic area has now been given planning approval, subject to a suitable barrier being erected across to preclude car access to the woodland paths, and properly divided marked spaces on the car park. Two interpretive signs showing the footpath network etc. will also be erected. So now it is officially open to all walkers, picnickers and (as recently demonstrated) courting couples!

Edwin Pocock

## PEAK DISTRICT VILLAGES

THE SKETCHES of BRIAN EDWARDS

Now available from Jimmy Martin's, Totley Rise Post Office, Green's at Dore and Shape Design, is Brian's latest book in a new series covering the villages of the Peak District.

The first in the series covers the villages of Ashford in the Water, Great Longstone, Little Longstone, Hassop, Sheldon, Wardlow, Monsal and Rowland and contains 120 sketches in pen and ink and watercolour in Brian's usual excellent detail.

Ed.

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## THE LIAISON LUNCH CLUB

The 1970's were good years for the development of community initiative in Totley, as Mike Williamson noted recently. I would add the Totley and District Environment Society (TADES) which was responsible for the establishment of the garden in the old Pinfold near the school on Hillfoot Road and which (I think) merged into the Residents Association. Also my own particular interest, the Liaison Lunch Group, which was yet another offspring of the perception and enthusiasm of the Reverend Alan Jockel.

In April 1977, Alan called a meeting to explore "the desirability of having some regular meeting for those of us who have social and community care responsibilities of any kind in the Totley area, to enable us to know one another more personally and share some common concerns and thus to provide a more effective co-operation in serving those for whom we seek to care". Invitations were sent to local Head Teachers, Doctors, Church Ministers, the Police, Probation, Family and Community Services staff, Good Neighbour Scheme officers, principals of Residential Care Homes and several voluntary groups. 26 people attended that meeting and an organisation was set up to meet bi-monthly at All Saints' Church Hall over lunchtime. Its purpose was initially to make known the job functions of those involved in family and community care, to identify the various appropriate needs in the community and possibly to look at Government White Papers and other types of relevant study.

In May 1997 the group held a lunch to celebrate 20 years of such meetings which have widened over the years to include the whole of Sheffield 17 and representatives of other public services and voluntary organisations (including Totley Residents Association) as they have developed locally. Summaries of and invitations to meetings are currently sent to some 70 individuals, including, at his request, our M.P. Richard Allan. The meetings are now held under the "umbrella" organisation of Churches Together in S17.

Over the years we have, usually briefly but sometimes in more depth, considered such topics as facilities for

young people, provision of Lunch Clubs, support for those who are physically disabled or who have learning difficulties or visual impairment, Welfare benefits, primary care in the Health Services, the Home Care Services and the work of charitable organisations such as Red Cross and the Cheshire Home - in short whatever seems to be of interest to members. Our meetings are informal, and last for one hour promptly and are preceded by a light lunch for those who wish. We are not a pressure group but meet to exchange information and act in mutual support. Usually we have an outside speaker to promote discussion. Anyone who works either professionally or voluntarily for the well being of the local community is welcome to join us. For further information please contact me on Sheffield 236 5969.

Rosalie Carter.

## THE EDALE RAMBLER FOLK TRAINS

This unique on-train entertainment costs no more than an ordinary train ticket (£5.60 Off-peak adult return from Manchester and £4.00 return from Sheffield). At Edale we visit the Rambler Inn for home cooked food and liquid refreshment, entertained by a further session from the band.

We regret that the Edale Rambler Folk Train cannot be booked in advance - just turn up and purchase your ticket in the normal way.

SHEFFIELD-EDALE.

All trains depart at 19.18 (7.18pm) from Sheffield and return at 21.25 (9.25pm) from Edale, stopping at Dore, Grindleford, Hathersage, Bamford and Hope en route.

**Tuesday May 26th** - South Riding Folk Network Railroad Show: A wonderful gathering of SRPN members will play, sing and even dance a little for your entertainment.

For more details of the South Riding Folk Network, contact Ron Day on (0114)2470099.

**M. SCRIVEN**  
(FRUITERAMA)

**MARTIN SCRIVEN**

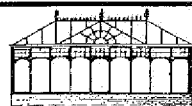
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## ZEPPELIN RAIDS OVER ENGLAND

Many O.A.P.'s will remember those two fateful nights back in 1940 of the blitz over Sheffield when the bombing raids rained terror around the City centre and suburb areas. Many stories have been written about the heroism in the rescue of casualties from those Second World War days.

Let us go back into history to recall the Zeppelin raids back in the First World War, when the German war machine was perfecting these giant airships to win supremacy in the air. The year of 1916 they stepped up pressure of bombing from around the London area and the south coast, to target the cities of Hull, Newcastle and Sheffield. The master-mind commander of airship L.31 was Kapitän Leutnant Heinrich Mathy, who attempted a raid destined for the armament works in Sheffield. They missed their target and the bombs fell on the outskirts to the north of the city. Unfortunately 28 people were killed in cottage dwellings. Many Zeppelins were shot down by our Air Force. But the L.31 leader escaped from these air battles. The raid on Sheffield was on September 25th 1916. Finally the German commander Mathy of airship L.31 was shot down by Second Lieutenant W.J. Tempest in his D.H.4 Biplane on the 2nd October 1916. The giant airship crashed in flames, a tangled heap of wreckage at Potters Bar on the outskirts of London. All the crew perished. Zeppelin raids continued despite heavy losses right into 1918 and the final raids over the south coast proved to be a failure. The last Zeppelin L.70 with Captain Strasser, the German airship designer and crew aboard, was finally shot down by Major Egbert Cadbury in his D.H.4 aircraft just off the coast of Cromer, they perished in the North Sea.

