

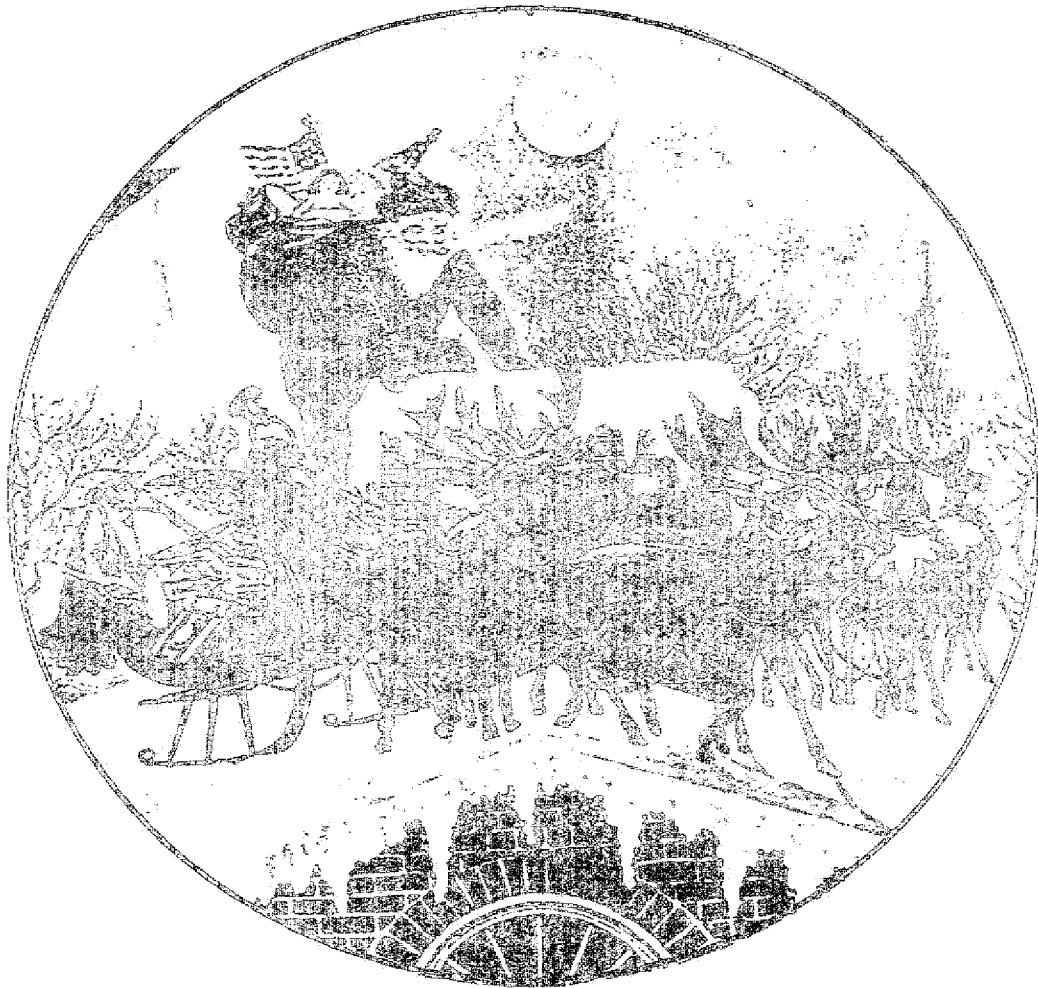
TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY THE TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1977

December 1999/ January 2000

No. 229

15p.



Painted in the 1880's on glass for a Magic Lantern slide by American artist Thomas Beale, an image of Santa Claus was created that is familiar to us today.

Mike Williamson

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

T.R.A. UPDATE.

A wreath was taken to the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial on Baslow Road, 14th November, on behalf of the residents of Totley. We would like to say a special thank you to Joe Abson who does a wonderful job in making sure that the memorial is always very neat and tidy, especially for this service.

Our new notice boards have been subject to graffiti attack along with other objectives in this area but with your help we shall try to keep this under control. If you would like notices to be put in these, please telephone 2361 601. These boards are not for business advertising and any notices stuck on the outside will be removed.

We have had two meetings with Peter Jones the Parks Manager (see separate report), and after the last one there will be some discussion at our next Committee meeting of maybe setting up a Parkscene Group. This group would consist of representatives of groups who use the park on a regular basis and anyone else who is interested. If this is for you please get in touch with me and leave a name and phone number for further information.

Finally, I would like to thank all the T.R.A. Committee for giving their time and talents over the last year, also Tom Steele, Christine and all those who helped with the Produce Show. Gerry Roberts for all his work at the pinfold, to those who helped to plant bulbs in the park on a very wet Saturday, and for those who write all the regular articles for the Independent, thank you. We have to thank Les Firth our Editor and John Perkinson our distributor for their regular commitment of time and effort, and a special thank you to all our advertisers.

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Pauline Perkinson, Chair T.R.A.

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST

As in previous years the local Scout Groups are taking part in the Scout Christmas Post scheme.

From 24th. November to 15th. December 1999 special stamps are on sale at various outlets in the area. These can be used to post Christmas Greeting cards in the special post boxes for delivery to addresses in the area.

Leaflets will be available and posters displayed with a map of the area to which cards may be sent. This covers all Sheffield, Dronfield and Chesterfield as well as some other outlying areas.

The price of each stamp is 15p., a part of which is retained by the Scout Group for its own funds and therefore for the benefit of youngsters in the area. After running costs the remainder of the profit is distributed to local charities, a list of which will be displayed on the posters.

The main conditions of use of this scheme are :-

Christmas Greeting Cards only, no enclosures.

Post only in special Scout boxes, NOT Royal Mail.

Use only special Scout stamps.

For use in the area on the leaflets and posters.

Last posting date is 15th. December.

1st. TOTLEY SCOUT LOTTERY

The results of the October draw was :-

1st. Prize Aynsley 10" Georgian Vase

No. 23 Mr. & Mrs Hebblethwaite, Lane Head Rd.

2nd. Prize £10 Voucher

No. 53 Mr. Ellerton, Green Oak Road

Peter Casson

TRANSPORT 17

Our passengers come in 3 categories, those who can walk on the bus, those in wheelchairs who can transfer to bus seats and those permanently in wheelchairs. This last group have to be clamped into the bus. We therefore have to consider all this and their safety when purchasing our buses. This is why we are going for a Volkswagen this time. They are, however more expensive. We have a good amount of money but we need several thousands more. Perhaps you would like to make a donation to celebrate the Millennium! Any amount will be very gratefully received. We had a cheque for £1,000 put through the door anonymously one week in November. If the donor reads the Independent, please accept our hearty thanks.

This is the time of year to thank everyone who keeps Transport 17 running in any way. Mike Finn manages the office and keeps the buses in very good nick. John Savourin and Olive Calton help in the office, ably supported by a worthy Management Committee. We also send thanks to Garry Williams at S.Y.P.T.E. for the way he fights our corner, especially with funding. Our greatest thanks though must go to all our drivers because we could not TRANSPORT without them. I mustn't forget escorts, must I, even though I am one of them! Christine and Tom Steele and their staff have as always been a god - send. Many thanks to the library staff, post offices, local shops, churches and organisations for displaying our posters and donating money. Tony Bishop became engaged recently to Doreen. He drove for us for normal clubs and Outward Bound trips, many times. He then got a paid, full time job driving for the Health Authority. I know that some of our passengers see him when they have appointments at the various hospitals. Tony has been a widower for many years and brought his son up on his own. We wish him and Doreen many years of happiness. Best wishes to all our passengers and supporters and "STAFF" for a Happy Christmas and a brilliant 2000. Margaret Barlow.



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Clean kitchens, bath rooms and toilets to standard that would comply with the expectations of our Environmental Health Consultant.

Work as part of a team providing a caring supportive environment to residents.

Preferably have a clean driving licence.

Offer commitment, be unflappable and have a good sense of humour.

Cherrytree is a registered charity providing supported housing for young people (16-21) in a pleasant environment. For an informal chat and / or job description and application form please contact:

Mrs. Angela Grayson - Deputy Project Director

Cherrytree, Mickley Lane, Totley, Sheffield S17 4HE

Tel: 0114 262 0216 or 262 0215 (inc. Fax)

Email: safeplace@cherrytree.org.uk

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BUZZARDS ARE BACK By Alan Faulkner Taylor

One evening in 1950 the 'phone rang - "Evening Alan, Ted here. I wonder if you could meet me at Grimbocor Wood and climb up to a buzzard's nest and fetch the eggs down for me? I thought it was a crow nest and it was only when I'd shot the bird as she flew off that I realised it was a buzzard".

