

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY THE TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1977

FEBRUARY 2005

No. 280

15p.



It is thought that this picture was taken in 1913 or 1914. The wickerwork on the sidecars was not seen generally after 1918, when coach built jobs were normal. It is believed that the car on the extreme right is a Lancaster and next to it an American-built Buick.

Brian Edwards

VIEW FROM KES (6)

THE NEW KING ECBERT SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE MOVE

The building work is progressing well and is on schedule. It is anticipated that most of the work on the building (construction, services, decorating and fitted furniture) will be completed by the beginning of March. The new building will be ready to move into over the Easter holiday. When we return in April, there will still be a lot of work to do. The two old buildings (Wessex and Mercia) will be demolished, and the work on the new site will be completed - pitches and courts, play areas, car parking and landscaping. This should all be complete by the end of 2005.

We are often asked what will happen to the Mercia site. The building will be demolished and the land will be sold for housing development. This has always been part of the City Council's long-term planning arrangements. Building will only take place on the existing 'footprint' of the Mercia site. The playing fields will remain for school use and will not be developed.

We have been getting to know the new building through numerous site visits, and we will continue to do this during the coming term so we are familiar with it when we move in. Pupils will be shown pictures and plans in assemblies to help familiarise them with the layout of the new school, and they will have an induction session as part of the 'phased return' in April.

The whole PFI (Private Finance Initiative) process has taken enormous amounts of time, particularly on the part of the Headteacher and Senior Staff. Governors have also been closely involved in the development, with a sub-committee working on financial and facilities management aspects. When we move in, the buildings will be managed and maintained by a facilities management company called 'Mitie PFI'. They will be responsible for the day to day caretaking, maintenance and cleaning of the buildings, together with operating the dining facilities. They will also have the use of the facilities for private lettings out of school hours. We have already begun to meet with Mitie to plan how we will work together. It is important to note that Mitie's proposals for things such as catering and lettings must be approved by the Headteacher and Governors.

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We have managed to secure considerable funding to provide additional equipment for the new school that would not ordinarily be included in a PFI school. Governors have authorised the expenditure of around £400k on new ICT equipment (computers, scanners, plasma screens, inter-active whiteboards, software, etc). This is additional to our existing provision, some of which will transfer to the new school. Around £200k is being spent on the infrastructure including an IP based telephone system. The ICT network will be a wireless system with fast broadband internet access. Most classrooms will have an interactive whiteboard and most departments will have a computer room of their own (smaller departments will share one). This is in addition to four dedicated ICT rooms. There will be a full-sized sports hall in addition to a large gym with excellent provision for outside sports, including an all-weather surface. There will be a well-equipped drama studio, and the music rooms will include a recording studio.

We truly believe that the new school will be one of the best equipped schools in the country.

We have set up two working groups to deal with the planning and preparation required for the move. One, headed by myself, is dealing with issues to do with physically moving from the existing buildings to the new school. All furniture and fittings will be new, but teaching resources (books, stationery, equipment etc.) has to be transferred. This involves inventorying and packing everything, moving it to the new building and then unpacking. If you think about all the hassles involved in moving house, think about what a massive undertaking moving a whole school will be!

Once we have moved in we will have to get used to new routines. The move will be an opportunity to look at many of our policies and procedures. Mr Eldridge is heading a group looking into all aspects of our operations in the new building. This will include such matters as lunchtime arrangements, timings of the day, lesson change-overs, how pupils circulate, as well as wider issues such as the aims, objectives and ethos of the school. This group will involve governors, parents and pupils.

When we are settled into the new school we intend to have open evenings where we can show the new facilities to parents and the wider community. We also intend to have an official opening when the whole project is completed - this event is likely to be around February 2006, and will be coordinated with Hinde House, the other school in the project.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

During the last few weeks of term we raised money for a local charity – HARC (Homeless and Rootless at Christmas). HARC provides shelter, food and friendship for people in Sheffield who have no home over the Christmas and New Year period (this help is also extended throughout the year). The Christmas Concert was held early in December, following a weekend residential for the orchestra, which provided intensive tuition and rehearsals for many of our musicians (and some from our local primary schools). The concert was without doubt the best that we have had, with the range and standard of music being excellent. If you weren't there, you missed a real treat - so look out for tickets for the summer concerts in July!

On the last Tuesday of term pupils from Y7-Y9 ran a variety of stalls at the 'Christmas Cracker'. The idea of this event is to allow pupils to take responsibility for organising fundraising stalls (sideshows, games, sales of homemade food etc.) and to have fun at the same time. Staff also raised money through a raffle and a 'Colleagues' Christmas Card' – instead of sending

individual cards, staff made a donation and gave one card for a staffroom display of seasonal greetings.

As a result of these events we raised over £700 which we have presented to a representative of HARC in a Y7 assembly.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Following enrolment at the start of September we now have a number of Adult Education classes running in school. These classes take place every Thursday evening. At the moment we have: Italian, Greek, Spanish, First Aid and ICT classes running. Unfortunately the demand for Asian cooking classes dropped off, although it is hoped we can kick-start this course again, maybe after Easter.

When we move into the new school building in April this is an area we really want to develop further and Sheffield College are keen to use us. We shall keep you informed of any further developments in this area.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

The school was recently awarded 'Investor in People' status. At King Egbert School we have always recognised the importance of having highly skilled and well trained staff (teaching and support) and have invested a great deal of time, effort and money to ensure that this is the case. This belief in the importance of staff development is essential if we are to ensure that the quality of Teaching and Learning remains of the highest standard. The Investors in People award is external recognition of the good work that we do in this area.

If you have any questions to put to me or any comments to make, could you write to me at King Egbert School, Totley Brook Road, Dore, S17 3QU

Thank you

Sean McClafferty

Deputy Headteacher i/c Community and Technology College Status.

Totley Allotments

Can any of your older and wiser readers than I, confirm or otherwise, the 1945 date ascribed to the cover photograph of your November 2004 issue? The photograph was clearly taken in high summer and yet the allotments appear not to have been cultivated for some time. An aerial photograph taken by 138 squadron RAF on 20 December 1945 shows the allotments in full cultivation. I presume that they continued in substantive use until, at least, the end of rationing in 1954. The air raid shelters were still present but, the field largely untended in March 1967, when the RAF took another photograph of the area. Also, in the background of the cover photo, on Baslow Road, the tall concrete lamp standards are visible. I do not know and cannot tell when these were erected but I suspect that it would have been in the early 1960s. They are not on the 1945 aerial photograph and the 1967 one was taken at too high an altitude to tell if they were present or not. Am I mistaken? Is 1965 a more likely date?

RSPCA Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the supply of tinned and packet food for the cats and dogs at Spring Street over the past year. Also, Mr Jones, Manager of our local Co-op, and Totley Library, for allowing collection points. We have been very well supported this past year and the Shelter and the animals have been very grateful for all given. Best wishes to all our friends, please do continue your support. D Styles.