So Major Cadbury will always be remembered as the pilot who shot down the last raiding airship on August 5th 1918. I wonder if this gallant airman had any connections to the chocolate empire? It really seemed amazing that these dangerous flying machines did quite a bit of damage to our northern areas, for even the town of Wigan in Lancashire was caught out in the Zeppelin raids. Long distance flights were attempted in these giant airships after the war period, but many disastrous accidents occurred and so the Zeppelin vanished into the history books of aviation during the 1930's.

John Barrows.

## CRAFT EXHIBITION

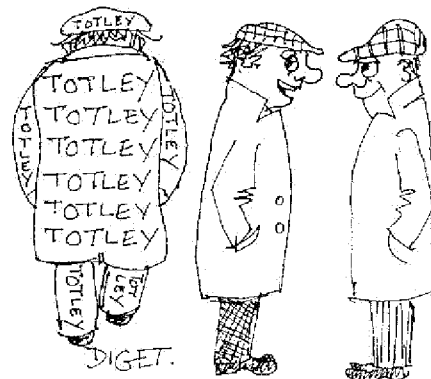
On Saturday 28th March, eleven local people gave freely of their time, to demonstrate their crafts to others, at the invitation of TRA in Totley Rise Methodist church hall. The wide variety of crafts included lace making, tablet weaving, wood carving, book making, spinning, china painting, family history, whittling, tapestry weaving, calligraphy and chalk sculpture. Our thanks go to all these people for encouraging others to 'have a go' and enjoy a new craft experience.

There was sadly no response to the children's competitions except by the Totley All Saints pre-school children with Greg Hughes winning first prize and Abigail White runner-up in the Easter Card competition.

Many thanks to Alison Jackson from Felicity Hat Hire for taking time out on a busy Saturday to judge the hat competition. Winner - Pauline Perkinson. second - Vivien Filleul and third - Katie Foley.

To all those who baked for the cake stall and those who organised it, put out the tables, and everyone who helped to make the event a success, plus Phyllis and her ladies who kept us supplied with tea and scones, THANK YOU!

Pauline Perkinson.  
Chair TRA.



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TOTLEY ITS WRITTEN ALL  
OVER HIM!"

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## PEAK TOWN STORY. By John Percival. Chapter 3

Next morning, after breakfast of scrambled eggs, bread butter and marmalade and cups of tea, the children left for school and John Winter for Devon Place. Mr. Rodgers, having taken an hour off from his employment as an assistant in the Co-op Grocery department, went to a warehouse to arrange for storage of the furniture at present in the back yard.

Mr. Dodds, now of more cheerful aspect, following a good night's sleep and having washed and shaved and enjoyed his breakfast, sat in front of the fire pondering over his future. Mrs. Rodgers made up the beds, washed up the breakfast pots and generally tidied up the house.

An hour later, she put the guard in front of the fire and they set off for the almshouses in South Road.

Talbot's almshouses derive from the benevolence of a Lord of the Manor in the eighteenth century. They form single storey stone built dwellings in a terrace surrounding a quadrangle of cobblestones. The clock near the entrance gate chimed the hour of eleven as they approached.

On seeing a notice marked 'Warden's Office' Mrs. Rodgers took hold of Mr. Dodds' arm and led him into the building. 'Good day. Can I be of assistance?' The words were spoken by a distinguished looking gentleman of ruddy complexion, with wellbrushed silver grey hair.

'Yes sir' replied Mrs. Rodgers 'I hope so anyway. Mr. Dodds has been evicted from his room by the bailiffs and has nowhere to live. We wonder if there are any vacancies here sir?'

'I'm afraid there is a waiting list, but preference can be given in exceptional circumstances' the warden replied in sympathetic tones. 'If I can take down Mr. Dodds' particulars, I will bring his case before the committee at their meeting next Wednesday'

'That's very kind of your, sir,' replied Mrs. Rodgers with a smile at Mr. Dodds.

'Indeed it is, sir' Mr. Dodds gratefully acknowledged. The required particulars were soon forthcoming: name - Reginald Arthur Dodds, Address - care of Mrs. Rodgers, 42 Slope Street. Age - Seventy seven. Matrimonial status - single. Close relatives - none. Religion - Church of England. Income - Just a small state pension of five shillings a week. Capital - none apart from £4. 5. 0d received for pawning goods, a few items of furniture and personal belongings such as books and clothing.

The warden, name of John Hardman, promised to inform Mr. Dodds of the Committee's decision as soon as it was made. Mr. Dodds and Mrs. Rodgers were united in their thanks and left the building.

On the way out they looked through the window of one of the buildings and agreed that such lodgings would suit Mr. Dodds 'down to the ground' in a phrase of Mrs. Rodgers.

'Mustn't count my chickens' replied Mr. Dodds. 'True, but the omens are favourable, I think' remarked his companion. 'Mr. Hardman was so helpful and considerate'.

They then returned home as indeed it had been agreed that Mr. Dodds was to live with the Rodgers family until the committee's decision was known.

John Winter and Mr. Rodgers shared in the prevailing optimism when they returned in the evening. The furniture had been stored at a minimal cost and John was able

to resume his studies after tea in a hopeful state of mind regarding the plight of the old man. He had informed Mrs. Rodgers that he would be absent for a week or two in January having been selected to assist in the audit of a client in Leyside, a town some forty miles distant. before that event took place, news came of the almshouses committee's decision. They would be pleased to admit Mr. Dodds forthwith, as occupier of No. 9 Talbot's almshouses rent free for a probationary period of three months, the tenancy to be put on a permanent footing after such a period, if found to be desirable to all parties concerned.