When I looked up at the immense nest I thought: "You're a liar Ted, you knew it was buzzard!" Even in those days the killing of buzzards was illegal, but if I had informed the Police

- (a) Ted would never have fed me information about his local birds again,

- (b) He would still have gone on shooting raptors. Ted Peat was the senior gamekeeper in the Derwent/ Ladybower area and a Special Constable. Like most gamekeepers of his time, he thought that he was doing his job.

During the late 50's and early 60s the disappearance of buzzards from the Peak District coincided with myxomatosis in rabbits. But now they have returned.

I first noticed their return in 1998 when my walking friends and I were sitting having our elevenses while ascending to Stanton Moor. We were sitting on a stone seat, which coincided perfectly with the car being parked in Rowsley. Incidentally I have often wondered who may have had the seat built, surrounded as it is by a semi-circular wall. Was it a long-forgotten Duke of Rutland who liked to sit here and survey his beloved Haddon Hall? We spotted a buzzard being mobbed by a carrion crow. Every lunge by the crow

was effortlessly dodged as the buzzard sideslipped at the last moment, making its attacker look very inept. The display continued for 15 minutes or so until the buzzard had left the crow's territory.



In the summer of 1999 my friends and I were walking through Monday Dale, having started at the White Lodge car park, when we counted at least a hundred rabbits on one of the flat areas. There must have been at least twelve jet-black bunnies - the melanistic variation. A month later we took the same walk and looked up into the sky as we heard the harsh cries of jackdaws. They were mobbing a buzzard. A fortnight later one of my walking friends saw a pair soaring over Chatsworth.

The buzzard's flight is beautiful to watch - a few lazy flaps of its wing will be followed by a long soaring glide, then two or three more flaps. Then the bird

will make a wide circle before resuming its glide; it is then when you obtain your best view if the sun is shining - revealing the variations in pale fawns and browns of the underside of the wings.

When I have toured Scotland I have talked to many people in an evening who have told me that they have seen a golden eagle during the day. This is most unlikely because one has to be up one of the remote glens to see Britain's most magnificent bird. Most will have seen a buzzard. Both are very much alike when in flight and only an experienced bird watcher will know the difference. Size is very misleading when a bird is in flight.

Long may buzzards fly the skies of our Peak District

WAYS OF WALKING

We gave up our car some five years ago, as I believe that no one over 80 living in Totley should drive. Therefore since then I have walked much more.

In doing so I have noticed two types of pedestrian on our pavements.

The first type consists of people who take no notice of their surroundings let alone their fellow pedestrians. This group can be subdivided into those who look at their feet and those who look straight ahead.

The second type consists of people who look around at the trees, open gardens and our roadside grassy areas. They also look directly at the people they meet and as often as not utter a greeting. Those people make a very positive contribution to the life of Totley, which my wife and I have found to consist of a very friendly community.

With the approach of the season of goodwill, I wonder whether people in the first group might transfer to the second. I am sure it would enrich their quality of life.

David Caldwell

Necessity may be the mother of invention, but it is also the mother of instalments.



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CONCERT SERIES 1999/2000

MESSIAH

Handel

Allison Smart - soprano
Susanah Self - contralto
Robert Johnston - tenor
Giles Davies - bass

**Sheffield Bach Choir
Sheffield Bach Players**

Leader, Harvey Marsden
Organ, Alan Brown
Trumpet, Gordon Truman

Conductor - Roger Bullivant

**Monday 6th December 1999
Sheffield Cathedral, 7.00 p.m.**



Tickets £8 (Concessions £6) available from
Sheffield Music Shop, Broadhead Lane, 1960
SPK, East Parade (073 3454).
Students £7 on the door.



**COME and SING MESSIAH
DORE PARISH CHURCH
MONDAY 13th. DECEMBER 7-30 PM.
£5-00 including a glass of wine and mince pie.**

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN S17

I wonder if you are heartily sick of reading, seeing and hearing about the millennium? And what's it all about anyway? It might have something to do with the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, but even that is a bit dubious.

Nonetheless, it's a bit difficult to avoid, and so the churches in S17 have decided to take the opportunity to do something which we hope will help us all look afresh at Jesus as we enter the year 2000.

Around the turn of the year every home in the area should receive a well-bound copy of the Gospel of Luke through the letter box. It's in up-to-date language, and well presented. There are four gospels, all of which recount the life and teachings of Jesus in slightly different ways. Of these Luke's most deliberately sets out to give an orderly account. Luke also includes more of Jesus' parables than the other three, and that is why his gospel has been chosen. We very much hope these gospels will be read widely and enjoyed richly.

The second thing we have been able to do is present a selection of brand new books to Totley Library. The collection of over 80 titles includes books for all ages, covering biography, Social Affairs, Religion, and stories of inspiring faith. Similar sets have been presented to well over 100 other libraries, nation-wide, and have been chosen by a national panel of literary experts from all the major denominations. Among the titles are "Billy Graham in conversation", "Cliff Richard: The biography", "The sixty minute father", "Knowing God", and "Where is God when it hurts?" Some titles are large print, and there are 35 titles for children and teenagers.

Money for both projects has been given by the 8 churches in the S 17 area, and we hope that both these initiatives will prove to be something of real value for the entire community.

David Rhodes

Dear Sir,

I see from the report of the TRA committee (Independent November.) that it is an offence to have vegetation overhanging on to a public footpath and the Council can cut this back and charge the owner. I presume that it works the other way round and if I cut the overhanging bushes from council land I can then charge the Council.

There must be many instances where this occurs, the footpath from the end of Aldam Way towards Aldam Road has been reduced from 5 Ft. to 3 ft. by some particularly spiky bushes being just one example.

This matter was raised by several people at the consultation meeting held in September at the Library so I hope someone will take note and get pruning!

P.Child

MEMORY

MEMORY is strange how it comes either at will or a coincidence will stimulate thoughts which had not surfaced for years.

Today, 11th November 1999, I remember vividly 11 am on November 11th 1918. Just as today it was foggy: the dirty brown kind we got then; cold, drizzling with rain, almost dark. Pavements covered with the slippery black gunge which usually accompanied the drizzle.

My mother had the gas light on. She was standing on the kitchen table linewashing the kitchen-cum-living room ceiling. Suddenly St.Silas Church bell started to peal. I was frightened out of my silly wits. Mother started to dance up and down on the table shouting, "It's over. Thank God, the war's over". In her ecstasy she kicked over the bucket of whitewash which splashed all down the wall and slowly spread over the lino in front of the back door. Joy turned to panic as she scraped up the mess before father came home for his dinner. Then she told me to go round the corner to Scatchard's our local grocery and creamery shop, for some Holyrood Biscuits for celebration and ask Mrs.Scatchard to put it 'on the slate'. My mother never gave me money to run an errand. Holyrood Biscuits were very plain, shaped like a six petalled flower and slightly dished so that you could make a small tart out of them by putting a blob of jam or lemon curd in the middle. That is if you had any. Of course, Scatchard's had none. By 1918 food had almost disappeared. Rationing was nowhere near as fair as it was during World War II.

That is all I remember of the first Armistice Day but I remember a great deal of what came later.

By Anne O.Domini

A MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION IN TOTLEY

You are invited to an exhibition at All Saints celebrating two thousand years of the Christian faith.

Wednesday, 29th to Friday, 31st. December

The church and hall will be open from 10.00 am. to 4.00 pm. each day, with exhibits depicting a variety of aspects of Christianity, since its beginnings two thousand years ago, along with seasonal floral arrangements.

Refreshments will be available, and entrance is free

David Rhodes

OPEN STUDIO

7 to 12 DECEMBER 1999

Hazels Studio will be OPEN for you to visit during the month of December.

There will be original art works, prints, and cards.

OPEN TIMES: 7 to 12 December 1999
10.30. a.m. to 9 p.m.

PHONE 0114 236 6031.
2 Brookvale Cottage.
Back Lane.
SHEFFIELD.
S17 4HP.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Totley Rise Methodist

24th. December Joint service with U.R.C
25th. December 9-45 am.

St. Thomas, Meadowhead

24th. December 5-30 pm. Vigil Mass
24th. December 11-30 pm. Readings, Carols & Midnight Mass.

English Martyrs

25th. December 9-15 am. Mass

Christ Church Dore

24th. December 4-30 Carols
11-30 pm.
25th. December 8-00 am. 9-30 am. Family Service
11-00 am. Holy Communion

U.R.C.

24th. December 11-15 pm. Joint service with T.R.M.
25th. December 10-30 am.

Christian Fellowship

19th. December 10-30 am.

Dore Methodist

25th. December 9-30 am.

All Saints Totley

24th. December 11-30 pm. Holy Communion (A.S.B.)
25th. December 8-00 am. Holy Communion (B.C.P.)
9-30 am. Family Holy Communion
26th. December 10-00 am. Holy Communion for all ages
4-00 pm. Service of Meditation
31st. December 11-45 pm. "Into the new Millennium with Jesus" (till 00-15 am.)