Whisperer

Heavy Lorries are to be banned from using the B6054 through Holmesfield as from the beginning of March; a petition was signed by about 600

residents because of children walking to school. The designated route between Sheffield and Chesterfield is via the A621 and A619 and to the M1 is via the A621 through Totley to the ring Road, as if we do not have enough Heavy lorries on Baslow Road and we have children going to two schools. Planning Applications for a two-storey rear extension and alterations to 1st and 2nd floors to form a flat at the pharmacy at 43 – 45 Baslow Road, also a two-storey rear extension to a shop at 63, Baslow Road, have been submitted to the council. SEASONS. Gallery. Gifts and Café finally opened on Abbeydale Road South just before Christmas after delays. The café was due to open around mid January.



Transport 17

I hope that 2005 will be a happy and healthy one for all of you.

Many thanks for all the cakes, sweets and cards, etc., that we were given at Christmas. We look forward to transporting many people again this year.

Springtime should, hopefully, see us taking delivery of a new bus. This will replace the Renault and will mean that all 3 of our blue buses are Volkswagens. We make sure that they all have seat belts, tail lifts and sliding doors. Wheelchairs can also be clamped down.

Dore Village Society donated £250 to us. This will be used for wheelchair webbing restraints and priority start battery devices. We appreciate this and all donations very much.

We are having trouble with staffing again. Our drivers and escorts have ups and downs like all of us. We service over 30 clubs every week, working all over Sheffield, not just in the S17 area. Our staff also travel various distances before they even get to our office in Baslow Road, Totley.

Could you give a day to us? It is very interesting work and keeps you fit. Ring Mike Finn or John Savournin on 236 2962 if you would like to come along and see for yourselves what it entails.

Ken Parkin, one of our escorts, was taken ill just before Christmas. We wish him well and send our best wishes to him and his wife Sheila.

We were very sad to lose Victor Copp. He was a passenger and great friend to Transport 17 over the years – a true gentleman. We send our love and prayers to Gwen and all the family.

Take care.

Margaret Barlow



Fun and Friends

115th Dore and Totley URC Beavers currently have vacancies for boys aged from 6 to 8 years

We meet on Tuesdays from 6.15 to 7.15 pm
Activities include crafts, games and visits

If interested please phone Jeanne Clark on 2367390

Outreach Advice Sessions at Totley Rise Methodist Church

Have you ever needed a bit of help or advice? Struggling to manage your finances? Wondering what benefits you might be entitled to claim? Problems with your housing? Woodseats Advice Centre is here to help. We are now providing a drop-in advice session at Totley Rise Methodist Church every Tuesday morning from 10:00am until 12:00 noon.

We offer free, confidential, and impartial advice to members of the public on a wide range of issues including benefits, debt, consumer, employment, housing, Pension Credit, disability and more.

Woodseats Advice Centre is based on Chesterfield Rd. in the centre of Woodseats. Our aim is to inform people of their rights and-assist them, where necessary, to access those rights. We are committed to promoting equal opportunities.

We are very keen to promote our new outreach session at Totley because at the moment there is not an advice centre in the area. Please come along to our drop-in session and see if we can help. We welcome all enquiries- if your query is outside of our area of knowledge we can refer you to another appropriate agency in the city.

Sally Wakeley

Woodseats Advice Centre

Woodseats Advice Centre has been running **free** advice sessions since the beginning of last September. They are held at Totley Rise Methodist every Tuesday (10-12 noon), giving advice on welfare benefits, consumer problems, disability issues, pensions, housing, etc. The sessions have proved popular with a steady number of people taking advantage of the service. Up to now funding has been provided by Totley Rise Methodist and Woodseats Advice Centre. Unfortunately this only covers the sessions to the end of March 2005. Financial assistance is urgently needed. If you can help in any way please contact Rev Chris Kirk (236-3157) or Sue Auckland at WAC (258-4384). Lets do all we can to keep this worthwhile service going. Thanks!

Rev Chris Kirk

FRANCIS FIELDS

Reading the article on Totley Allotments brought back memories of the days when we had the plot directly opposite the steep entrance from Baslow Road, next to Aaron Atherton. My husband, Gerry Styles, took early retirement in 1978 and enjoyed rejuvenating the semi-derelict plot with paths etc., although hard work it paid off, and the lovely view over the fields to the moors was an added bonus. The lack of water was, as mentioned, a problem, and my husband had discussion with the Allotments Department with a view to getting water laid on. They insisted no water would be installed unless every tenant agreed to pay the additional charge, which was about 50% extra to the annual rental, and they were doubtful that all would agree. They were surprised when my husband was able to persuade everyone to agree, and water was duly installed in about 1983/4. Two standpipes were put in, which was a great improvement on the old "well" which apart from running dry in summer when most needed, also contained numerous weed seeds, most unwelcome when watered onto your plot!

Deirdre Styles

FARMING SCENE

Hard winter? What hard winter? Stormy weather, high winds and rain but no sustained periods of frost or snow. Sounds like what is now a 'normal' weather pattern. We have just returned from a 10 day holiday in Brixham, Devon to find the temperature maybe 2 degrees lower here than there, but otherwise a very similar weather pattern. It is so mild in fact that we are considering putting our Dorset flock with their lambs back out into the fields. This would save on bedding costs and give them some nice fresh grass to eat. Murphy's law would however come into play and sure enough the day after they went out it would start to snow and snow and snow! Maybe we will leave them in until the end of February when our first Texel flock is due to come in ready for the start of our spring lambing session.

Sunbeam and Starlight are now back out in the fields at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane, and have been joined by Spirit, our new Donkey. Spirit has come to us from a farmer in Shropshire where he has been spending his winters for the last 4 or 5 years. During the summers he has been giving donkey rides to children on the seashore at Blackpool. This has made him calm, used to being led, and very child friendly. Hence his new role of carrying Mary to Bethlehem in our nativity plays. This must seem like an early semi retirement to him, exchanging months of long hours on the beach for a few days and hours in a barn. There is always the possibility of using him here and locally in the summer to give rides at open days, shows etc. An interesting thought that.

Our 'Nativities' greatly increased in popularity this year with 18 performances for schools and another 20 for the general public, all within the 3 weeks prior to Christmas. Some 1800 children, parents and teachers either watched or dressed up and played a part during this period. By the comments we received from our visitors it would seem a good, enjoyable time was had by all including those who helped to stage these events. I must admit that both Jenn, who narrated the story each time, and myself (Father Christmas, shh!) were shattered by Christmas Eve and ready for a good rest. However, it was great to see the children really enjoying themselves as they joined in and also heard the real story of the meaning of Christmas, many for the first time. Poor old Father Christmas was late arriving on two occasions! He had to assist with two difficult lambings just at the wrong time! When combined with his other role of Christmas tree salesman, he surely was a busy man! Here again we enjoyed a surge in sales, nearly 100% up on last year with a near total clearance of our trees. Perhaps at this point I could say a hearty THANK YOU to all of you who either visited our nativity events or bought a tree from us last year.