Tears of joy fell from the bespectacled eyes of Mr. Dodds, as he read the epistle containing the good news to Mrs. Rodgers. The landlady gave a cry of delight and hugged the old man to her ample bosom.

That evening a celebration was held at 42 Slope Street, present being Mr. Dodds, Mr. & Mrs. Rodgers and their children and John Winter.

Tea, prepared as usual by Mrs. Rodgers, comprised salmon (from a tin) potato salad, lettuce, hard boiled eggs, and bread and butter, followed by pears (also from a tin) and cream and cups of tea.

Afterwards, having allowed time to digest the meal and for all to congratulate Mrs. Rodgers on the appetising fare and to assist with the washing up, Mr. Rodgers produced a bottle of port wine 'from the cellar' he explained jocularly 'to Mr. Dodds' he raised his glass after pouring wine for everyone present, 'may he enjoy many happy years at Talbots.'

'Hear, hear' was the response of his family and John Winter.

Mr. Dodds, with tears in his eyes, thanked all present for their good wishes and hoped to see them frequently at his new home. He could never have had such a happy outcome following his eviction without their help and could never repay their kindness.

The rest of the evening (and the port wine) disappeared quickly in the prevailing bonhomie.

Mr. Rodgers, displaying an unsuspected gift of mimicry, sang in a bass voice the comic song 'When father papered the ceiling, you couldn't see pa for paste'. This was accompanied by hysterical laughter from his audience. Tom and Marjorie sang a duet of 'Roll out the barrel' to which all present later joined in and John Winter recited from memory 'The charge of the Light Brigade' by Tennyson, the epic poem, fluently delivered, received rapturous applause from John's audience, much to his pleasure. Mr. Dodds himself contributed an amusing monologue about a rider and his wayward horse, this from the days of his youth, when a coach driver.

The proceedings ended amidst much hilarity with a chorus of 'There's no place like home' that threatened to raise the roof and disturb the neighbours. In fact a series of loud knocks on the adjoining walls indicated that the neighbours were not best pleased at the uproar.

At midnight they all retired to bed to enjoy a good night's sleep.

(To be continued)



## TOTLEY BRICKS

I often wonder whether my old friend and good servant to the Independent, Campy Barrows ever sits still for a moment. I hear reports of him out in The Peak, up at Fanshawgate and now down at Monnybrook. He enquired in the March issue about a brick found by Lynda Campey bearing the name Chadwick, Barker and Co. Sheffield.

This company seen to have enjoyed a very brief stay at the Brickyard. Let me paint the background first.

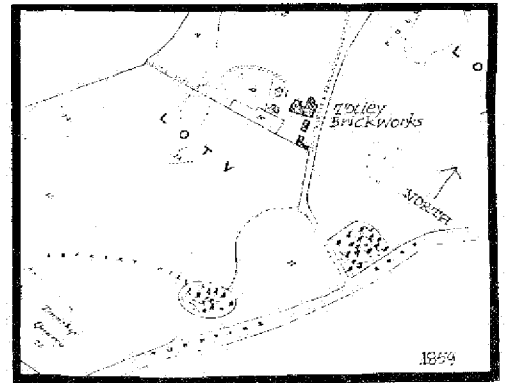
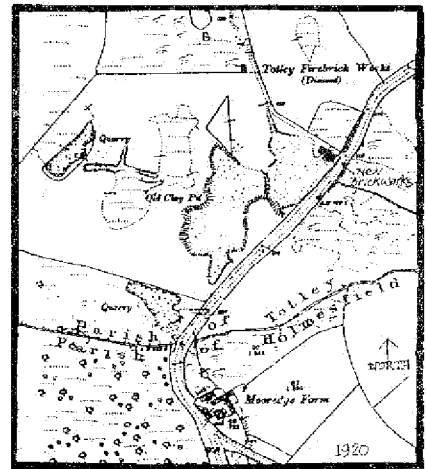
Bricks have been made in Totley for at least one hundred and fifty years. An early brick kiln was situated high up on Totley Moor behind the Rifle Range and later in the last century an extensive range of buildings appeared some 100 yards north of the present yard before that was abandoned and the brickyard was in operation on Baslow Road. The maps show those locations. Initially it was the presence of fire clay in the area and no doubt the good up-draught to power the kiln played a good part. Then in about 1864 ganister was recognised as a hard wearing material for lining furnaces. Up to that time ganister, a silica based rock, was used to fill up holes in the old roads. It was available at mines at Fishers Moor, off Strawberry Lee Lane and near Shorts Lane. This material is often found close to coal seams and no doubt it was unearthed when the Totley Coal Mine was in operation. The use of ganister established the firebrick industry in Totley.

One George Hill appears as a firebrick maker in the 1860's and then during the next decade a George Hodkin was listed as firebrick and tile maker at Totley. Possibly the latter wasn't too successful or he worked there part time for by 1876 he was being paid for felling trees, cutting wood, peeling bark, repairing fences and hanging gates on the Totley Hall Estate.

Around 1877 George Chadwick and Company had started brick and terra cotta manufacture. The Directories only mention Chadwick Barker and Co. in 1883, so did Chadwick take on a partner because he was struggling? If that is so it does not seem to have worked because operations on site closed down in 1884. Later they must have kicked themselves for as plans for the Totley Tunnel began there was a potential market for 30 million bricks. One individual named William Short Batley was the lucky one who took over the brickyard and began to satisfy the voracious appetite of the Tunnel contractors.

So I guess that the brick must have been made in or around 1883.