THIS MONTH'S SMILE:

A concert of classical music was advertised. Two dogs and a cat decided they would attend. However, when they got there they were told it was for musicians only and refused entry. Whereupon the larger dog stood on his hind legs and said "Me Bach" and pointing to the other dog, "He Offenbach" then he pointed to the cat and said "She Debussy".
Anne O.Domini

'The Peak District Journal of Natural History and Archaeology'

Edited by Dr Ian D. Rotherham and Professor Melvyn Jones.
Volume 1 available November 1999. c.80 pages, A4, Papers and articles illustrated by photographs, maps and diagrams.

This is the first of a new, annual publication devoted to the natural history, ecology, history, archaeology and conservation of the Peak District and surrounding areas.

Volume 1 has major papers and articles:

- on the historic landscape of the Upper Derwent and Hartington areas of the Peak Park, by the late Gordon Scurfield;
- on the ecology of dew ponds in the White Peak by Philip Warren of Sheffield University;
- on charcoal in the region's woodlands by Paul Ardron and Ian Rotherham; and with Oliver Gilbert, on peat cutting in the south Pennines;
- on the collection and analysis of moorland flint scatters;
- and on the forestry management of the Ladybower woodlands.

For readers wishing to know more about both wildlife and history in and around the Peak District, this will be of great interest. It will be essential reading for all those interested in the area, and concerned about its conservation, and of value to ecologists and archaeologists generally.

SPECIAL OFFER EXTENDED TO END OF December for readers of the Totley Independent!

Volume 1 is available to individuals at the special pre-publication price of £5.

PRICE : £5+£1(orders placed before December 31st 1999) **£10+£1 p&p.**(usual price, for orders placed after December 31st 1999, and for all institutions).

Cheques/postal orders payable to: 'Wildtrack Publishing'.

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C/O Dr.IAN D. ROTHERHAM, P.O.BOX 1142,
SHEFFIELD, S1 1SZ

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JOURNEY TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

They all said "don't be daft, you on a cruise, you the hyperactive, you who never learnt to sit still for a minute: you'll be jumping overboard and swimming alongside". Privately I agreed but the decision was made following a major operation for my wife.

"None of that long distance walking for you, Mrs. Edwards, take a cruise, something restful", the surgeon advised.

Of course, when it turned out to be the most amazing of holidays, it was all my idea: that's the way it is in our relationship.

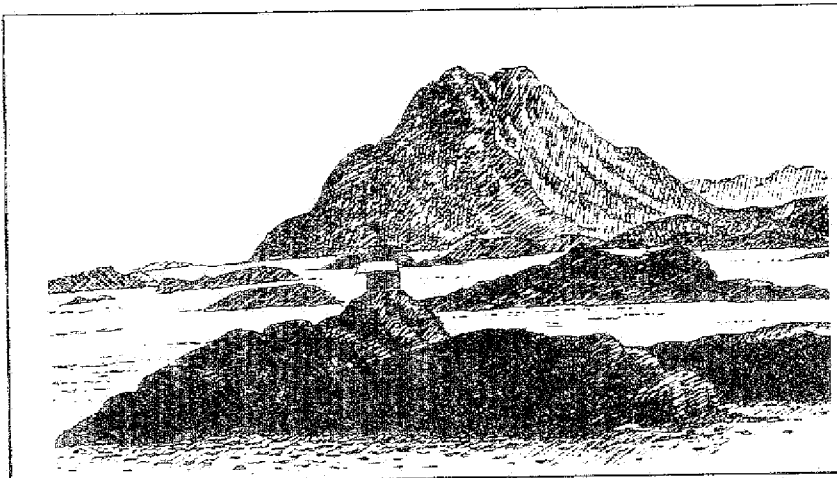
After a flight to Bergen and the best part of two days in one of the most interesting and challenging cities I have ever been to, which included an enchanting trip to Greig's house, we embarked for an eleven day trip to North Cape, truly the top of the world.

I awoke with a start at 4.45am as the boat manoeuvred into a small village quayside. The light was phenomenal and I tore into my clothes and tumbled up on deck. Outside, in the cool dawn light, all was still apart from the unloading and loading of our boat, the Polarlys. I soon disappeared and brought my sketchbook to record the scene with pen and ink, enlivened with aquaprelle watercolour pencils. And that set the scene for the next eleven days. Every opportunity to record our voyage was taken as we steamed 2000 miles alongside snow-capped Norwegian Mountains and through dramatic islands with jagged peaks thrusting 3000 feet straight out of the mirrored sea.

You see, I am a professional illustrator and I had decided that this would not be another assignment, it was a holiday. But my mind was racing with the ever-changing images; you would think that I would get fed up with mountains and islands day after day. Not a hit, for every five the scenery was changing as we purred through the last throws of the Gulf Stream. I was soon joined by a fellow 'hyperactive', a Norwegian Tour organiser in his seventies, Born in the remote Lofoten Islands, steeped in Viking exploits, mythology, the anger with the German reign of terror during World War II, and full too with the romanticism of literature and his adventures under sail. He explained his boyish enthusiasm with "I wake up each day and say this is another day of opportunity". As I sketched, he described vividly all about the passing scenery. My sketching and painting and his chatter were almost non-stop. The patterns of our wake, the glorious sunsets, the rusty fishing boats, the isolated communities at water's edge were all subjects of the poetry of tongue and pen. Most of all I learnt the importance of fishing in the history of Norway, the lives it had taken, the hardships, the triumphs, the romantic image of lonely man pitting his wits against the savage sea, the grieving widow and orphans (epitomised in countless sculptures throughout Norway). For it is in the winter that the cod is abundant and brought home to hang out and dry on communal racks before they export to exotic countries in the Far East, South America and Iberia. "Catholic countries, you see, they keep the fishing viable in these far away lands".

We slipped into small communities and Northern Cities well beyond the Arctic Circle and were surprised with the quality of both traditional and modern architecture of Trondheim and Tromsø, having left far to the south the more accessible and

wonderful Art Nouveau Alesund. We enjoyed the majesty of soaring rocks and turquoise water of the Trollfjord and wondered at the skill of the captain who turned the huge boat round on itself only feet away from the brown granite cliffs split by torrents jetting down from hidden heights. The islands may be remote but that hasn't stopped the conversion



of redundant fishing huts into holiday cottages, well booked in the season.

The Lofoten Islands, well up into Arctic Seas, are 60 miles of precipitous peaks and clusters of tiny sea-pounded islets, with a few communities still reliant on the God-like cod. That does not stop the acceptance of modern technology as a matter of pride. "We were pioneers of the telegraph. Telephone and electricity. Nowadays we have so much hydro-electricity that our vast reserves of natural gas are sold abroad, we have no need of it."

Still the pen raced and the brush stroked the sketchbooks, paper discarded every ten minutes or so as yet another dramatic mountain or island formation came into view. "The sea is so treacherous around here with thousands of rocks hidden just below the surface that the Vikings preferred to carry their great long boats over high mountains rather than risk their lives down that treacherous coast."

It is hard to equate these grizzled macho warriors with the modern Norwegian husband who is obliged to take his share of maternity leave, thus substituting the longboat for a smart pram.

Every one of the forty or so stops on the voyage prompted a rush out into the crisp yet mild air to capture the environment of these far-flung communities. One day it happened, I suppose I half expected it. Arvid, my newfound Norwegian friend asked if I had thought of putting the sketches and watercolours into a very nice quality book, a visual diary of our voyage. The project grew in his questful mind and the book became reality as he scurried round the passengers selling the idea and encouraging orders. His wife and my wife joined in, our tour manager encouraged the plan and there it was born. The book had then to be pulled together, printed in Sheffield and despatched to various corners of the World by early October. All I have to do now is get my Buxton Art Gallery Exhibition mounted in June and July, edit the local village magazine, progress a book on South Yorkshire Churches, prepare for a springtime exhibition in Switzerland, give a few dozen lectures, finish the Advanced French Conversation Course, the Computer Skills Course with Business Link and plan our next "boring" cruise up Norway. For more details about "Voyage to the Top of the World" contact Brian Edwards, The Coach House, Main Street, Great Longstone, Derbyshire, DE45 1TZ. Telephone 01629 640752



Beauchief Abbey

150 visit Abbey

Around 150 people took the opportunity to look round Beauchief Abbey during the Heritage Open Days '99 weekend of 11th & 12th September. This is an annual event when buildings which are not normally open to the public, open their doors to visitors.

The Abbey welcomes this opportunity to let the public know that it is a living building, not just a ruin; that it holds a service every Sunday and stages a range of events each year from carol concerts to garden parties and Gilbert and Sullivan evenings.

Service times are:

1st, 3rd, and 5th (when there is one) Sundays each month.
3-00 pm. Evensong

2nd and 4th Sundays each month

11:00 am Holy Communion

All services use the 1662 version of the Anglican Prayer Book and anyone and everyone will be made welcome.

