

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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Totley Residents Association Update

Because of concerns over the closure of Green Oak View most of the January Committee Meeting was spent discussing the problems. We were joined by representatives from local churches and Sheffield City Council Social Services Department. Concerns voiced included the present residents and staff, what is to happen to them, care of the elderly generally in this area and the future of the buildings once they have been decommissioned.

Eddie Sherwood, Operations Manager for Older People gave us the following information, the Council is committed to improving services for older people in the following areas:-

- 1 An increased choice of services.
- 2 An improved quality of services provided or purchased.
- 3 Protection for the most vulnerable to safeguard their welfare.
- 4 To work in partnership with the Primary care trusts/hospitals, health and social services.
- 5 Investment to be increased.

Older people wish to remain in their own homes. To help this happen:-

- 1 More investment in home care services, £0.5 million extra this year.
- 2 Change in the council home care service – intensive support for 6 weeks when first discharged from hospital so people regain their confidence.
- 3 Extra care housing – a cross between sheltered and residential care.
- 4 Extra care village at Woodhouse, should another are be planned?
- 5 4 primary care trusts in Sheffield, need 8 extra care housing schemes, 2 per trust. 2 sites in the South West will be developed at Hemsworth and Abbeydale,
- 6 Conversion of 8 residential homes into resource centres. These are to provide services to support people in their own homes.

PTO

Some council homes no longer meet the national standards required, Green Oak View is one of these. Conversion would be too costly and it will close in December 2004. Residents and their families and staff are being kept informed. Residents (14) will be reassessed and given the opportunity to move to The Lees at Norton. Staff will be retained/redeployed. At the moment transition care is being provided at Green Oak View, ie care for those between hospital and home care. The buildings are owned by social services and no decision has been made about the builds on the site.

Totley Residents need to think about the loss of facilities in our area, ie Abbeydale Hall, Totley Campus and now Green Oak View. These have all been used as drop-in centres, meeting places. The library is the only council owned building left in the area.

What is needed in Totley?

Do we need to try to influence the planners as to the type of housing to be built on the site of Green Oak View, ie for older people? Do we need to ask for an extension to the library to include community rooms, drop-in centre? Do we need to ask for a community facility to be build on the site of Green Oak View?

As a community we need to get up a working party of interested residents. Would you be willing to help, come forward with suggestions? Please let TRA know. THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME LEFT. It is up to the residents of the area to come forward and join forces with the council to put forward ideas of what we want in Totley for the future.

Other Matters

Vandalism Update – The police are continuing to monitor the problems in Totley.

The Post box at the end of Totley Hall Lane has now been replaced on the other side of the lane.

Telephone box outside the Co-Op. BT are waiting for N Power to replace the cable before the connections can be made and telephone returned.

Avril Critchley

Vets Emergency Service

I feel it only proper to let the animal owners of Sheffield know about a new service which some vets are subscribing to. It is called Vets Now Ltd. Vets Now Ltd are taking over out of hours veterinary cover which basically means if you ring your own vets out of hours and they are in this scheme you will be expected to:-

Take your animal to Vets Now Ltd, which is based at the PDSA on Newhall Road. This will be too far for some people to travel. I myself would have to travel 10 miles and do not drive so they suggest to use a Pet Taxi, this would be very expensive.

I understand that clients apparently have not been informed by the vets in this scheme as to the system so the first time they hear of it is when they ring which could be the middle of the night in an emergency. I understand that the consultation fee is £70 but there is nothing in writing as to the charges so they can change whatever they like. Vets Now Ltd will not hold records so how do they propose to know past history of the animals they are treating.

Do Vets Now Ltd come under the RCVS? I find these issues very disturbing and there are many more besides but people need to find out from their own vets themselves and ask questions.

M Marshall

Farming Scene

What a nice autumn we had last year. The driest and warmest for some long time which even carried on into the early winter and up to Christmas. Driving around the fields in an ordinary van, looking at the sheep, is very unusual in December. It usually requires at least a 4 X 4 landrover if not a tractor. However, things have now returned to normal, the recent rains have saturated the soil to the extent that surface puddles are now very evident. Our Texel sheep are now munching their way through their winter hay ration and making a "right old mess" around the feeders in the process. The first flock is due to start lambing on 20 February and will be soon given their prenatal preventative inoculations and high energy/protein concentrated feed ready for the "big events".

As I write there is still one of our Dorsets to lamb so there will be very little space between lambings this year. We are very pleased with the performance of these so far. They, unlike the Texels, seem to be docile, capable sheep, who get on well with the job without much fuss or help and even the lambs know how and where to suck!! The average of 1.7 lambs reared per ewe is very good for November/December lambing. They grow very quickly, the biggest ones now weigh 25kgs, will be weaned shortly, and should be ready for sale at the end of the month or early in March. Dorset spring lamb is reputed to be the tenderest, tastiest you can buy so we shall see if this is correct shortly when we restock our freezer.