**Editor:** Brian Edwards  
Brian is always willing to answer any questions on Totley's past. If you have any queries write to us or direct to Brian via Shape Design, 289, Abbeydale Road South.



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## GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

May is just about the busiest month of the year, signs of summer are everywhere, days are warmer and longer and more flowers are in bloom, adding colour and scent to the garden. Summer bedding plants are available from shops and garden centres and, if you have grown your own bedding plants you will be anxious to get them planted outdoors, both to make space in the greenhouse and to reduce the amount of time spent watering and feeding them.

You should however resist the temptation to plant out tender annuals too soon, they should be kept from late frosts which are likely in our area, the end of May is plenty soon enough, if you do get caught out, cover them with fleece or newspaper when frost is forecast.

**Flowers:-** Prepare beds for summer bedding whilst hardening off the plants. Stop early chrysanthemums and bedding dahlias. Water all newly set-out plants and water and liquid feed container plants. Clear out spring bedding plants carefully lifting out any bulbs and heeling them in elsewhere to die down naturally. Thin out and stake perennials. If you have not been able to start dahlia tubers into growth in either greenhouse or frame, you can plant them outdoors now. Cover tubers with 8cm (3 ins) of soil then they will be quite secure against frost. It will be some weeks before shoots appear above ground. Watch out for slugs and deal with them promptly, they really enjoy a good feed of delphinium shoots. Keep an eye on lillies and tulips, if they are stunting, yellowing or mottling or distorted in any way, dig them up and burn them. Plant anemones, DeCaen and St. Brigid doubles - to flower in the autumn. Get cracking with those hanging baskets now, keep them in a protected spot either in the greenhouse or cold frame until they have got established and the weather is frost free. Perennials for next years plants can be sown now - delphiniums, oriental poppy, pyrethrum, scabious etc. Use a frame or cloche for protection.

**Vegetables:-** The earliest Brussels sprout plants can be planted now, it is usually these plants which produce the best sprouts. Give them plenty of room. Earth up potatoes, support runner beans. Thin out early carrots, lettuce, parsnip, turnip and spinach seedlings. Keep all crops well watered. Harden off indoor raised vegetable and salad crops. Clear the remains of spring greens and prepare ground for leeks, they like a good rich soil and will make a lovely white stem just in time for the Totley Show in September. Prepare mounds for planting out marrows, courgettes, pumpkins and squashes. Prepare ground in a sunny spot for outdoor tomatoes. It is a good time to plant up a new herb garden. Late on in May both runner and

French beans can be planted outdoors. These appreciate a well-drained soil into which well-rotted manure has been dug before hand, before sowing dust the soil with Super Phosphate of lime at 1oz per sq.yd. 20 gms per sq. metre, and sulphate of potash at the same rate. Keep onion rows free of weeds, they do not like competition if they are to make good bulbs for the shows.

**Trees, shrubs and Fruit:-** As I write just now it is snowing outside, so it seems a bit pointless to tell you to syringe newly planted evergreens. I hope the snow has gone by the time you read this, let's hope it will be dry enough for the young trees to appreciate a good syringing at the same time a good mulch will do them a power of good. Remove any suckers (ie. Growth coming from below a graft) from trees and roses. Trim over and top dress heathers after flowering. Give ericaceous plants such as azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons etc. a tonic with Iron Sequestrene. Plant out fuchsia and hydrangea. Complete the planting of container grown clematis, evergreens, roses and heathers. Prune spring flowering shrubs such as flowering currant, forsythia, kerria, willows and dogwood. Trim back dead shoots of rose of Sharon, keep all fruit well watered and feed when they start to swell up. Tie in new growths of blackberry and loganberry. Prune over-crowded raspberry shoots and mulch. Pick gooseberries thinly to help the main crop develop. If you have had trouble with scab or other troubles with your fruit trees last season, it would be a good idea to spray them now so that it does not get too well-established and spoil the fruit this year, always read the manufacturers instructions on fungicides and insecticides if you must use them and do not exceed the recommended dosage.

**Greenhouse and Indoor Plants:-** As the sun (ha ha) gets stronger you will have to be increasingly careful to shade your plants. Foliage plants in general and particularly many ferns, suffer a lot if exposed too long to intensive light and



heat. Also they will require considerably larger quantities of water, especially tomatoes (one of the fastest growing plants we have) and cucumbers. Pot on rooted cuttings of pelargoniums and other greenhouse plants, pinch out the points of fuchsias to encourage bushy plants. Allow Nerines, Arums, Freesias etc. to rest, place them in a sunny spot in the greenhouse and gradually reduce watering, when the foliage has died down no water need be given until July or August.

Train and feed cucumbers. Take out side shoots of tomatoes as they develop. Sow a few seeds of cinerarias if you want to have plants in flower by December. Take cuttings of various house plants, even if you have plenty, they make nice gifts for friends, and will add to the plant stall at open days and shows. Control aphids, white fly etc. with sprays, or plant pins inserted into the compost. Treat patches of mealy bug on cacti by painting with methylated spirits.

**Lawns:-** Feed established lawns and treat for weeds, keep new lawns well watered. Top dress joins in new turf.

Enjoy your gardening.

Cheerio for now.

Tom, Busy Bee.

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## COFFEE CAKES and CUTTINGS

Before the next issue of the Independent is on sale the above event will be done and dusted. The date is Saturday May 30th. The venue is English Martyrs Church, Baslow Road (if wet the Conservative Club) and the time is 10.00am to 12 noon. Please make a special note in your diary and come along to socialise for half an hour or so. You can enjoy an ordinary or an Irish coffee and browse round the stalls. By doing this you will be helping TRANSPORT 17 to whom all the proceeds will be going.