On Thursday 16th December, at 7:30, Abbey Choral will give a Christmas concert in the Abbey, proceeds from which will go to charity.

There will be the usual Christmas Eve carol service at 7:00 pm and Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 10:30 am; and this year, along with all the other churches in the country, we will be ringing in the new millennium at 12 noon on New Year's Day and this will be followed by Holy Communion - again anyone is welcome to join us.

We are also pleased to give guided tours of the Abbey and talks to groups on its history. Please contact Kath & Eddie Greenwood on 274 5000 for more information.

TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

**NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY 9th. DECEMBER**

**11am. 4 GROVE ROAD, TOTLEY
WE SHALL ENJOY OUR USUAL
CHRISTMAS CHEER.**

GREENOAK PARK

In November our project to improve Greenoak Park got under way. Some of you will remember filling in a questionnaire last year, asking what changes you would like to see in the park. Your answers were used to apply for a grant from the Council. Top of the list was a bin for dog excrement. The Council has provided one. Let us hope it is used by all the owners who exercise their dogs in the park.

Totley Residents' Association has now received a grant of £500 for Greenoak Park from the Council's Leisure Services Department. In accordance with your wishes, this is being spent on flowers, trees and seats. On Saturday 13th November about 20 local residents, including seven pupils from Totley Primary school, planted several thousand daffodil and crocus bulbs on the bank between the bowling green and the sports field. It was a damp morning, but we had a lot of fun, and the display of colour in the spring should be brilliant. We are grateful to Tom of Busy Bee for the loan of a wheelbarrow and to Derbyshire Dales District Council for the use of their spades.

During the next few weeks, we shall be putting in two more benches beside the tarmac path up through the park.

We shall be planting two sessile oak trees (this is the variety that is native to

South Yorkshire) in Greenoak Park to commemorate the new millennium.

Rony Robinson will be planting the trees by the old tennis courts at 11am on

Saturday 4th December. Please come and watch.

Totley Residents' Association is discussing future improvements to the park with the Council. We would welcome your views. Please write to the Independent with your ideas.

Ros Stokes

What's on in the Peak District

Nov. 20th - 6th. Jan.

CASTLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Castleton village-illuminated Christmas trees. Lights on daily 4pm to midnight. Late night shopping up to Christmas Eve.
Tel: Mrs V A Turner, 01433 620571

Dec. 4th - 31st.

GREAT HUCKLOW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas trees throughout the village.
Tel: Mrs P Walton, 01298 871261

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Ecclesall Woods---their future in the balance?

Sheffield City Council is about to produce a long-term management plan for this, the most important of our region's woodlands. This will help to define the long-term future of the woodland. It is important in this process that the public have their say, and that local information, combined with expert opinion is made available to guide this plan. The sterling work of the Friends of Ecclesall Woods has demonstrated what is possible with minimal resources and lots of enthusiasm. However, much more remains to be done.

At the Centre for Environmental Conservation at Sheffield Hallam University researchers have produced detailed reports on visitors, users and management options, and these have been made available for wide public consultation. The final summary and feedback documents will be presented for public information, and will be available by writing to Dr Ian D. Rotherham, at the address below.

Serious Concerns.

According to Dr Ian Rotherham, of Sheffield Hallam University's Centre for Environmental Conservation despite much hard work and the good intentions of City Council officers and others, there are still some very serious concerns. 'Important issues such as the care of the special wildlife, and the perhaps unique archaeological and historical features in the Woods, are considered in a delicate balance with the proposals for tree management, and the public amenity use, such as the improvements to footpaths.

There are serious concerns that the City Council, desperately strapped for money for sites such as this, is not able to fully assess or gather the critical information needed for conservation of such sites. Ecclesall Woods is further seriously disadvantaged by its exclusion from the South Yorkshire Forest and the finance that this initiative has brought to the region. This issue was raised with the City Council when the South Yorkshire Forest was set up, but concerns were over-ruled.

It seems crazy that the region's premier woodland is outside the Forest area. This is bad for the Forest itself, and especially bad for Ecclesall Woods. In the long-term this may pose a real threat to the conservation of this wonderful ancient woodland.

We raised these issues a few weeks ago, and began an appeal to raise the necessary finance to complete our research work on the ecology, archaeology and historic landscape of the Woods; the culmination often years of meticulous fieldwork and analysis.

We were appealing for help with the mapping out of the detailed information gathered by academics and researchers working alongside the Friends of Ecclesall Woods.

This is information collected on a voluntary basis, and needs to be put into a form to be available to the site's managers.

We aim to put around about two thousand years of landscape history, gathered largely by Dr Paul Ardron, Professor Melvyn Jones and myself onto a GIS computer map base for the City Council to use, but the City Council has no money to help. Our worry was that this would probably mean that the information would not be available to help the production of the management plan. That omission would bring with it the serious risk of long-term damage to the site---a desperate shame, especially when the information has already been gathered.

Many thousands of people enjoy the Woods every year, and this is a great chance for local people and businesses to contribute positively to their future conservation and management.

The Ecclesall Woods Research Appeal.

'We were calling for a local sponsor to give around £2000 to kick-start the project. Within a couple of days of the appeal being launched, a very generous local person (who wishes to remain anonymous, gave £2000 to start the work off). This is wonderful and very exciting news, and a particularly generous gesture!

We still need more support to complete this vital work.

Ideally, we need around about £2-3000 more to complete the computer mapping, the analysis and produce a publication and technical report. The information will be presented in the next volume of the *Ecclesall Woods Natural History Series*.

(NB. Volume 1 is still available, PRICE £5 plus £1 p&p from Wildtrack Publishing, P.O. Box 1142, Sheffield S1 1SZ).

If you feel that you can help, we are looking for donations, large or small, from local businesses or from individuals, or for sponsors of the project and/or the publications.

Please write to:

Ecclesall Woods Research Appeal,
C/O Dr Ian D. Rotherham,
Centre for Environmental Conservation,
Sheffield Hallam University,
City Campus, Pond Street,
Sheffield, S1 1WB.

Cheques payable to either 'Sheffield Hallam University' or the 'Sheffield Centre for Ecology'.

Or you can get more information by phoning Ian Rotherham (on 0114 2252874) or Colin Avison (on 0114 2252988).

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POST OFFICE NEWS

Thank you to all our customers and friends for their kindness and best wishes regarding the incident that occurred at the Post Office on Friday 19th November.

Our special gratitude to Martin (when the chips are down) Littlewood for his assistance and courage, Peter Roe, David Broadhurst, Pam Voice, all the ladies at Abbey Friar II and the Post Office for their assistance also.

Nothing was stolen, very little damage done and it's business as usual, once again thanks to everyone.

Post Office and Shop Opening Hours.

To assist all our customers in the build up to Christmas, the Post Office and Shop will extend its opening hours as follows:- We will stay open until 4-00 pm. on the following Mondays, December 6th, 13th. And 20th.

Last Posting Dates

Second class	December 18 th .
First class	December 21 st .
Outside Europe	December 6 th .
Europe	December 13 th .

For further information about Royal Mail services call 0345 740 740 or ask at any Post Office.

Payment of Pension Allowances/Bank Holiday Arrangements

The early payments of Pensions and Allowances together with holiday closure days are somewhat complicated this year. Please ask or look for notices on the door of the Post Office for relevant information.

Christmas Card Recycling

Totley Rise Post Office will again participate in the recycling scheme between December 30th. And January 28th. 2000.

Seasonal Greetings

Glen, Kim and all the Staff at Totley Rise Post Office again thank everyone for their custom during 1999 and extend their very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and peaceful Millennium New Year.

Mrs. Joyce Cook

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Joyce Cook.

Joyce died suddenly on Monday, 22nd November. Joyce was a devoted member of Totley Rise Methodist Church for many years: she worked conscientiously for the NSPCC and supported many local charities. Joyce was a truly Christian lady, always available to help those in need.

Totley will be a poorer place without her. She was loved and respected by all who knew her.

The moon

I sit in my large leather armchair
Staring out of my window.
I stare at the rain.

It runs down the window pane
Like a million small rivers.
In many ways it could be considered quite beautiful.

But all it does is reminds me
Of all the things that I have.
Like my fire and expensive jackets.

There are many people
I realise,
Who don't have such luxuries as me.

My eyes wander away from the rain
And now rest on the image of the full moon.
The full moon, interrupted only by my small rivers.

From my armchair I can see it.
Shining it's light on all the world.
I feel privileged that it is I who have been chosen
to witness its beauty.

The moon, I hope
Is one frontier which we will never truly conquer
For if we do then its beauty will be lost forever.

Ciarán Hyland (16)
Cherry Tree



THE HOLLY AND THE HOLM

In the Fifteenth Century it was noted in London that "Every house and every parish church is decked with holm, ivy

bays whatever is green".