Those of you who walk the footpaths across our fields will no doubt have noticed that we have changed our winter sheep feeding system now from small bale hay to round bale haylage. Haylage is grass that has nearly dried enough to be made into hay but still has some moisture in it and therefore has to be sealed in a black plastic wrapping to prevent it going mouldy. The benefits of this are fourfold:

- 1) It requires less drying time in the field and can therefore be made during a short period of good weather. This is very important during 'dodgy' summers like last years.
- 2) It can be stored outside in plastic wrap to shield it from the weather.
- 3) It requires less time and manual effort to feed this to the sheep. The system can be highly mechanised and one round bale of haylage contains the same amount of grass as ten bales of hay.

4) Most importantly, when correctly made, it is much more nutritious and palatable than hay so the sheep more readily eat and thrive on it. The downside of course is that our telehandler makes a right mess carrying the bales across wet fields to the racks. However, we are feeding the sheep on fields on fields that are going to be re seeded in the spring anyway so no great loss is really occurring.

We have now purchased our own round baler and wrapper so that, in theory at least, we should be able to make some top quality haylage for our sheep this year and hopefully do a bit of contracting for neighbouring farmers as well.

Edwin Pocock

TOTLEY WEATHER REPORT 2004

The most unusual thing about the weather that struck me in 2004 was the number of times the temperature stayed the same for 24 hours or more. This happened (during the colder months) 12 times, once it was the same for 48 hours or more. A contributory reason for the weather being warmer this year is the fact that some months were virtually free from winds in an eastern direction. Ten months had temperatures above average (July and October were cooler than average). The hottest day came on 8 August 28.8C Weston Park (WP) and 27C Totley (T) while the coldest night was 28 February -6C WP, Totley -5.5C T. The temperature rose from 2.5C to 8C overnight on 21 December. There were 7 days when the temperature did not rise above 0C. In Totley there were 28 nights of 0C or below and 64 days of 20C or over.

The driest spells were 10 days in May and 9 in December, all others were 6 days or less. There were 4 days when around an inch of rain fell with 2.2" falling on 9 August, the wettest day 77mm WP 55.5T. Despite this, the rain total for the year was 855.4mm WP from 210 days and 1100mm from 229 days. The average number of rainy days is 185 at WP and an average sunshine of 1380 hours. There were 1505.4 hours at WP this year. (The weather must have fluctuated endlessly this year!) In Totley there were 22 days of snow or lying snow while WP had 13. There were 6 days with thunderstorms in Totley and 5 at Weston Park. Mist/fog was present on 21 days in Totley and on 4 at Weston Park. I recorded 16 days with gales.

	TOTLEY	WESTON PARK
Rain for the year		
2004	1100mm	855.4mm
2003	792.2mm	591.8mm
2002	1320.6mm	1042.8mm
Wettest Day		
2004	55.5mm	77mm
2003	61.2mm	60.9mm
2002	63.8mm	50.9mm
Coldest Night		
2004	-5.5C	-6C
2003	-6C	-4.5C
2002	-9C	-6C
Hottest Day		
2004	27C	28.8C
2003	28C	31.4C
2002	27C	28.6C
Sun hours Weston Park only		
2004	1505.4	
2003	1640.6	
2002	1397.6	
	Vivien Filleul	

Look for that Cabin in the Sky

Access to the mountains has not been won easily and the keen hill walker must feel proud of the freedom gained for him by the efforts of The National Park networks. Every increasing agreements for further access have been negotiated with landowners in the High Peak to roam the areas of Kinder Scout, Bleaklow and Black Hill. Yet something is missing from the landscape of these wild uplands, simply the dwindling numbers of shooting cabins and shepherds' huts. These moors were once the domain of the grouse shooters and this popular sport in the last century housed many cabins and shooting boxes all across the Dark Peak area. As the demand for the sport decreased after the Second World War slowly the cabins fell to decline. Vandalism, weather and even sheep grazing took their toll of the huts and many structures had to be demolished due to dangerous walls and rooflines. The bylaws for behaviour on access land state that following "no person shall open or enter any shooting cabin, hut or other structure which is secured against entry". One solitary cabin is all that holds sentinel on the slopes of Kinder Scout. This fine "Jubilee" cabin stands bold and strong on the flanks of Ashop Moor above the woodlands valley. Kinder Scout once boasted the king of all the bothies namely the "four jacks" cabin along the Grindsbrook River. Many a stalwart rambler has sheltered from the changing elements or wrath of a gamekeeper behind these walls. The "four jacks" must have been builders and guardians of character. Alas this gem suffered from vandalism during the late 1940s. Gone also was the once immaculate "wood moor" cabin, often known as the "pagoda" this was situated on the slopes of Gateside Clough (sealedge northern flanks of Kinder). There used to be a grand little bothy under Fox Holes (Grindslow Knoll) with a spring fed stream flowing underneath. Golden Clough above the Grindsbrook track sited a fine stone built cabin shelter alas demolished around the year 1945. Plus in recent years the Black Ashop Cabin has fallen into decline. Woe betide you if gamekeeper Joe Townsend ever caught you within these environments. He patrolled the Fairbrook and Ashop Cloughs with real vigilance. Look around in the areas of Grindsbrook and Crowden and you will see numerous piles of stones where once sat proud cabins.

How many bog trotters can feel a tingle in their toes at the mere mention of Great and Little Crowden and Wrigleys cabin above the Longdendale Valley. Abbey Brook cabins (Upper Derwent Valley) Bullstones cabins (Broad Clough Head) with the clear adjacent "Lord Edward Howard" spring truly waters and nectar from the Gods. Remember the ruined shell of Banktop Farm above the Westend River. This is the country where Mr Fred Heardman (B.E.M) of Edale fame left his fondest memories. This great pioneer of the Dark Peak hills was affectionately known as "Bill the Bog Trotter" by the rambling fraternity back in the 1920s mine host to The Church Hotel and The Nags Head Inn at Edale. The latter hostelry was the first information centre for The Peak National Park in the 1950s. There is a plaque to his memory on the wooden footbridge at the start of the Cut Gate Track (Upper Derwent Valley). The Bleaklow uplands boasted many fine bothies such as Tor-Side along The Pennine Way route. The 2 wooden cabins at the foot of near Black Clough will be sorely missed. The 2 cabins at the head of Lower Small Clough were rebuilt in stone in 1951. These fine cabins which are square shaped are known as the round cabins, simply because originally they were metal huts built around 1920 and round in shape, over the years they rusted away from the harsh elements on these wind swept heights and will always be known as the round cabins.