Obviously we need items to sell. Any good quality bric-a-brac and books are wanted as well as plants and cuttings. Arrangements for them to be collected can be made by ringing:-

236 7176 or 236 5313.

## TRANSPORT 17

We raised about £60 on our stall at the TRA Craft Fair on 28th March. It was a very pleasant afternoon. It never ceases to amaze me how clever people are. The items on display were beautiful. What a shame that there were not more people to see them. Thanks in advance to the Catholic Church for their 'Cakes and Cuttings' morning in aid of our funds. This will be on Saturday 30th May. When we came to Totley I remember going to one of these mornings. People were coming from all directions with plants, trees and herbs. Subsequently we grew things to take along. The Irish coffee is good too.

We are having a Social Evening in October at All Saints. More details of the date later. There will be live music played by a four piece group, a Pie and Pea Supper and a Raffle. Tickets will be £6.50. This is the first one I have organised for T.17 so please watch this space and book some tickets. Lots of love to some of our Staff and passengers who are not too well.

Best Wishes.

Margaret Barlow.

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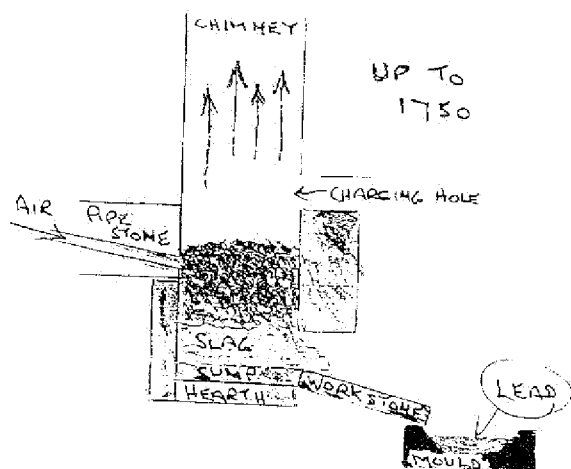
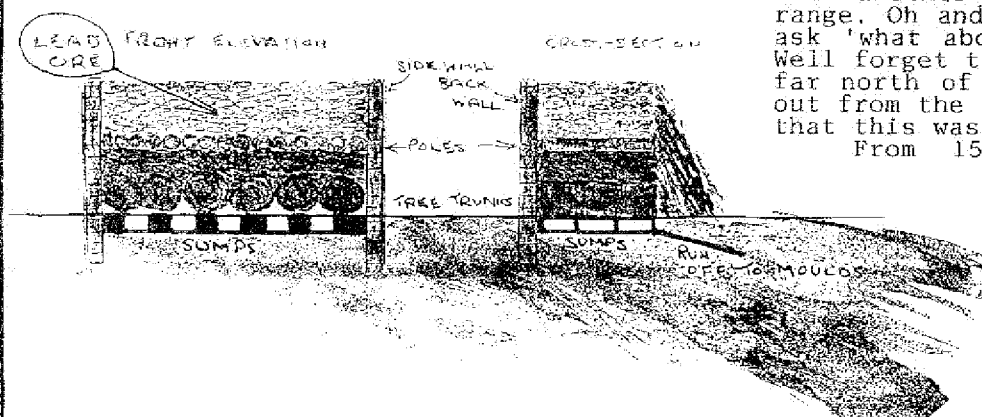
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# THE SMELTING OF LEAD by Alan Faulkner Taylor

BOLE - UP TO 1589



Take a look at the map of the Peak District and count how many times 'Bole Hill' appears. Starting from Hope Valley and working down stream on both sides of the Derwent, I gave up at ten.

So - what was a bole? This was a type of furnace for the smelting of lead which was in use up to just over 400 years ago; the design may have been similar to that used by the Romans. Unfortunately, no ancient drawings exist but I have copied one by Dr. David Kiernan, whose course stimulated my interest in lead and later in geology. A smelting bole was usually sited about 900ft. above sea level - because wind was required to increase the temperature of the burning fuel. There were only two smelts annually, so only a wealthy man could finance such a project because before a smelt could start there would have been the cost of hauling up:-

1. The logs for building the furnace,
2. The fuel, and
3. The lead ore. Then there was the risk factor because the fuel was not lit until a wind was blowing from the right direction and it was thought that the wind would continue for several days. If the wind failed the fire would continue but the temperature would decrease and the ore failed to melt, then everything had to be started from scratch again. Part of the fuel was charcoal, therefore quite expensive to produce.

If your map includes Dore and Totley, you will find a Bole Hill at the top of Limb Valley, another at Bradway, and another above the Totley Rifle range. Oh and incidentally you will now ask 'what about Bole Hill at Crookes?' Well forget this because Crookes was too far north of the routes taking the ore out from the Peak District, it is likely that this was a bole for smelting iron.

From 1589 a different type of furnace came into use, although nobody seems to know who invented it. The temperature of the fuel was increased to melt the lead by air blown in from leather bellows. These were operated either by a man's feet or (in most cases) from an axle fixed to a water wheel. Although the furnace could be operated by two men, the evidence from Letters of Probate (still held in Utoxeter) indicates that the building of the furnace would have been by the wealthy landowner and it would have been rented out annually to the operator. Again I am indebted to Dr. Kiernan for the diagram of this furnace.