Holm is the old word for holly.

Place names containing Holm (or Holin) can sometimes be associated with the growing of holly.

Does anyone know what "Holme" refers to in "Holmesfield"?
Mike Williamson

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WHY NOT TREAT YOUR HOME TO A SPRING CLEAN

GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

Here we are again at the end of another year and going into a new millennium. Time to dust off those resolutions. I hope when making them you will remember to enter the Totley show this year, you will need to make plans, so that your exhibits are in pristine condition on the day.

A little encouragement for the children to take part would be a good idea, we did not have all that many entrants and it is a way to show them the old traditions and to keep the community spirit alive. I hope you all have a good holiday and enjoy your millennium celebrations.

FLOWERS

Clear away leaves and debris from around the borders, protect any tender plants with sacking or twigs. We have not had a bad winter for some time now, so I reckon we are due, and if we get frosts without snow this can do a lot of damage, even to the hardier plants so take precautions. Half prune rose trees, this will keep the bed looking tidier and will help prevent wind rock which can form holes at the base, which fill with water and can rot the base of your plants. Firm around the base of plants. Prune clematis Jackmanii and Viticella classes, before February, they can be cut back to about 1 ft off the ground this will keep plants small if you want a larger covering allow the framework of the main vines to form and then prune each side growth back to one joint. Pick over any plants in frames, remove dead leaves etc and dust with fungicide, check dahlia tubers remove any rotting parts and dust with flowers of sulphur. When cutting evergreens for Christmas decoration, use a sharp pair of secateurs and cut in a way as not to disfigure the shrubs and trees. Firm in any cuttings which may have loosened. If the roots of hardy primulas have been exposed by heavy rain topdress with compost of soil, peat and sand. On good days, when the soil is not too heavy, vacant borders can be dug over and prepared for bedding unless the soil is poor do not add any manure. Annuals flower best in a soil, which is not too rich. Beware of slugs damaging carnations and pinks and deal with them as soon as possible, a beer trap is very effective though a bit smelly if left too long. Trim back winter flowering heathers as the blooms fade, using shears to prevent them getting straggly.

VEGETABLES

Dig and manure any vacant plots earmarked for vegetables. Root crops should be grown on ground manured for other crops the previous season, so these just need digging over. It is now time to sow onion seeds, if you want whoppers, for the show, the Kelseo or Robinsons mammoth for size and Ailsa Craig for the kitchen, Boxing Day is the traditional day, for setting seeds. Turbo onion sets are good for kitchen use and can be planted in March / April time.

When the weather is dry pull a little soil around the stems of spring cabbage this will help bring the plants through the winter more safely and gives them better anchorage. Gathering brussels sprouts should be in full swing now. Do not remove the tops of plants until all the sprouts have been gathered and only pick the best tops for use. It's a good plan to lift a few leeks and heel them in somewhere handy so that they can be got at, if the weather turns really nasty. They will keep like this for some weeks. Dig a runner bean trench 2 - 3 ft wide and around 1½ to 2 ft deep. Ridge the soil up each side so that the beneficial effects of the winter can work on it. Onion plots need a bit of extra preparation to give a good size. Dig deeply and apply plenty of manure or well rotted compost, spread bonfire ash liberally over the top, if available, as well as bone meal and hoof and horn meal at the rate of 4 ounces per sq. yd (that's given away my secrets now).

TREES SHRUBS AND FRUIT

When the weather is favourable, spray fruit trees with tar oil winter wash this will keep off any insect eggs lurking in crevices, use a fine, forceful spray a calm day is advisable.

Finish off any pruning preferably before Christmas. Apply a dressing of sulphate of potash, one ounce per sq. yd, it will encourage fruitfulness and good ripening.

Check over any blackcurrants for big bud mite the effected bud will be globular instead of healthy pointed buds, pick all the effected buds and burn them. Blackcurrants will enjoy a dressing of Sulphate of Ammonia. Mulch around raspberries to avoid the shallow roots from being exposed to frost. Check grease bands on apples and pears and renew the grease where necessary.

GREENHOUSE and INDOOR PLANTS

Water sparingly, keep indoor plants away from hot spots i.e. radiators, stoves etc. Increase the humidity by spray or standing plants on wet gravel. Watch out for aphids and deal with them as soon as they are seen, (the little devils breed like mad), plant pins are very effective. There is a new product out which combats vine weevil, if you have this menace you might like to try it "Provado" is its name. Cut back geraniums and re pot, if you are re potting your fuschias screw off the bottom half of the root system and discard. Then repot as tightly as possible. I didn't believe it either but it works wonders, don't let them dry out or stand in wet conditions. Watch the ventilation carefully in the green house or conservatory. Open vents on good days make sure they are closed by mid afternoon, even on sunny days, don't open them on freezing foggy days. Make preparation for chrysanthemum cuttings. Sponge the foliage of the large evergreen plants such as dracaenas crotons ficus and palms. Thoroughly clean all pots, boxes and seed trays ready for sowing later. Freesias that are coming up to flowering stage will benefit from a feed of weak liquid manure. Cyclamen seedlings should be potted on into 3 or 3½ inch pots.

LAWNS

Rake up leaves and rubbish. Spike and sand any wet patches. Keep off the grass in frosty weather unless you want yellow footprints on your lawn. Send the mower off for service it's cheaper before February.

Well that's it for this Millennium, I hope you have a happy and joyous Christmas and a fruitful Gardening New Year. Cheerio for now.

TOM, Busy Bee.



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BOXING CLEVER

Local Amateur boxer Dave Newman, 16, of Grove Road, Totley is preparing for his first bout with The Parson Cross A.B.C. Mick Otter who is also local and his coach, remarked "Dave has a certain amount of natural ability and with the correct training could go to the top".

Dave joins club mates Robert Brown who is the current junior A.B.A. National Middleweight Champion and multi titled Michael Burberry.

The Boxing Club is situated in the grounds of Mancel School in Parson Cross. Mick Otter has been a trainer there for 8 years and has a squad of 40 boxers ranging from 11 years to 35 years old.

The club is not only a boxing establishment; it is a meeting place for youngsters. With strict anti drugs rules Mick said "We do not charge subs which is the only club in Britain to do so, we rely on sponsorship and club shows to keep our head above water, and if we keep just one lad off the streets and away from the temptation of drugs we have achieved something".

The Parson Cross A.B.C. is open 6 days a week and any one interested in joining or sponsoring our elite squad of highly skilled boxers, should contact Mick Otter on 07979 372347



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FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

DECEMBER 10 and 11th.

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Conductor: John Wade.

Organist: Paul Green.

Venue and Time: St John's Church, Abbeydale, 7.30pm.

Tickets: £5.00 and £4.00 (Senior Citizens/Students).

Availability: 0114 236 0820, 01246 415778

or via members or at the door.

Proceeds in aid of the Sheffield Junior Steelers Wheelchair Basketball Association based at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield.

SANTAS SPECIAL

11th & 12th December

11am to 3.30pm

Owing to its success in previous years, Santa's Special will run on two days in 1999 - Sat 11th & Sun 12th December. Steam train rides, refreshments & Santa Claus!

Come and
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FARMING SCENE

The Common Market is again being brought into disrepute by the antics of national governments, seeking to protect their producers, and ultimately to retain their votes and themselves in office. The British Government was recently fined £80 million for illegally protecting our fishing industry, while the French and German politicians are busy protecting their beef farmers. This is all very good "knockabout, soundbite" politics but as in every other sphere now, a change or failure in political policy can have serious consequences for any industry. The recent food scares in France and Belgium illustrate that there are still "cowboy" operators about, whose actions in contaminating farmers feed supplies can cause serious financial damage to the industry, as well as consumer confidence.

Many supermarkets seem to be driven by the cost/profit motive, which means they source their products from wherever is cheapest irrespective of the country of origin or the system used. This undermines their "promotional" hype which promotes the quality/safety of their product sales.

Many people are now turning to much more expensive organic produce thinking that this must be more nutritious and safer. My own opinion is that it is no more nutritious than conventionally grown food, and although less intensive methods may be used, certain pesticides, veterinary products and anti-biotics are still used which rather undermines the clean image.

Further just as there are cowboy operators in the conventional sector, there will also be some in the organic sector, particularly if labelling a product "organic" doubles its sale value.

Many farmers, particularly those in livestock and milk production, are now considering going organic. There is a 3 to 4 year conversion period before any products can be legally marketed as organic, with no guarantee that the current sale value provision will be obtainable at that time. This makes it a very risky business decision, with no certainty of success. The very fact that many farmers are already in the conversion stage indicates that organic production will be higher in 2 - 3 years time, with lower values and profit margins. Enough of the serious stuff! Yes, we have finished our cereal and potato harvests, with nationally, only about 5 % of the potato crop to gather in. Most of the autumn planted crops are now sown, although we still have 6 acres of wheat to plant in the fields where we had potatoes this year. Our new Hapil and Rhapsody strawberries are planted, and so all of our old redundant Blackcurrant bushes have been grubbed out. On the livestock side, the tups have been very busy, all the ewes should be in lamb by the time you read this. The turkeys are contentedly growing, and most of this year's lamb crop has been sold fat, with 27 retained for breeding next year.