Have we got one of those illusive big black cats in our area? Once again we have had a sheep mauled, or rather nearly had its leg bitten off by a predator. It is very unusual for a dog to tip a sheep up on its back and hold it down, while it takes all the meat off its leg. It has to be a big, strong, intelligent animal to do this. I wonder? Needless to say we had to have affected animal put down.

How did our new diversification project turn out? Not as well as we had hoped but perhaps we were being very optimistic for a first year. However, it has been a very interesting, learning experience not to say head scratchingly hard work setting it all up and dealing with all the expected and unexpected problems and paperwork. We are planning now for this year's events, building on last year's experiences to make them bigger and better and even more enjoyable. The positive comments and letters we have received indicate that last year's customers, both parents and children, felt it was "great".

There seems to be a rumour going around at the moment that we are retiring shortly and that our landlord is going to take the farm away from us. I have to say that the idea of retiring shortly is very attractive but also very wrong! Three things preclude this. Firstly we have just entered a 2 year contract with D.E.F.R.A, secondly we are in the middle of restructuring our business with a view to remaining here and viable for some time and thirdly my pensions are not due yet! In respect of the farm, I can categorically say that I have no knowledge of any decision to terminate our lease. It would take at least 18 months to remove us from the holding if such a decision was made.

I suspect as in the past and quite recently Totley Hall Farm is being confused with our neighbour Hall Lane Farm, where planning permission was recently given for the residential development of that farmstead which is right next door to our house and buildings. To the best of my knowledge John and Roger will be continuing to farm the rest of the land, along with their new buildings above the Wilson estate. It just goes to prove that the "grapevine" and the newspapers get it very wrong sometimes!!

Edwin Pocock

View from KES (3)

OFSTED

We are being inspected on the week commencing Monday 26th January. It has been 6 years since our last fall OFSTED inspection and we had hoped they would delay their next inspection until we were in the new school, however that was not to be.

We are quietly confident about the week. We know our strengths and equally we know which areas we would like to develop further. I have every confidence in the staff and students of the school and hope that we will come through this with flying colours showing the community once more that we are a school that they can be proud of.

The New School Building

As many of you will know, the work on the new building started in September. Most of the work last term involved site access, preparation and drainage work. This term we expect to see the foundations being built and the structure beginning to take shape.

The work is currently on target for the main building work to be finished by April 2005, ready for us to move into. Other exterior work - landscaping and demolition of the old buildings should be complete by November 2005.

Litter

Like most other schools in the land we have a small minority of students who do not behave as we would like them to with regard to litter.

Students from years 7-11 do litter picks around and between the sites, they are very much aware of the problems litter brings to the local community. It is true that in PSE (Personal and Social Education) we speak to them about citizenship and the role/responsibility they have to play in keeping our community clean. Our school councils have in fact requested more bins for the school - the students themselves want to live, play and study in a litter free environment. We shall continue to treat seriously this issue and hope that by educating our youngsters we can help to lessen the litter problem in our local community.

Adult Education

I am very pleased to announce that we have two adult education classes beginning at the start of January. To be honest, we have been over-whelmed by the interest for our ICT lessons and will be running further classes after February half-term. We are also pleased to be running an Asian Cooking class for a 6 week block in January/February. My hope is that we can expand the area of 'Adult Education' farther at KES. In our opinion, the more opportunities we can give our local community to come into school and 'learn,' the better.

And finally a word of praise for our 6th Formers

Our 6th Form has almost doubled in size over the last few years, as the reputation and popularity of the school has spread across the city. Large numbers of our own students stay on to the 6th Form and we have many more wanting to join us from schools from across the city.

I personally have never worked in a school with a 6th Form before. My previous experience has been only of 11-16 schools. The difference is quite noticeable. The level of maturity of our 6th Formers, and the important role they play around school in modeling good behaviour and leading by example help create our special atmosphere. The work they do with helping younger students who have difficulty in reading and in helping to organize events and competitions at lunchtimes and after school - all these things (and there are

many more examples!!) contribute to making KES such a very special school.

If you have any questions to put to me or any comments to make, could you write to me at King Ecgbert School, Furniss Avenue, Dore, S17 3QN

Thank you

Sean McClafferty

Deputy Headteacher i/c Community and Technology College Status.

PS Although not officially available until around March 2004, it would seem that once again our main indicators comparing us with similar schools (so called PANDA grades) for Summer 2003, were all A and A* (the top grades available)

Weather Report – Totley 2003

I am writing this on a blustery day with heavy rain, far from the lovely unusually warm sunny summer. Another thing I noticed was the fact that the hills were more than usually hidden in fog or mist.

As expected we had less rain than usual 591.8mm Weston Park (WP) 792.2mm Totley (T) as against a WP average of 825mm. The wettest day was 30 June 60.9mm WP and 61.2mm T which was more than the monthly totals for 7 of that 12 months. More rain fell in Totley than on WP in each month of the year. There were 18 consecutive days in March with no rain at all, a record! Weston Park reports that 2003 was one of the driest years, comparable with 1887, 1921 and 1975 since records began.