Another great character that used to roam these hills was the late Harry Sorby. He hailed from the Crookes area of Sheffield. Almost every Sunday he would catch the 8.30 am bus from the Midland Station (Sheffield to Manchester bus) and head for the Bleaklow Hills. Enroute for his long hike across Edale he always cooked a stew dinner in the round cabins with his faithful primus stove. Truly a rambler of note I always called him the King of Bleaklow. I am sure he must have left a trail of curry powder from the Black Cloughs to Barrow Stones jokingly never forgotten by the fraternity. Hidden under the fold of Bradshaw Hill along the enchanting Mickledon Clough (Langsett Moors) you may stumble across the ruined shell of Tom's Bower (meaning shelter). Tom Crossley and Timothy Wainwright often rested here during the early 17th century while they shepherded their flocks on Midhope Common. Where the junction of tracks from Upper Midhope and The Flouch Inn meet on the windy heights of Mickleden Edge another secret cabin can be traced. This ancient bridleway over to the Upper Derwent Valley is known as "Cut Gate". Jossies cabin can be packed out 600 yards due east from the signpost on Mickleden Edge (locally titled Apple Pie Hill). Here the views are superb Jossie Sanderson constructed his outpost around the year 1690. One can only marvel as to how the heavy foundation stones were carried to this desolate spot. His grave can be traced to Midhopestones churchyard. These 2 shelters must hold claim to be amongst the earliest that were ever built in the Peak District hills.

When next the elements could catch you out on Bleaklow and per chance you run to cover to the round cabins or to the shelter of Oyster Clough cabin above the Snake Pass treat them with real respect. These last outposts could be lifesavers. Remember that grand old song classic by composer Vernon Duke "There's a cabin in the sky". The best version of this tune is by the blues singer Dinah Washington.

PS – Slight confusion with the round cabins, originally they were metal structures that rusted away over the years then rebuilt in square shaped stonework but will always be known as the round cabins.

John C Barrows

PUZZLE CORNER

I am indebted to Mr Robert Jackson for the following puzzle. I have suggested that anyone might consider submitting puzzles – I don't have a monopoly for them!
Don Ashford

Counting Camels.

A wealthy Sheikh who had lived in an oasis in the desert, died. When his solicitor read the will to the three surviving sons, they discovered all the Sheikh's possessions were to be divided so that the eldest son got a half, the second son a third and the youngest son a ninth. This seemed a fairer system than the eldest son inheriting all the estate, but it presented an immediate problem. Among the possessions were 17 camels, invaluable for life in the desert. How could the 17 be divided as the Sheikh wished without recourse to killing a camel? The solicitor, also a rich man, said he would add one of his own valuable camels. Now 18 camels could be shared, one half = 9, one third = 6 and one ninth = 2. However, 9+6+2 = 17, so the solicitor was able to take his camel back.

How is this explained?

LOST AND FOUND

With some trepidation I respond when someone asks the way.

I know the Peak District pretty well. However I am hazy about some areas of Sheffield; they are just labels on buses. Directions to Dore from Baslow Road is a simple task; provided the vehicle is not too large. It could be construed as anti-social behaviour to direct a large pantechnicon down Hillfoot Road and Old Hay Lane to Dore.

Occasionally I am able to give directions confidently and later reflect on my good deed for the day. Sometimes I give directions, the vehicle drives away and belatedly I recall that I have overlooked a junction or some other feature which means my information is totally misleading. Hopefully I don't meet the vehicle again! Or I am in the city centre, I know how to approach the required destination on foot but have no idea how to circumvent the one-way systems by car. My first thought is "I wouldn't start from here!"

Most embarrassing is when I am cleaning the car on the drive, I know the street requested is close. I suspect the enquirer knows it is close. And I cannot recall where it is.

The enquiry can raise awareness of some local place of interest previously unknown to the addressee. Once I was asked at Owler Bar for directions to the local stone circle. The motorcyclist was adamant that he was not looking for the Nine Ladies at Stanton Moor or the stone circle on Froggatt Edge or, my last attempt. Arbor Low. I admitted ignorance. Later, after referring to the Ordnance Survey map "White Peak Area" scale 1:25 000, I realised he would have been wanting to visit the stone circle a mile downstream of what was until recently Barbrook Reservoir on Big Moor. Near the circle is a notice exhorting visitors not to damage the antiquity and to respect the beliefs of others.

Writing of Owler Bar, many motorists unused to the roundabout appear to become completely disorientated by its length and shape. One summer a few years ago I did some stonewalling up there and it was the exception if no one stopped to ask or confirm the way at least once a day.

Recently a friend walking down Lane Head Road came across a van. The driver was obviously lost. His destination was Stoke. He had no map but a list of road numbers with the mileage between successive critical points on his journey. My friend helped reverse the van back onto Baslow Road, pointed out roughly where he was on the list, and sent him on his way reminding him that Owler Bar the next roundabout was approximately one-and a half miles away. As the van disappeared round the corner my friend recalled that the list had instructed to take the second exit at the next roundabout whereas the third exit was required. We shall never know whether the list was inaccurate or whether my friend's interpretation of the list was incorrect or whether the driver was already off-route when he turned down Lane Head. There was one consolation; the van came from Sheffield so that even if the driver had taken the second exit he ought to have been able to find his way back to base from Chesterfield.

My wife and I were at Bolton West Services on the M61 northbound when we were approached by a man who was completely lost. He did not even know which service station he was in. Apparently he had come off the Isle of Man ferry that morning to deliver goods to where he initially thought was a suburb of Liverpool. He had now decided that it was a small town in West Yorkshire. We suggested a route. We also

recommended that he purchased a decent road map. He told us he had never driven on a motorway before and was not enjoying the experience. And he was booked to return on the early evening ferry from Liverpool even though by 11.30a.m. he had only got as far as Bolton. Through the day we wondered how he had fared.

Some years ago my wife came across a large lorry in one of Edwin Pocock's fields. The driver's destination was Blackpool and for some reason he travelled down Totley Hall Lane and drove into Edwin's field; it was when he saw locked gates ahead and the track began breaking up that the driver had doubts about his route-finding skills.

More recently a Frenchman came knocking on our door. He had little English but a huge truck. He showed me the address he was after. With schoolboy French and gesticulations we managed to communicate and to avoid any misunderstandings I rode shotgun with him to the address. It was quite a climb into the cab and even more awkward clambering out.

However technology is coming to our aid. In a few years time satellite navigation systems will probably be fitted as standard in all new vehicles.