We were unable to obtain our usual variety of sprout plants this year. Their replacements seem much later maturing than we were informed, but have much longer stems and therefore a higher number of sprouts on each stem. By the time you read this, they should be in full production.

The works on the 'Poly Site' are progressing with the demolition completed, the buildings have disappeared to be replaced by mountains of crushed rubble. These will no doubt disappear as the roads/houses are built, and the scenery will once again change. Two new foul and surface water pipes have been laid under Totley Hall Lane, from our farm to the bottom of the access road on Lowfield site. Three show homes are under construction, and should be nearly finished by the time you read this. The Old Hall looks somewhat

isolated and neglected now that the rest of Highfield has been cleared. Hopefully some restoration and improvement work will begin on this soon. As far as I know, today (Nov. 6th), no planning application has been lodged for Old Hall. The rest of the Highfield site is currently subject to a revised planning application with a view to altering the house layout. As yet no more plans are available so it seems no concrete proposals have been agreed by the planning department and David Wilson Homes. No date has been fixed either for this to be considered by the planning committee.

Edwin Pocock

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Planning Application for a Veterinary Hospital on the Garage Site - Baslow Road, Glover Road Corner - The Latest.

The first plans submitted have been rejected by the planning department.

The second set of plans still give cause for concern. There are no plans for the lower ground floor, which is to remain vacant for the time being. Parking is underestimated. The staff numbers given mean that the 17 parking spaces on the plan would be full. Estimated client numbers of 120 - 140 a day leaves a big problem, where will they park?

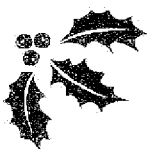
Traffic in the area has increased since the garage closed. A further increase in traffic and increased parking will add to the difficulties already experienced by those of us who live in this area.

Noise will still be a problem even with extra brickwork and double-glazing. Kennels for 16 dogs are in the plans. The cosmetic alterations will mean the look of the building will be greatly improved, this would be wonderful. There is no provision for the exercising of dogs or facilities for urination and defecation. It is not clear how animals that have been put to sleep will be taken to the locked storeroom without the residents seeing what is happening.

Totley Rise residents realise the garage is an eyesore and want something to be done with the site. The majority of us feel that a Veterinary Hospital is not suitable for a residential area.

The plans will be submitted, to the planning committee, some time in the near future, November 22nd and December 13th are possible dates.

Avril Critchley



EXTRA NEW DAY

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, New Years Day only officially became a Bank Holiday in 1974. In Scotland it has been a holiday since Public Holidays were

introduced in 1871.

Mike Williamson

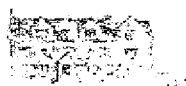
THIS MONTH'S SMILE:

A man was invited to a fancy dress party and went as a tortoise. When the host asked him what he was supposed to be he said "I'm a tortoise" so the host said "And who is that you have on your back"? the man answered "Oh! that's Michelle".

Anne O. Domini

Gilbert and Sullivan's **IOLANTHE**

with the
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This lively production from earlier this year is now available in a 2 CD set.

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Granny or Grandad Wanted

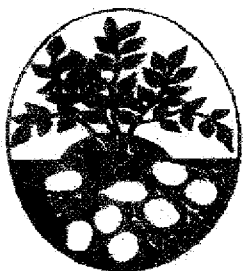
Lively and talkative Seven & a half year old only son of single mum, with no other family in U.K., wants time with loving granny or granddad in the Totley area, for stories, walks, chats and maybe occasional babysitting.
Tel 236-2302.

TOTLEY LIBRARY & CRAFT GROUP

On Friday November 26th a raffle organised by the Library and Craft Group raised £201 for **Children in Need**.

The first prize, donated by Mrs.M.Marsh, was a Bed Doll with a beautiful crocheted dress was won by T.Barron on a blue ticket number 456.

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PEAK TOWN STORY

Chapter 19 by Hugh Percival

John Winter, to his huge disappointment, saw nothing of Susan in the weeks following their outing apart from occasional lunch times at the cafe. He was now engrossed in his studies for the final examination and spent every evening and weekend in that occupation.

Granted a fortnight's study leave immediately before the examination he used that time to rest his mind, now fatigued by study and work at the office. He had completed his studies and felt confident enough to put his study-books aside while he went for walks in the countryside, listened to the wireless and read fiction, mainly Dickens.

In November he made his way to the examination centre in the same city as that for the intermediate examination two years earlier. Since his outing with Susan he had gained in confidence and approached the examination in a state of well-being.

John, unlike most of the candidates, had elected to take the two-part examination at one sitting spread over four days. The subjects were advanced accounts and bookkeeping, cost accounts, auditing, trust accounts, taxation, company law, general law and economics.

The invigilator, as officious as before, set the candidates on their way. John, revelling in the accounts paper, got off to a propitious start which enabled him to tackle the following papers with a growing confidence. On the fourth and final day fatigue set in but, with a supreme effort, he completed the examination.

Tired but optimistic, at the thought of a task diligently and honestly performed, he returned by bus over the Pennines to his lodgings.

One of John's first duties on his return was to attend the funeral of Mr. Russell. The Bishop had died in harness being discovered one Wednesday afternoon by Jim Ryan, an office boy. The clerk lay back in his chair before the fire in his first-floor office, eyes sightless staring at the ceiling.

John remembered him with affection. The Bishop may have been irreverent but the common touches were uppermost in John's mind. Asking for a cricket ball for his grandson when on audit at a sports club; a vocabulary of choice swear-words for every occasion; grunting when taking pains over his shaky handwriting; kindly advice on personal problems from time to time and nearly always a sense of humour evident.

The funeral service at the Parish Church was well attended by mourners wishing to pay their last respects. John was surprised to learn that Mr. Russell had been in regular attendance at the church, the vicar's eulogy being full of praise for the Bishop's sage counsel on a wide range of topics, including gardening, finance, cricket and football, campanology and hymns.

The service concluded with the strains of the organ to the hymn 'The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended', the choir and congregation in reverent harmony.

John, eyes moist, attended the committal proceedings in the cemetery where the body was laid to rest amid emotional scenes, the Bishop's daughter, son-in-law and grandson being the chief but not the only mourners.

Many an ordained Bishop would be pleased to accept a similar farewell full of tears and praise for a life spent to the full.

A few days later Alan Brown, promoted to office manager on the demise of Mr. Russell, allocated the audit of Preston and Hyde, solicitors, to John Winter.

John's assistant, Roger Heath, was an articled clerk of an amiable disposition, small, slim, blue-eyed and fair-haired. They arrived at the client's offices a little distance from the

city-centre, on a cold, misty December morning. They were welcomed in a broad local dialect by a mature, silver-haired, bespectacled gentleman of old-world demeanour.

The Dickensian furniture in the gloomy main office comprised a solid mahogany desk where the mature gentleman had been working and an elongated sloping wooden desk where the two auditors were to work. The mature gentleman had the use of an old wooden armchair with cushion and the two auditors were to sit on upright chairs. A large safe lay in one corner of the room and there were wooden filing-cabinets and shelves packed with dusty files of papers, many tied with red tape. The floor was covered in dark-green linoleum and the only warmth came from an electric radiator set in the middle of the floor.

"I suppose you are to start with the journal" remarked the mature gentleman abruptly.

"Of course, Mr. Dexter" replied John Winter. "And we will also begin with the client's account bank statements, I think"

Mr. Dexter produced the required documents and the two auditors commenced the reconciliation of the client's bank account. The columnar journal, the main bookkeeping source, had been written up in an immaculate copperplate hand, that of the aforesaid Mr. Dexter, the solicitor's clerk and chief employee.

"The main object of the audit, Roger, is to give a report under the Solicitors Accounts Rules" John Winter advised his assistant. "One of the main provisions of these rules is that clients' monies shall be kept in a separate bank account"

At eleven o'clock Mr. Dexter went out to the bank the two auditors took a break, there being no sign of coffee or other refreshment.

"Of course, Preston and Hyde are a fairly small firm of solicitors" John remarked to his assistant. "The main sources of income are from conveyancing, leases, drafting wills, administration of deceased's estates, will trusts and settlements of various kinds. I believe they are little involved with contentious litigation"

"Must be quite interesting work" observed the articled clerk.

"Yes - and no doubt quite well remunerated" John said.

Mr Dexter returned from the nearby bank to find them immersed in their duties.

In the afternoon, after lunch of sandwiches and cups of tea, the atmosphere became more relaxed and Mr. Dexter, in his brusque way, recounted incidents from his career and life.