The main evidence of the existence of these furnaces (they would have been called 'mills') is to be found in the mill dams that still exist. In some cases the masonry which housed the water wheel can still be found. The best example in the Peak District of a complete unit consisting of a small dam, the channel to take the water to the wheel pit the actual wheel pit and masonry which would have housed the furnace, is in Froggatt Wood. Unfortunately it is several yards from one of the tracks in the wood, and therefore difficult to find. Another clue is the presence of the slag banks - heaps of what appears to be chunks of limestone with one surface 'bubbly-looking'. These heaps tend to be covered either with moss or grass. One easy-to-find smelter, complete with masonry below a silted-up mill-dam, is in Rycroft Glen. At some different date this was a flour mill.

The fuel used in this type of furnace was 'white coal' which was less expensive to produce than charcoal. It consisted of tree branches, possibly between 1 and 2ins diameter, dried out in an open kiln (possibly using coal as the fuel). This drying-out process drove the volatile substances out from the wood, which would otherwise have contaminated the lead. The drying kiln situated about 15 yards from the Froggatt smelter is built as a dry stone wall some four and a half feet high. It is divided into two by specially-cut grit stone blocks. The branches to be dried were supported on 'fire bars' approx. 7ft long, which rested on top of the side walls and the dividing blocks; their cross-section is roughly triangular and cut from grit stone. Two of the bars are still in position. There are several kilns in Padley Gorge, these are hollows approx. 10ft in diameter, surrounded by naturally-shaped blocks of grit stone. They are not easy to identify.

But then the supply of wood for white coal ran out in Hope Valley, which was both a nuisance and almost an economic catastrophe because ore then had to be transported much further to the smelters. The pack-horses had to carry ore at least five miles extra - half the distance being uphill. Each pack-horse carried 10cwt of ore, whereas a cart and horses might have hauled several ingots of lead, each weighing one fother (22 and a half cwt.)

After Hope Valley the nearest wood for smelting was available in the woods at Fulwood, Ecclesall, Dore, Totley, Cordwell Valley and Linacre. Masonry used for the wheel pit and smelter can still be found below Linacre Reservoir.

So, what evidence still exists of white coal? Without looking very hard I have found over forty kilns in Ecclesall Woods. There are many more in other woods. These kilns differ from those where boulders were readily available, in that they were dug as hollows, going down into the clay subsoil, with the soil thrown up as a bank some 12ft in diameter. Usually on sloping ground there is still a gap on the low side, for this reason industrial archaeologists called them 'O sites' a name which still persists, although I prefer to call them 'white coal kilns'. We have to appreciate that the hollowed-out area would have been deeper when the kiln was in use. The gap between the jaws of the thrown-up bank would have been used as an entry for the operator when replenishing the fuel inside the kiln. The fuel may have been coal. Incidentally, the man who tended the kilns (in Sheffield's woods there are always two within yards of one another) may also have tended a charcoal hearth at the same time. The latter are very difficult to identify, although I know of three in Ecclesall Woods and each has two white coal kilns only a few yards away. Charcoal-burning continued for long after the demand for white coal ceased.

(To be continued)

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In the last three months, Alison has helped members lose more than 1,500lbs making Sheffield one of the best weight losing areas in the country. So, well done to Alison, and well done to the slimmers of Dore and Bradway. For further information call Alison on (01246) 410145.

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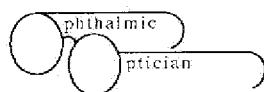
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## DIDN'T HE DO WELL

Paul Harry Andrew Ruthven. Nearly a local lad. Paul Ruthven came to Totley from Bradford when he was 5 years old. He attended Totley County School when Miss Clareborough ruled. The local Football team played at Totley Recreation Ground and were top of the League. Bob Graham, Paul Ruthven and Johnny Kaye were the main goal scorers. Paul as a result was offered an apprenticeship with Sheffield United but after two practise games decided to stick to Badminton. At 18 he became the youngest player to win the Sheffield open. In doubles he partnered the late Peggy Charles. He played for the County team several times before going into the R.A.F.

Paul Ruthven started playing Badminton at Abbeydale Secondary Modern School in Sheffield at 13 years. He won the Sheffield Men's Singles and Yorkshire Junior title (U-18) twice before joining the RAF on 16 September, 1969 at 18 years. After reaching the 1971 RAF Singles Final he became an automatic choice for the RAF Combined Services (CS) teams.

Paul was extremely committed to improving and played several seasons on the 'Open' tournament circuit. Regular physical training and practice over the early 1970's culminating with a summer's training with John Tate, the Berkshire Champion and RAF Captain. Paul went on to win the Yorkshire Restricted and RAF singles for the first time in 1974. He also won three Open titles, one with his wife, Margaret at the Norfolk Open in 1975 and was invited to play in the English Invitation Singles (Top 32), but he remembers best reaching the last 16 in the singles at the English Nationals and the quarter final of the men's doubles partnered by John Tate.

Paul captained both CS and RAF teams on many occasions over three decades and served on the RAFBA executive committee as Captain and RAF selector. He organised station badminton on every station that he has served starting at Manby 1971 to his current and last station RAF Cottesmore. He regularly coached on all his stations, his most successful pupil, Jon Austin went on to become Middlesex and Combined Services Champion. Whilst serving in RAF Germany, circumstances arose that Paul became Secretary, Match Secretary,

Tournament Secretary, Team Captain and ran station badminton at RAF Bruggen! He received RAFG C in C commendation for his services to Badminton.

Over such a long playing span, Paul has won many titles. He has represented the RAF 23 times in the Inter-Service team championships (1972-97), won 10 RAF Singles, 10 RAF Doubles and 7 Mixed titles. Paul's "Hey Day" was the 1970's. A serious back injury in July 77 put him in hospital and effectively out of badminton for the 1977-78 season. Whilst Paul made great strides in getting back to playing again he never recovered his full fitness or previous national standard.