Peter W Davis

South Yorkshire Forest

Did you know you are sat in the South Yorkshire Forest right now? Yes I know you are at home - but Totley is part of this forest! Bizarre as it may seem the forest is made of houses, towns, villages, open spaces and yes also some trees. Its called a forest because hundreds of thousands of trees will be planted to improve South Yorkshire for both people and wildlife.

South Yorkshire Forest Partnership is launching a new scheme which will enable more trees to be planted. This is called *Gift that Grows*. If you are stuck for Christmas present ideas - why not give people trees! You don't need to worry about fitting a tree in your shopping bag though - Gift that Grows does all the hard work. *Gift that Grows* means trees are planted to celebrate Christmas, birthdays and weddings or

in memory of special people.



The trees are planted in parks and public spaces across South Yorkshire, with planting areas available in Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley.

It costs £5 per tree, this pays for the tree, its planting and maintenance for several years after planting and whoever the present is for receives a beautiful card with a personal

message from you, as well as an invite to the day the trees are planted and a map of where the trees are planted and information about each planting site. Large donations may enable areas of woodland to be named in a persons honour.

The scheme has been a great success so far, a donation of £100 for Graves Park in Sheffield has created a dedicated area of woodland the 'Eric Marshall copse'. This has been planted by his son Sean Marshall in memory of his father Eric. There has also been planting in Rotherham as a wedding present to newlyweds Jess and Gavin XXX.

If you are stuck for present ideas and you would like to give the 'Gift that Grows' you can contact the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership on 0114 257 1199 email team@syforest.co.uk or log on to www.syforest.co.uk/gift

Buxton Opera House Hits High Note With Four-Four Time 2005

A sensational mix of live acts including **Elvis Costello**, **Courtney Pine**, **Nitin Sawhney**, **Ludovico Einaudi** and **Eddi Reader** will be appearing at Four-Four Time 2005, the Buxton Opera House Festival of Live Music. The 10-day musical spectacular, being staged for the third time, features internationally-renowned musicians and singers encompassing jazz, blues, folk, pop and world music, and takes place from Friday 18 to Sunday 27 February 2005.

The Opera House has pulled off a major coup by securing **Elvis Costello** as the 2005 Four-Four Time headline act, and he performs live with **The Imposters** on Friday 18 February in what is an unmissable chance to experience the musical and vocal talents of a musical legend. Later in the Festival, music-lovers can savour the innovative sound of internationally-acclaimed jazz saxophonist Courtney Pine on Sunday 27 February and the creative talents of world-class musical pioneer **Nitin Sawhney** on Saturday 26 February. In contrast composer and pianist **Ludovico Einaudi** presents an inspirational solo piano performance on Tuesday 22 February and **Eddi Reader**, formerly lead singer with Fairground Attraction, appears with her band on Wednesday 23 February.

Folk followers can enjoy electrifying performances from **Oysterband** and US Folk legend **Tom Paxton**, a double bill by bright young stars **Eliza Carthy** and **Sharon Shannon** plus the breathtaking instrumental talents of Northumbrian small pipe and fiddle player **Kathryn Tickell**. Four-Four Time 2005 also features the best of jazz with performances by the acclaimed guitarist **John Etheridge** and saxophonist **Andy Sheppard** in partnership with innovative pianist **Joanna McGregor**. Other exciting acts include the acknowledged master of the guitar and harmonica **Eddie Martin** who is appearing with his rousing **Blues Band**, and an electrifying performance from **The Tim Garland International Quartet**.

The Warsaw Village Band, who appear on the Festival's second stage, in the adjoining Pavilion Gardens complex on Monday 21, were voted Best Newcomers at the 2004 BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards, and will delight audiences with their innovative experimentation, while one of India's greatest sitarists **Baluji Shrivastav** will enthrall with a kaleidoscope of rhythms and melodies from both classical and oriental jazz perspectives. Audiences can also experience the magic of two thousand years of Celtic vocal music with the hauntingly beautiful Anuna and enjoy a taste of the local music scene with Buxton's own **Bla Bla Bla** (Buxton Local Artists). The packed Festival will also feature films and talks in the Paupers Pit, a 40 seat fringe theatre opposite the Opera House, and the Paxton Suite in the Pavilion Gardens.

In all, **Four Four-Time 2005** features 22 events over 10 days, and will complete the event's rise to become one of Britain's leading live music festivals in just three short years. And all against the backdrop of the stunning Buxton Opera House and adjoining Pavilion Gardens. For further information and tickets, please contact the Box Office on 0845 127 2190 or visit www.buxton-opera.co.uk.

T.O.A.D.S. SPRING PLAY

Our next production won -the Laurence Olivier award for Best Comedy when it was first produced on the London Stage in 1998, so it should make you laugh. Written by Michael Frayn, it is 'Alarms and Excursions', more plays than one as he says. In fact it is a series of short plays, two of them connected, but all having the same theme - examining the difficulties modern technology has added to life. Who has not come across a so-called "must-have" labour saving device that they cannot operate, or, when it goes wrong, cannot find the all- important instructions? The results are hilarious for the audience; so do come along for a good evening out. It will be a headache for the stage construction team, but they are always moaning about wanting a challenge, so here it is.

Hopefully we shall have red and white wine on offer as well as coffee, as the trial run in November went well and was much appreciated. Which reminds me: - a big thank you to all the people who put on their anoraks and big boots to walk to the show on the Thursday and Friday evenings in the snow and ice and a thank you for the £58.50 raised in the bucket for Children in Need on the

Friday evening too. It was in the Halifax the next morning. Hopefully the weather in May will be much better!!

So the dates for your diary are Wednesday to Saturday, May 11th to 14th. at St. John's Church Hall. Abbeydale Rd. South at 7.30.p.m. Tickets from me, Kate Reynolds, on 2366891. or any other member you know. Still £3 or £2.50 concessions.

Kate Reynolds

Dore Art Group

Dore Art Group will be holding an Annual Exhibition in the Old School on Friday, 8 April, 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm and Saturday, 9 April all day from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. Admission is free and we will be happy to serve refreshments, tea and coffee and home made cakes at reasonable prices. After a very sad beginning to the year, the news from the other side of the world was terrible, it is nice to think we have something cheerful to look forward to, Spring is just around the corner and the chance to come and see or purchase some lovely art work at the show to brighten up a home or office in April. We look forward to seeing old and meeting new friends on either or both of the days.

Connie Bedford

Exhibition Organiser

You Never Know What Might Come In Handy.

It would be better to give your junk to charity shops than to dump it....

Residents of a house on The Grove, Totley recently filled a skip with lots of boxes and suitcases, obviously from a spring clean.

One of the suitcases contained some old, dusty books.

Among them a Latin primer by Kennedy, published 1906. Not much use to anyone, you would think....Not so.

Another resident on The Grove studies Latin with a U3A (University of the Third Age) group. She had been looking for this particular edition for some time and is absolutely delighted with this treasure. One other person in her group has exactly the same book, another has a revised edition of 1926, and another is using a dictionary dated 1898. Latin doesn't change much.