"One of my earliest memories is of being taken as an infant to see Queen Victoria opening the town hall" the solicitor's clerk remarked after an interlude in the conversation.

"Sixty three years on the throne - a record for the s English monarchy" John announced thereby showing his keen interest in history.

"Yes, a grand lady" Mr Dexter remarked in reverential tones.

"I remember the state funeral when she died. Mourners from the far-flung empire. An occasion not to be forgotten easily".

The audit continued for several days at the end of which John Winter decided to issue a clean report under the Solicitors' Accounts Rules.

"This job must be a piece of cake to yourselves" Mr. Dexter remarked on the last afternoon.

"Not quite" John demurred with a smile. "We have to make use of our auditing skills obtained after much study and practical experience. However, I must compliment you on the model books of account, their accuracy and the beautiful handwriting. They make our job easier and more enjoyable".

"Thank you very much" replied the solicitors' clerk in a voice full of pride. "I am one of the last of the old school. Soon you

will find such writing a thing of the past".

"You are quite right, Mr. Dexter" observed John. "I have worked on other solicitors' books where the handwriting is commonplace. Eventually, I suppose, most of the records will be produced on accounting machines".

Mr. Dexter shuddered at the thought "Fortunately that will not effect me. I retire shortly".

"I'm sorry to hear that", said John. "I shall miss the benefits of your vast experience and expertise as well as your copperplate handwriting of course".

"Thank you Mr. Winter. I appreciate your kind remarks. I trust that your examination results will be satisfactory. I am sure they will be" Mr. Dexter replied.

The two auditors shook the solicitors' clerk warmly by the hand and returned to Smith Square.



"WE SHOULD NIP AROUND TOTLEY
MORE QUICKLY THIS YEAR RUDOLPH
NOW THE COLLEGE HAS GONE!"



THE 'M' SONG

On December 31st we'll all be singing it
(even more so with the Millennium).
But will we be singing it correctly?
Probably not!

We Sassenachs insist on singing "For the sake of Auld Lang Syne". There is no "the sake of" in the words, simply "For Auld Lang Syne".

A translation of the words means Old Long Since or Times Long Past. This song is always incorrectly credited to Robert Burns as composer.

It became exceedingly popular when Burns re-worked it in 1787. However, printed versions had already appeared previously in 1711 and 1724.

Mike Williamson

I drink to make other people interesting

Sheffield Youth Theatre comes to Totley!

Sheffield Youth Theatre was founded in 1977 by Meg Jepson at the direction of Sheffield Education Authority. So you may already know a young person who has taken part in at least one of its productions.

The main purpose of the Youth Theatre has always been to help children to explore drama through existing texts of plays or through creating new texts from old classic stories. The Youth Theatre is more than 'just a drama group' that puts on plays and offers young people a valuable hobby or a career prospect. It is a way of learning and experiencing that draws out of young people all the good old-fashioned characteristics that many people feel are lost in today's society.

The production companies are formed from workshops when often a hundred or more children join for two or three days to explore the text. They work in two large airy rooms at the top of the Victoria Hall in the city centre, which are given freely for their use by the Methodist Church. From these workshops a group of children commit themselves to become the Company for the next play.

Every year there are two productions, the summer one of which is always a Shakespeare play. Since 1977 the Youth Theatre has performed fourteen of Shakespeare's plays in a variety of venues, including open air performances in places like Whirlow Park, Chatsworth House gardens and the grounds of Sheffield Manor Castle. In recent years the Shakespeare play has been performed in the main house of the Crucible Theatre as part of the Children's Festival.

From the summer workshops old stories have been recreated for a performance to be mounted during the winter months. These productions have drawn from many sources including the Bible, the myths of Ancient Greece, the romances of the Native Americans, and the great Victorian novels.

All are works that have shaped our civilisation and are endangered by ignorance. They live through telling and retelling, through hearing and rehearing.

This winter's production is a play devised by Meg Jepson based on the Arthurian legends and myths drawn from all over the world. King Arthur, the legends say, will come again to Britain when he is most needed. He will return with his sword Excalibur to fight for right, for honour and for truth." Chosen especially to take the Youth Theatre into the Millennium, the play will tour local schools before opening at the Merlin Theatre on December 20th. and 21st, continuing in January with a performance in the Upper Chapel, Norfolk Street. There is also to be a local performance on the afternoon of Saturday January 8th. at All Saints' Church Hall starting at 2 p.m. So if you prefer not to be out after dark, why not come along and enjoy an inspirational play, followed by refreshments in comfort.

For tickets and further information, contact Catherine Wrigglesworth (Tel:2368577). If you require transport Catherine will try, to arrange this too.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the Sheffield Youth Theatre in a local venue.



JINGLE BELLS

They say it never snows in Savannah, Georgia.
So why would anyone who lived there write a song about dashing through the snow on a one horse open sleigh?

Well that's what James L. Pierpont did in 1850, when he wrote 'Jingle Bells'. And we haven't stopped singing it since.
Mike Williamson

IN COMMEMORATION OF A LIFE: NON-RELIGIOUS FUNERAL CEREMONIES

The death of someone close to you.

The death of someone close is a difficult experience for any of us. We may know that time will eventually soothe the worst extremes of grief, but we may still feel overwhelmed by it when it happens to us.

Funerals without religion

A funeral should help people to express and share their sadness, and provide an opportunity for those close to the person who has died, to give mutual comfort.

For some people, this means a ceremony with a religious theme to it, but for a growing number of people, especially those who have lived their lives without the need for religion, such a ceremony may seem inappropriate, even insincere. For these people, the ceremony is more likely to have warmth and meaning if it is of the kind provided by a Humanist officiant.

Those Humanists who make themselves available to carry out funeral ceremonies come from a variety of backgrounds. What they share is the ability to help families and friends deal with the experience of bereavement. They can ask the right questions, listen sympathetically, and give advice about the ceremony, based on the wishes of the deceased and the family.

The ceremony

Whatever the circumstances, a Humanist officiant will work with you to plan a personal and dignified funeral and conduct it on the day if that is your wish.

It will be based on information gained during a meeting with you, to discuss your wishes and the wishes of the deceased. Since each ceremony is unique, it is important that it reflects the whole of the person's life. Friends or members of the family may need to deliver a personal tribute, or to have the officiant read it. They may wish to contribute a favourite poem or text that has special significance.

Music

Music is a powerful medium, appealing to many emotions and memories. Most establishments have facilities for playing music from a variety of sources and the officiant will be able to advise on what is appropriate.

What might other people think? There is nothing in a Humanist funeral that would cause offence to anybody. It is first and foremost a celebration of a life. It also provides some reflection on the nature of grief and loss. Finally it encourages those present to focus their attention on the person who has died and to commit his or her life to their memory.

What if I want a Humanist Funeral myself?

If you are considering the arrangements for your own eventual funeral, you should ensure that

whoever is likely to organise it is aware of your wishes. Remember that your will may not be read immediately and so may not be a suitable place to set out your wishes in this respect.

Some practical points.

Humanists are subject to a Code of Conduct, covering such matters as appropriate dress and the conduct of the meeting with the family.

Although Humanist officiants have built up a great deal of experience at this work, they do not do this on a full-time basis. Many of them do other work. It is therefore advisable to contact a Humanist officiant as soon as possible after a decision is made to have a Humanist ceremony.

The officiant will normally receive a standard fee, as for a minister of religion. The Funeral Director will deal with this and include it with the bill under "disbursements".

All Funeral Directors should be able to provide the name of Humanist officiants in your area.

Who are Humanists?

Humanists are people who care about moral issues, but from a position that does not relate to any kind of religion. We believe that humanity must seek and find its own solutions to the great problems of life and not depend on the supernatural.

Humanist Officiants in the Sheffield area and North Derbyshire

Frank Abel Sheffield 0114 2720404

Mike Granville Sheffield 0114 2309754

Bill McIlroy Sheffield 0114 2509127

Barry Johnson Chesterfield 01246 270628

Leaflets on Humanist funerals are available from Bill McIlroy, 11, Southview Road, S7, or from any funeral director.

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Saturday January 22nd. 2000, 11-00a.m. at the Headquarters. Jumble can be stored so if you have any please contact Peter Casson (Tel. No. 236 3881) or John Lawry (Tel.

No. 236 8566) Jumble will be set up on Friday evening before the sale from 7-00p.m. to 8-00p.m.

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PEAK TOWN STORY Chapter 20 by Hugh Percival

Christmas was now at hand. At lunchtime on Christmas Eve partners and staff of Dilks & Sons assembled at the Yellow Lion for a seasonal celebration. The well-lit bar-rooms, nicely decorated with streamers and balloons and warmed with open fires, were crowded with revellers wishing to participate in the festivities.

John Winter waited his turn at the bar to buy drinks for Alan Brown, Mr. Salmon and Daphne Kline. On being served after a delay he jostled his way through the throng with the tray of refreshment to join his colleagues.