The Combined Services Individual championships started in 1983 and Paul has won 3 men's doubles and 3 mixed doubles titles. He has represented the CS team on 42 occasions and the RAF team on 232, up to the end of the 1996-97 season. In these matches he has played against every county affiliated to the Badminton Association of England in the Inter-County competition. Paul has represented Strike Command, Support Command and RAF Germany. He has won all command individual and team titles and captained all command teams as well as winning nine Inter-Station Team Trophies with Abingdon, Honington, Cosford, Machrihanish, Swinderby and Cottesmore.

Whilst travelling with RAF postings, Paul has represented and won county titles in Yorkshire, Norfolk, Shropshire and Argyllshire and has also played for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire and had the honour of being Norfolk County Captain. He played 76 Inter County matches between 1969-81. At the end of his tour at Machrihanish in 1984, he was awarded Honorary Life Membership by the Campbeltown and District Badminton League. Between 1991-96 he served on the Newark and District Badminton League Committee as Men's League and Mixed League Secretary. The RAFBA awarded him the Wilkinson Sword/Poniard for his services to Badminton twice in 1993 and 1996.

Paul has asked me to say his commitment, loyalty, dedication and enjoyment of RAF Badminton would not have been so fulfilled and accomplished had it not been for the support of his wife, Margaret. She was a county and open champion herself, playing for the

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same counties as Paul and her support, advice, coaching and help has always been 100%.

Paul's enthusiasm for the success of RAF Badminton continues as he is committed to representing the RAF team until his exit date from the RAF on Christmas Day 1997, aged 47. He is already playing for the RAF veterans team and looking forward to retaining this connection with the service.

I have known Paul for 13 years, the past 3 years my Men's Doubles partner and more recently, this year, as Best Man at my Wedding. As a personal tribute I would like to say that for me, Paul is not only someone whom I have always admired and been inspired by his playing ability, but someone who made me believe in my own ability and helped me achieve certain sporting goals in my own life. For that, Paul, I will always be indebted and I take this opportunity with the rest of the RAF Badminton Squad and Association members to thank you for all of your past efforts and to wish you and Margaret the very best for the future.

Cpl. Steve Sharp.

### SCOUT LOTTERY

The winners of the 1st. Totley Scout Group Lottery are as follows:-

1st prize No. 7

5 foot Oval Chinese Carpet.

Mrs. Foster, The Green.

2nd prize No. 44

£10 Voucher.

Miss. Taylor, Lemont Road.

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.

### NSPCC

The District Committee for Dore, Totley and Bradway would like to thank the residents of S17 for their kind and generous support for the work of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the past and to ask for your continued support in our area. It is now 110 years since the Sheffield and Hallamshire branch of this national charity was first set up to help and protect vulnerable and defenceless children who were known to be suffering from cruelty and neglect, often hidden from sight within their own homes, and it is tragic that after so many years the physical and emotional abuse still goes on the work of the Society is needed now as much, if not even more, than ever it was. The NSPCC receives no government aid and relies, for the continuation of its work, upon its supporters and the generosity of the public. From small beginnings in the 1950's we have gradually increased the number of volunteers we have working in this part of Sheffield, who give up their time to help with fund-raising in our annual house-to-house collections, our flag day at the local shopping centres and our annual coffee morning. Your response on these occasions has always been magnificent and we welcome this opportunity to express our appreciation.

Our popular annual coffee morning which has been held for the past 25 years at my home, formerly on Devonshire Road and more recently on The Quadrant, will take place this year at a different place, and at a slightly different date. It will be on Tuesday 16th June, in the Totley Rise Methodist Church lounge and garden (weather permitting). The delicious home-made cakes and wonderful Bring and Buy Stall will be just the same, and we hope that you will enjoy meeting lots of your friends and neighbours as usual. We feel sure that you will find this new location to be a very attractive venue, and invite you to come along and enjoy a pleasant morning whilst helping once again to support the work of NSPCC.

If anyone would like to volunteer their help with our fundraising in Dore, Totley or Bradway, or would like more details, please contact me, Joyce Cook, at 22, The Quadrant or telephone 2364837.

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## TOTLEY LIBRARY

Totley Resident's Association have again given a donation to the library to buy books. This, together with money put in the donations box at the library has meant that we have had £200 to spend. The following are now available for loan:-

J. Brindle.-Seeker.  
L. Rose - Heaven's door.  
P. Finney - Unicorn's blood  
J. Higgins. - President's daughter  
S. Sheldon - Best laid plans.  
P. Barker - Ghost/ Eye in the door/  
Regeneration  
C. Francis - Dark Devotion  
P. D. James - Certain justice.  
D. Steel - Ghost  
D. Steel - Special delivery.  
S. King - Wizard and Glass.  
D. Koontz - Fear nothing.  
Gardening in small spaces.  
Patio gardening month by month.  
J. Deaver - The bone collector.  
N. Bawden - Nice change  
K. Reichs - Deja dead  
I. Rankine - Hanging garden  
R. Ludlum - Cry of the Halidon.  
Royal Horticultural Society Gardens  
Encyclopaedia of Plants and Flowers.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated and heartfelt thanks from the library staff to Totley Residents' Association for their continued support. I know these books will be greatly appreciated by everyone who borrows them.

The library service will be buying books for the adult section as well as the children's from April, so we look forward to receiving lots of new books. However, we can always use more than we have funding for, so we will continue to welcome donations of books, jigsaws and even videos in good condition in future. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Pauline Rosser, Community Librarian.