One attic's junk is another study's pride of place.....

Jennie Street

Gardening Tips for February

I have made all my new year resolutions for 2005 including going to The Totley Show this year. I hope you have made the same one, as the committee are already working on the schedules etc to make it a real interesting show. It only needs you to come along with your efforts so get planning now. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year break and are looking forward to a great gardening year. Do you know that it is the latest thing for keeping fit so get stuck in to all that digging and pruning and planting and you will soon loose that Christmas pud paunch (we hope).

My onions are just peeping through at the moment (10 January), they should be fine specimens for planting and in March/April time I am aiming to get a first on the show bench this year. I have been talking nicely to them and with a bit of special feed and TLC (not available in the shops) I might just make it though I suppose Arefon will be showing this year so we will have to make a special effort. I do not know what he uses but his onions are always whoppas. The wind has been a bit of a nuisance of late but we seem to have got off pretty lightly up to now. I felt sorry for the folks in Carlisle area, their gardens will be a real mess after the floods and gales and the people in Indonesia, what can you say, nature can be real nasty at times. Let's hope they find the strength to recover soon. I hope your garden is tidier than mine, the new centrepiece I am making has made a real mess of one section, lets hope its finished in time for the Open Gardens. There is still a lot of work to do yet. Keeping things tidy is always a problem, try to keep on top of it, it's a bit like weeding, if you don't keep up the work is even harder later so keep at it. The weather is a bit fickle at this time, the greenhouse temperature yesterday was 90F at midday, today is 55F. The poor old plants do not know which way to grow. They seem to be happy enough I sing them a song now and then that makes them keep their heads down until later. The vegetable patch looks healthy with cabbage, broccoli coming along nicely. I shall be giving them a feed of high nitrogen fertiliser soon that will please them, they enjoy a good tuck in at this time, its time to winter wash the fruit trees as soon as possible. This will knobble a few of the nasties that try to make a mess of the fruit and leaves. There is still one or 2 brands of winter wash left after the EEC health and safety people had their banning spree. Another job you must not leave too long if fences, huts and summer houses and furniture will need a coat or 2 of preservative when there is a nice sunny break in the weather. Keep an eye on your paths and patios, tend to any wobbly pavings and decking so that you keep safe when walking around admiring your floral efforts. Do not forget to put a raft or other type of float on your pond so that the fish can breathe when old jack frost is about, that reminds me I must clear out my wildlife pond it is getting a bit murky, I cannot see what is going on in there. It is never ending this gardening caper. When you have finished this lot you can sit back and put your feet up with a good garden catalogue, planning what new things you are going to add this year.

Flowers Clean up borders, work in a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore. Clean up rockery and add a topping of potting compost and chippings. Plant out herbacious perennials if the weather permits. Plant out (again if the weather is kind) anemones and ranunculuses about 4 to 5 cm deep and about 15 cm apart.

Prune back hard hyrangea paniculata similar to the way you prune buddlia, this will encourage strong growth and larger flower heads. Remote any rose leaves which may be lying about and burn them especially if they had a touch of black spot. Spray the areas around them with fungicide. Fill in any gaps in the wallflower beds before the plants begin to grow more actively and firm in any which have been loosened by frost. Check dahlia tubers in store, for signs of mould, treat with flowers of sulphur if mould is seen. Trim back winter flowering heathers and jasmine as soon as flowers have finished.

Vegetables - Firm in spring cabbage which may have been loosened by frost and give them a quick acting fertiliser such as nitrate of soda. Slugs are starting to get active this month so watch out for them and deal with them in your favoured way, I use beer traps, if you use slug pellets use them sparingly, and pick up dead slugs as soon as possible, before the birds get them. Autumn sown onions should be transplanted carefully to the place where they are to mature, this should be in an open position, in well manured ground. Later in the month shallot and garlic cloves can be planted. Divide and replant chives.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit - If pruning has not been completed, do so now. Fruit trees grown in grass can be starved of nitrogen. This can be remedied by feeding now with sulphate of ammonia or nitro chalk. Use about half an ounce per square yard. Planting of fruit trees and bushes is best completed by the end of they are to get a good start. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants - Ventilation needs careful attention, February can see warm bright days and cold frosty nights, extremes which the majority of plants hate so it is up

to you to balance these temperature changes by ventilation etc. Bear in mind also that fresh air is a vital factor in the health of your over-wintering plants, especially if they are heated by paraffin. Gradually increase watering, increase humidity by standing plants on moist pebbles or grit.

Start planting seeds of summer bedding plants, snapdragons, fibrous rooted begonias, busy lizzie, verbenas in warmth, water seedlings with cheshunt compound to prevent damping off. Plant indoor gladioli corms.

All the above should be maintained at a minimum temperature of 50-55F. If you cannot do this then wait a few weeks. Prick out those onion seedlings which were sown earlier if you are showing at any of the shows, then they should be planted into 2 and a half inch pots at this stage (I use fibre pots) this helps to prevent any check in growth, and will give a fine healthy large onion ready for the Totley Show in September.

Make ready chrysanthemum stools for cuttings. Repot fuschsia, shake away all the soil from the roots, then place them in the smallest pot that will take all the roots comfortably, the can be potted on later as growth develops. Plant sweet pea seed for a show in late summer.

Pot up rhizomes of achemenes which have over-wintered in dry soil, 6 or 8 to a 5 inch pot, place them in the warmest spot in your greenhouse. Dahlia roots from which cuttings are to be taken should be started now. They need a warm humid atmosphere. Although I like to keep my greenhouses reasonably tidy most of the time, they do need an extra fettling now and again. February is a good time to tackle this job before they get too overcrowded with new vulnerable seedlings.

Lawns - Tidy up any leave and debris that may be on your lawns, weather permitting. Keep off when frost is on the grass, you could aply a top dressing of sand if you have not done this earlier.

Cheerio for now

Tom, Busy Bee.

SHEFFIELD BACH SOCIETY



Saturday 12th February 2005, 7.30 p.m.
Ecclesall Parish Church
Petite Messe Solennelle, Rossini
Lobet dem Herrn &
Singet dem Herrn,
Bach
The Conductor for this concert will be
Simon Lindley

Tickets £10.00 (concessions £8.00)
 Students £5.00 at the door

Saturday 19th March 2005, 7.30 p.m.
Sheffield Cathedral
Annual John Dethick Memorial Concert
Mass in B Minor, Bach
with soloists from the
Royal Northern College of Music

Tickets £11.00 (concessions £9.00)
 Students £6.00 at the door

Tickets available at the door or from
 Sheffield Music Shop, Broomhill 0114 2661000
 Blue Moon Café, St James Street 0114 2763443
 Or by post – SBS, 3 Tapton Mews, Tapton Crescent Road,
 S10 5BE
 If you would like to know what time the concert will end
 please ring 0114 268 3812

February at the London Road Gallery

Liz Frolich, former art teacher at Meadowhead School and a sculptor in textiles and wax, is to be the first featured artist to exhibit at the London Road Gallery. Her new series entitled 'Aphrodite' will be seen in its entirety for the first time. Inspired by myths and legends and the energies and processes in nature, her bodice forms are intriguing and fantastical. She hand stitches material with delicate embroidery and smocking and then strengthens the pieces with resin so hard that they can be safely sited in the garden. Her work will be exhibited from 1st to 28th February, with a preview evening on 4th February at 7pm. Admission free.