Mr. Salmon, pipe in mouth adding to the smoke-ridden atmosphere, claimed his pint of bitter. He removed the pipe for a moment and called out in jovial tones "A merry Christmas to all". The others cheerfully acknowledged his greeting.

"I suppose you will be off to Leyside in the New Year, Mr. Salmon" John said after taking a drink from his pint of bitter.

"Of course. I am sorry you will not be there this time" replied the senior audit clerk.

"Yes. I enjoyed my previous visits very much indeed", said John.

"Particularly the theatre - Eh John" Mr. Salmon remarked with much enthusiasm.

"Yes and the cinema as well - and the games of cricket" replied John.

"And the meals at the White Dragon" Daphne Kline joined in.

"They are excellent, I agree" Alan Brown remarked in between taking draughts of his beer. "Leyside was a second home for me for half of the year when I was there".

"The Floss when in full flow - what a sight!" exclaimed Daphne.

"And nights at the bar talking about the theatre to Adrian Barkshire" enthused Mr. Salmon.

"I rarely went to bed before four o'clock" remarked Alan Brown. "Nearly got engaged once to Nancy the receptionist

"She's married now with a young child" Daphne Kline advised.

"Yes. I had heard" replied Alan Brown. "I'll get some more drinks. What will you have?"

Daphne asked for a Pym's No. 1, Mr. Salmon and John Winter for pints of bitter.

"Did you really see a ghost at Leyside, Alan?" asked John Winter when the office manager had returned with the drinks.

"I did" Alan Brown stated categorically. "It was on a dark, cold evening in January. You know how cold Leyside gets in the winter. I had just returned to the hotel after finishing the day's audit at Russells. I was walking down an ill-lit corridor on the first floor - and there walking in front of me down the corridor was a misty figure in Elizabethan costume, doublet and hose, ruff and all. I rubbed my eyes in disbelief. The figure turned and walked through the closed door of a bedroom out of sight. A cold spasm ran down my spine. I shivered" Alan told his story with such conviction as to impress his sceptical listeners. He continued "I went over to the bedroom door and tried the knob. It was locked. I had not heard a key turn in the lock. Had I imagined the entire incident? Surely not. Was I drunk? Definitely not. I had not touched a drop of alcohol since the previous evening. I had heard tales of a mysterious apparition in the hotel. John Watson, the landlord, told me sightings were a regular occurrence. Adrian Barkshire had also seen the figure several times. He even had a name for him - Sir Anthony - an Elizabethan knight who had been stabbed to death in the inn in a dispute over a reckoning. Oh yes. I saw a ghost all right. - no doubt about it

John Winter remarked "A very convincing story, Alan. However, to be frank, I shan't believe in ghosts until I see one myself".

"I was sceptical myself before this incident - but never afterwards" replied Alan Brown. "I have heard tales of other sightings" The office manager then proceeded to give instances of other reports of ghostly sightings that, although not witnessed by himself, supported his belief in the supernatural.

The others remained sceptical and the conversation changed to other subjects.

"There was an interesting article in the Evening News the other night", remarked John Winter casually.

"What about John?" asked Mr. Salmon.

"It concerned the city police force and gave details of a typical hour in the work of the force" replied John. "One item of particular interest had it that sightings of 27 suspicious-looking characters had been reported. A remarkably low figure, I thought".

"Indeed" agreed Mr. Salmon with a laugh. "Where were you at the time?"

"I was out of sight in the office not venturing to fetch my sandwiches until 12 o'clock as usual" replied John with a laugh. "Harold Bottomley was away on audit in the deep south at the time. Where the partners were I cannot say". Boisterous laughter followed these remarks and enlivened the proceedings somewhat.

"I understand you have been given a silver salver by the partners to mark 25 years service with the firm" John remarked to Mr. Salmon.

"Yes indeed" replied the senior auditor. "Mr. Dilks, when making the presentation, remarked that I had worked at the office for 25 years. I admitted that I had certainly been there for that length of time. Mr. Dilks neatly commented that he had not liked to make that distinction on this occasion

"Very neat indeed" agreed Alan Brown as an outburst of laughter rang out from those within earshot.

John Winter, in the interests of levity, casually said "Harold Bottomley is a one-off" (The senior audit clerk's jovial figure stood prominently in a boisterous group in the middle of the bar-room) "Mr. Dilks said the same thing on hearing that Harold had been fined for speeding down Bank Lane in the rush-hour"

Hysterical laughter followed, the road in question being a notorious bottleneck near to the office and Mr. Bottomley well known for his caution when driving.

"Anyway, Harold is unique" agreed Daphne Kline when the laughter had subsided.

The scenes of merriment were infectious. On the other side of the crowded barroom Mr. Dilks, having imbibed several glasses of whisky, armed himself with a sprig of mistletoe and proceeded to kiss any female in his vicinity. This applied whether or not the victim was a member of the firm's staff and led to hysterical laughter from some surprised participants.

Bernard Manning, after drinking several gin-and-its, sang a solo of 'Good King Wenceslas' in his high-pitched voice much to the delight and amusement of his neighbours. Encouraged by this reception the partner then, as an encore, recited a monologue, in the style of Stanley Holloway, about an accountant and how he allocated his time.




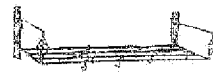
Most of the staff and partners stayed in the barroom until closing time at three o'clock when there was a general dispersal homewards following reluctant though convivial farewells.

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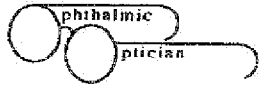
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TUESDAYS.	COFFEE MORNING , Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon. CRAFT GROUP , Totley Library, 2pm. LADIES EXERCISE TO MUSIC , All levels, United Reformed Church, 10-30 to 12-00pm. Tel. 2359298
WEDNESDAYS.	COFFEE IN THE LIBRARY , 10am. to 11-30am. MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING , All Saints Church Hall, 8-00pm. To 10-00pm AMERICAN LINE DANCING , United Reformed Church, 8-00pm. to 9-30pm. Tel. 2359298
THURSDAYS.	OPEN DOOR , United Reformed Church, 10 am to noon. PUSHCHAIR CLUB , Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1-30pm. To 3-00pm. Tel. 236 3157 for further information.
FRIDAYS	AMERICAN LINE DANCING , United Reformed Church, 1-00pm. to 3.00pm. Tel. 2359298 TOTLEY TOTS , Baby & Toddler Group. 1-30-3-00pm. Wizz Kids Preschool Building, Totley Primary School Contacts Julie 2350839, Lucy 01246 470971, Alison 2364316.
SATURDAYS.	MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING , All Saints Church Hall, 2 nd . & 4 th . Saturdays 7-30pm. To 10-00pm

DECEMBER

MON. 6th. SHEFFIELD BACH SOCIETY CONCERT. Messiah. Sheffield Cathedral 7-00pm. Full details inside.

WED. 8th. WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 8-00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight (in the Church)

FRI/SAT. 10/11th. JOHN WADE SINGERS. St. John's Church, 7-30 pm. Full details inside.

MON. 13th. SHEFFIELD BACH SOCIETY Come and sing Messiah, Dore Parish Church. 7-30 pm. Details inside.

TUES 14th. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. "Christmas is coming" Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom 2-30pm.

TUES. 14th. LEONARD CHESHIRE HOME, Loxley Silver Band 7-00pm. Tel. Jackie Short. 236 7491 for further details

THUR. 16th. DORE MALE VOICE CHOIR Christmas Concert, Dore Parish Church 7-30 pm. Tickets £5. for the Dore School Rooms Fund Raising Committee. Tickets & further details telephone 236 4367.

TUES. 21st. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 10am Pre Christmas get together.

WED. 22nd. LEONARD CHESHIRE HOME. John Hanning & Friends, Musical Entertainment, 7-00 pm. Tel. Jackie Short. 236 7491 for further details

JANUARY

TUES. 4th. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom 2-30pm New Year Party, Husbands welcome

SAT. 8th. SHEFFIELD YOUTH THEATRE. All Saints Church Hall. 2pm. Full details inside.

WED. 12th. WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP. Millenium "Out of the Hat" . Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 8-00 p.m.

SAT. 15th. MILLENIUM CONCERT. Octagon Centre, Sheffield. For LEONARD CHESHIRE HOME, full details inside.

TUES. 18th. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am "Monuments and Memorabilia" Mr. D. Lamb.

TUES. 18th. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom 2-30pm Devotional, Rev. J.R. Thompson

WED. 26th. WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP. "Stained Glass", by Sheila Cooper Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 8-00 p.m.

THE INDEPENDENT FEBRUARY

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st. 2000.**

Copy date for this issue will be **SATURDAY 15th. JANUARY 2000.**

EDITORS Les. & Dorothy Firth, 6, Milldale Road, Tel. No. 236 4190

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



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