## LIL ROBINSON

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Lil Robinson on Friday 27th March 1998. Aged 91, she was our 'oldest T.O.A.D.' having been a founder member along with her husband Gethin in the early 1950's. She was a very special lady to us and still came to every rehearsal until mid-January this year, and read in parts when a member of the cast was missing. She last appeared on stage six years ago, playing Mrs. Northrop, the char lady in 'When We Are Married' a part that could have been written especially for her. As usual, she stole the show!.

She declared that she would never tread the boards again for fear of letting us down, and returned to 'prompting'. For the last four plays, Lil sold programmes, and the only concession she made to her increasing age was to sit down while she did it. She thoroughly enjoyed visits to other plays, and we enjoyed taking her, for her sense of fun was infectious.

Her talents were not confined to the theatre - her garden was a joy to behold, having spent each winter planning her scheme and then growing her own bedding plants for it. She was slowing coming round to using more perennials and climbers to reduce the work but still did it all herself and thoroughly enjoyed just sitting out there in the sun amongst her beloved flowers.

Rehearsals will never be quite the same without Lil, and we shall all miss her wonderful sense of humour - why can't everyone smile more like she did? I'm sure she will be watching over us somewhere, and having a chuckle at our mistakes.

TRULY A LOVELY LADY, AND SHE WILL BE SORELY MISSED.

Kate Reynolds.

## NOTICE BOARDS

The Notice Boards, situated in Mickley Lane, Green Oak Drive and Baslow Road were supplied by the City Council a good number of years ago. They have been well used and their loss would be a great disadvantage to the Totley Community.

Recently, due to lack of maintenance, they have begun to look tired and one has disintegrated completely. Totley Residents Association has applied to the Area Consultative Budget, via the Area Housing Office at Low Edges, in an effort to secure funding to have the Notice Boards refurbished or renewed. Watch this space (literally).

Mike Williamson

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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, 2-00 pm.  
 LADIES EXERCISE TO MUSIC, All levels, United Reformed Church, 10.15 - 11.45am  
 WEDNESDAYS COFFEE in the LIBRARY 10-00 am. to 11-30.  
 MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall, 8.00 pm to 10.30pm.  
 AMERICAN LINE DANCING, (Beginners) United Reformed Church, 7-30 to 9-30 pm.  
 Tel. 236 8572 for further information.  
 THURSDAYS OPEN DOOR, United Reformed Church, 10-00 am. - noon  
 PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1-30 to 3-00 Telephone  
 2363157 for further information  
 AMERICAN LINE DANCING, (Beginners) United Reformed Church, 1-00 to 3-00 pm.  
 Tel. 236 8572 for further information.  
 SATURDAYS MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall, 7.30 pm to 10.00pm.  
 Second and fourth of each month.

### MAY

FRI. 1st. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD MEET AT THE FLEUR DE LYS 7-00pm. for a MEAL.  
 FRI. 1st. COFFEE MORNING TRANSPORT 17 10am. to Noon, Totley Library.  
 FRI./SAT 1st. 2nd. CONCERT by the JOHN WADE SINGERS 7-30 pm. St. John's Church.  
 Abbeydale, Further details phone 236 0820.  
 SAT. 2nd. CHARITY NEARLY NEW SALE Abbeydale Sports Club 11am. Full details inside.  
 SUN. 3rd. STEAM TRAIN RIDES 2pm. to 5pm. Ecclesall Woods, Abbeydale Road South.  
 SAT. 9th. CAR BOOT SALE King Egbert School, Mercia Site, 10am. to 1pm. For bookings  
 phone 236 2556, pitches £5.00.  
 MON. 11th. PUBLIC MEETING re- PLANNING APPLICATION off BACK LANE Totley Methodist  
 Church Hall, 7-30 pm.  
 TUES. 12th. FASHION SHOW & SALE Totley Townswomen's Guild, Totley Rise Methodist Church  
 Hall, 10-00 am. Admission £2.00 inc. refreshments.  
 WED. to SAT. 13th. TO 16th. T.O.A.D.S "KINDLY LEAVE THE STAGE" St. John's Church Hall  
 Abbeydale Rd. South. For further detail phone 2366891.  
 THUR. 14th. COMMUNITY SKIP Totley Library Car Park  
 SAT. 16th. GARDEN PARTY All Saint's Church, Totley Hall Lane, 2-00 pm. Stalls. games  
 Nearly New and refreshments.  
 SAT. 16th. SPRING FAIR Dore & Totley U.R.C. Church Hall, 10-00 am. to 12-30 pm. cakes  
 plants, bric-a-brac, toys, games, books, refreshments, Admission free.  
 TUES. 19th. THE ABDICATION by Mr. K. Loxley, Totley Townswomen's Guild, Totley Rise  
 Methodist Church Hall, 10-00 am.  
 SUN. 24th. STEAM TRAIN RIDES 2pm. to 5pm. Ecclesall Woods, Abbeydale Road South.  
 SAT. 30th. COFFEE CAKES & CUTTINGS English Martyrs Church, 10 am. to Noon

### JUNE

FRI. 5th. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD THE SOUTHERN LAKES by  
 Mr. A Firth. St. John's Church Guild Room, 7-30pm.  
 SAT. 13th. COFFEE MORNING in aid of the ALZHEIMER'S  
 DISEASE SOCIETY, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall,  
 10 am. to 12 noon. Various stalls, cakes, white  
 elephant stationery etc. Admission 50p inc.  
 refreshments.

### THE INDEPENDENT FOR JUNE

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independent will be  
 available from the usual distribution points on

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 be SATURDAY 16th. MAY 1998.

EDITORS Les & Dorothy Firth, 6, Milldale Rd., Tel. No.  
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