On five of these days, there will be the extra attraction of demonstrations by members of the Hallamshire Craft Co-operative, showing how they create their art work, and revealing the secrets of their processes, materials and equipment.

- Sat 5th Feb – hand made beads using hand decorated papers. (Viv Griffiths)
- Wed 9th Feb – weaving braids & narrow bands on portable equipment. (Karen Graham)
- Sun 13th Feb – weaving narrow bands on an inkle loom. (Sarah Williams)
- Sun 20th Feb – spinning on the wheel and spindle. (Helen Neale)
- Sun 27th Feb – stitched wax paper lanterns. (Jennie Merriman)

Details of future day-long workshops, on stitched books, on beaded embroidery, on natural dyeing, on basket making from recycled materials and on machine embroidery are all available from the Gallery at 100 London Road (near Harrison's camera shop) open every day from 10am to 5.30pm. (tel: 0114 201 0630).



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LIFE IN THE 1500'S

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins

and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that History was boring!!! A history lesson and a good one too.

Wonder How much of this is TRUE?????

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I understand that there were some very puzzled readers of the Allotment Sequel in the December/January Independent given over the phone by my brother to Jennie Street. Not surprising as Jennie used the usual spelling of the name Geoffrey, the name of another Brother who sadly died in 1993. I feel that an explanation is necessary.

My second Brother was born in December 1917 during the Great War, when the whole population was so patriotic that children were named after the heroes of the day. 'Victor Crookes' of Green Oak was named after the victory at Zebbrugge when the British blockaded the entrance to Zebbrugge, in early April 1918, and two weeks later, sank the 'Vindictive' at the entrance to Ostend putting both German Bases out of action, and an end to submarine raids in the waters of Dover; a great moral-boost to the British. 'Kitchener Hancock' of Dore owed his name to Lord Kitchener (he of the pointing finger in the famous advert. 'Your Country needs you'), who was drowned after the Battle of Jutland when the 'Grand Fleet' was on its way back to base at Scapa Flow. The ship 'The Hampshire' in which Lord Kitchener was travelling was torpedoed by a German mine off the Orkney coast, a matter of great sadness to the British.

My Brother owed his name to 'General Joffre' the French general venerated by the English almost as much as the French after the first Battle of the 'Marne' in 1914, but why, you might ask, was he christened Geoffrey? Blame the Registrar! The day after the babe was born my Father walked to Dore and, as the law demanded, registered the birth with the Registrar Mr. Bone. However, that gentleman got it wrong, or he didn't follow the trend of Patriotism, and Geoffrey he knew had an 'O' in it, so he duly wrote that name on the birth certificate. My Father pocketed the document and walked happily back home to find my Aunt Ruth and Mum deliberating over a possible name for this second son, until Dad produced the evidence and, too late, they saw the mistake. Of course Mum and Aunt insisted on calling the babe 'Geoffrey', whilst Dad insisted the name was Joffre, an argument that went on for two years, until a third son was born on March 14th. 1920.

My Father was a determined man as he once more made his way to Dore to register this latest addition to the household, and registered his new son 'Jeffrey' (probably recalling the name of the old 'Judge Jeffreys', who knows? Arriving back home to a similar discussion as on the previous occasion his message to the two ladies was "You'll have to call him Joffre now", and from that day there were in the Salt family two Geoffreys, or should I correct that and say Jeff and Joff.(Geoff)?

There is a story about how I received my name, but that will do for another day! How did you get yours?

Jo Rundle/Salt

A WALK IN LATHKILL DALE

Recently on a lovely September day, my wife and I decided to try a slightly longer walk than we usually do these days. We opted for Lathkill Dale, one of our favourites for more than fifty years. We decided to park at Over Haddon and walk to Monyash and back. When I was driving I often parked down the road to Lathkill Lodge but my wife opted to stay in the car park at a cost of £4 - still cheaper than a seat in the "Gods" at the Lyceum. As we passed my former parking spot, now reserved for vehicles with disabled stickers, I was reminded of probably the last time I drove there. We took our friends Sandy and Jenny from Crieff for a walk in the dale. There was a superb motorcycle already parked there and Sandy had to examine and admire it. At this point the owner returned and asked Sandy if he'd like to drive it. "My word yes" said Sandy. We were relieved it wasn't a genuine offer as Sandy was then in his nineties! Later that week we took them to the theatre in Chesterfield, having booked by telephone. When I collected the tickets at the box office the young lady wanted proof of our eligibility for the cheaper OAP rate, so Sandy had to show himself!

As we sat off along the concessionary path up the dale my wife saw that the notice about the charge on the Thursday of Easter week still stands at one penny ("old" money). Do walkers on that day have to carry such coinage? There was more water in the river than normal in late summer so we wondered if it would be coming out of the hill higher up the dale. Before that we had a look at the remains of the aqueduct which fed the Mandale Mine. The remains, now much less than we first knew them, seem smaller each time we pass.

The next point of interest for us was the remains of Bateman's House, now made accessible by a bridge across the river. I first became aware of this spot in the 1940's, before we were married. We stayed for a week at Manor Farm in Over Haddon and walked each day. On this occasion as we passed the ruins, an attractive young lady who had been sunbathing there, got up and walked down to the river. The attraction for a young chap like me was that she was absolutely naked and didn't try to hide it. Unfortunately I wasn't allowed to linger! On this present visit the interest was of a different kind. A mineshaft underneath the house has been provided with a safety fence and a substantial ladder to descend underground. Unfortunately, when I went down, it was too dark to see much. Apparently the shaft under the house had housed a revolutionary new type of pumping engine to remove water from the mine. The roar of rushing water down the shaft was ample evidence of the problems the miners faced.

As we continued up the dale we came to the waterfall, much more impressive than usual. Because there was so much water it came over in one huge cascade instead of the usual four or five smaller streams. We didn't see the usual dippers (birds!) perhaps because we became interested in two children, just old enough to start walking. They were in the charge of two young ladies, presumably their mothers. What fascinated us was how they had reached this isolated spot so far from easy access. Then on past the medieval sheep wash to the Lathkill Head cave where, as anticipated, the river issued forth in quantity.

Having left here we then had to tackle the extremely rocky part of the dale to get to Monyash. It was sad to see, as we exited the dale, a notice on the new toilet block that it had been vandalised. City habits spread to the country. In spite of the above comment, Monyash was as quiet as usual as we ate

our sandwiches overlooking the village green, the only sound being the excited children in the school playground.

Our return journey was via the lane and across fields to One Ash Grange, now boasting a horse riding area as well as the sleeping barn. We also noticed the ancient pig pens had undergone some repair. I wondered if they could be converted to guest sleeping quarters as many farms now branch out into the tourist industry. Of course I am wrong - this would not be new because the Grange was an outpost for the monks of Roche Abbey. I am always puzzled why they needed to go so far afield at a time before so many houses occupied the land.

The drop down from the farm into Cales Dale does not get any easier with advancing years. Part of this ancient pathway is undergoing some archaeological and restoration work. As my wife read the little notice alongside about the monks going down to "wash their feet" she wondered how they coped on such a rough path in sandals. She hadn't got her specs on and should have read "to wash their sheep".

On across Cales Dale and up the steep path on the opposite bank, easier than it used to be now steps have been made. After a rest at the top, on to Calling Low. When we first came this way the public path was in front of the house and through the farmyard where drinks could be purchased. Then on to Back Lane, down to Conksbury, though we soon left it to cross the fields to Meadow Place Grange. This place always seemed to have a very messy muddy entrance from this direction. It is one of the many places we think it would be great to see it a couple of hundred years ago. In such a huge place we have rarely seen more than one person whereas formerly it must have been a hive of activity. As we trudge through the farm I saw lots of metal girders around some of the walls - the type used on dangerous road curves. It set me musing. Had they been bought second hand? Had they been bent to shape in situ? Were they going to introduce bull fighting as a tourist attraction? Too fanciful of course but it kept me going as the legs wearied. Onward down to the ford across the Lathkill where we watched a dog enjoying himself in the river after his evening walk. Finally the climb up to the car after some seven hours away. A lovely day but thank goodness we hadn't attempted the similar walk we used to do, parking at Alport, walking via Conksbury Bridge to Lathkill Lodge and, after the walk we did today to Back Lane, then returning through Bradford Dale instead of Meadow Place Grange.

Oh to be younger again!

Don Ashford

Together in Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is this year organised by the Women of Poland. It occurs on the first Friday of March every year and will be celebrated all over the world. In Totley it will be led by Dr. Marion Jepson at Totley Rise Methodist Church, Friday 4th March 10:00.

All welcome - refreshments served.

Rosemary Belbin 236 3027

Solution to Counting Camels.

For those who didn't spot it, the fractions allocated to the three sons only account for seventeen eighteenths of the estate. Perhaps the other eighteenth was for the harem!

Don Ashford

Wordplay

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
 A backward poet writes inverse.
 A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
 Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
 Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
 Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
 A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
 A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
 Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
 Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
 Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.
 Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
 When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
 A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
 What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway.)

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
 In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.
 She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.
 A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion
 If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
 With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress
 When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
 The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
 Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
 He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
 Every calendar's days are numbered.
 A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.
 A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
 He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
 A plateau is a high form of flattery.
 A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
 Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
 Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
 Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
 Acupuncture is a jab well done

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Totley in Bloom

Due to the success of the Totley Open Gardens, Totley has been invited to enter Yorkshire in Bloom. Congratulations and thank you to Jennie Street and all the open gardens for all their efforts to date. I am sure we all wish them well for the future. The Totley Residents Association are backing the proposal to enter the competition in 2006. We are looking for support from all the community to help organise and put on a really good show that will do us credit. Next month I will be able to tell you more of what is involved. We have the backing of the Council and expect to have some assistance from Streetforce and the Parks Department once we have worked out what we are going to do. If you would like to help, please contact any member of the TRA Committee or leave your details at Totley Library.

Duncan Froggatt

1st Totley Scout Lottery

This is the first draw for the New Year. It is not too late to join, just ring 236 3881

1st Prize Number 58
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Further details from - The Care & Home Manager Tel: 0114 262 0232 Fax: 0114 262 0234

TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

- MONDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am. To noon
TUESDAYS COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon.
CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm.
WEDNESDAYS. COFFEE in the LIBRARY, 10am. to 11.30am.
MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING. All Saints Church Hall 8pm. to 10pm.)
TODDLER GROUP. 10-00 a.m. to 11-30 a.m., All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. 236 0163 or 236 6789 or 236 3603
HEALTH WALKS. 10-30 a.m., Totley Library foyer. For a current programme and/or further details contact:
 Sue, The Health Walk Ranger: 0114 2839195
THURSDAYS **PUSHCHAIR CLUB.** Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 1.30pm.. to 3pm. Tel. 2363157 for further details.
SATURDAYS. **MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING.** All Saints Church Hall 2nd. And 4th. Saturdays 7.30pm. to 10pm.

FEBRUARY 2005

SAT. 12th SHEFFIELD BACH SOCIETY, Ecclesall Parish Church at 7.30 pm

ROSSINI & BACH - see page 9 for details

TUES. 15th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, "Women in flight", Mrs Sheila Dyson, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10.00 am.

MARCH 2005

TUES. 15th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, "A.G.M", Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10.00 am.

SAT. 19th SHEFFIELD BACH SOCIETY, Sheffield Cathedral at 7.30 pm Annual John Dethick Memorial Concert - see inside for details

Miniature Train Rides~Timetable 2005~

March

Sunday 20th
 Sunday 27th Easter Sunday
 Monday 28th Easter Monday

April

Sunday 10th
 Sunday 24th

May

Sunday 1st
 Monday 2nd Bank Holiday
 Sunday 15th
 Sunday 29th
 Monday 30th Bank Holiday

June

Sunday 5th
 Sunday 19th

July

Saturday 2nd Open Day & Exhibition
 Sunday 3rd Open Day & Exhibition

August

Sunday 7th
 Sunday 21st Teddy Bears' Picnic
 Sunday 28th
 Monday 29th Bank Holiday

September

Sunday 11th
 Sunday 18th

October

Sunday 2nd
 Sunday 16th
 Sunday 23rd

December

Sunday 4th SANTA SPECIALS
 Sunday 11th SANTA SPECIALS

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THE INDEPENDENT FOR MARCH

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

SATURDAY 26th. FEBRUARY 2005

COPY CLOSE DATE for this issue will be

SATURDAY 12th. FEBRUARY 2005

Editor Ian Clarke Tel. No. 235 2526.

E mail iangclarke@hotmail.com

Distribution & Advertising. John Perkinson. Tel. No. 236 1601.

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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 Editor, editorial staff or the Totley Residents Association and must not be imputed to them.