Average temperatures were generally up by between .5C and 2C except for March, April and June when they were up around 3C and February when it slipped down .1C. The hottest day was 9 August 31.4C WP and 28C T and 17.5C T on the night of the 10 August. The 16 April was the warmest day for April on record at WP 24.8C. The coldest was -4.5C 18 February WP and -6C 17 February T. The 30 December was the only day the temperature did not rise about 0C T. There were 51 nights of frost in T and 83 days of 20C and over. The thermometer stayed steady at 8C on 14 November, 7C on 3 December and 8.5C from 23 to 25 December except for a 1C drop the first night. Snow lay on the ground for 10 days WP and 15 T and WP recorded 2 thunderstorms and T 3.

	TOTLEY	WESTON PARK
Rain for the year		
2003	792.2mm	591.8mm
2002	1320.6mm	1042.8mm
2001	892.6mm	762.4mm
Wettest Day		
2003	61.2mm	60.9mm
2002	63.8mm	50.9mm
2001	46.0mm	37.0mm
Coldest Night		
2003	-6C	-4.5C
2002	-9C	-6C
2001	-7.5C	-5.5C
Hottest Day		
2003	28C	31.4C
2002	27C	28.6C
2001	27C	28.6C
Sun hours Weston Park only		
2003	1640.6	
2002	1397.6	
2001	1430	

Vivien Filleul

HEALTH WALKS IN TOTLEY

2004 begins with the opportunity to combine recreation with exercise in your own locality. Yes! Totley is the newest venue to host weekly health walks. Make a New Year resolution. Come and join us!

Walks leave Totley library foyer at 10.30am on Wednesday morning and return in time for a well-earned cup of tea or coffee. The walks themselves are free and there is no need to pre-register. Simply make yourself known to the walks leader or the Health Walks Ranger (dressed in green) when you arrive. Most weeks there will be two routes to choose from. The shorter walk will pass through and round Green Oak Park and last approximately 30 mins. The longer walk will also pass through Green Oak Park but will cover a greater distance at a faster speed. This walk will last 40-50 minutes depending on route and weather conditions. In order to maintain interest the routes of both walks will vary from week to week.

All walks are accompanied, usually by a front 'leader' and a back 'marker'. The Totley leaders will usually be Sue, the health walk ranger, together with Richard and Rosie who are fully trained volunteers.

Many walkers on the existing health walk programme claim the biggest benefit of their regular short-walks is social interaction. They enjoy meeting the other walkers and walk leaders and exchanging news and views. Some have reported specific health benefits that range from gradual lifting of clinical depression and fear of going out alone, to improved mobility in arthritic hips and knees and to better levels of cardiac fitness (being able to walk up an incline without having to stop so often for breath, for example). One 80-year old walker put her improvement down to 'walking and talking'. "If you are chatting away while you walk" she said, "it takes your mind off your aches and pains and you really don't notice how far you have walked!" Over an eight week-period this walker's fitness has improved by so much that not only is she walking further and with less pain but she has also lost her fear of falling.

Health walks differ from other ways of promoting good health because they:

- Use local parks, woodland and green spaces close to your home
- You don't need any special equipment
- They offer social contact as well as exercise
- They are fun

For a current programme and/or further details contact:
Sue, The Health Walk Ranger: 0114 2839195

Puzzle Corner

Numbers for Letters.

Replace each of the letters A to I in the grid by the numbers 1 to 9 to fit the clues.

A B C
D E F
G H I

AB ; AC ; BC are prime numbers

CB ; CA ; BA are prime numbers

AD ; ADG are squares

CF ; EF ; IF have a common factor

GD is a multiple of HI

Each row and column add to a different total

I can offer three solutions. Are there more?

Don Ashford

Do you measure up to style?

Do you measure up to the requirements needed by the ideal committee member?

There are committees galore behind many of the organisations in the Totley area and throughout Sheffield, with scores of dedicated people supporting a great range of activities to the limit of their abilities by fund raising, preparing programmes, and also enjoying something of a social occasion.

The Sheffield branch of the Parkinson's Disease Society is just one example to look at, now facing a rather uncertain future following the departure of veteran member Chris Bond, who is finally leaving the committee after 20 years service.

Chris, who lives in Rushley Close, Dore, has been a member of the society since being diagnosed as a Parkinson's sufferer at the relatively young age of 37.

A TV engineer by profession, he was senior workshop engineer for Dixons, Sheffield, until his retirement from work 20 years ago.

During his service with the Parkinson's branch, he has been chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, welfare officer and data base officer, and always one of the old faithfuls putting in maximum effort behind the scenes when the need arises.

The branch has played a major part in seeing the appointment of special Parkinson nurses at the Royal Hallamshire, with a fresh approach taken in recognising the disease which affects some 2,000 people in the South Yorkshire area, with some 80 new cases a year.

The branch now also employs its own community support worker who keeps in touch with newly diagnosed cases as well as the more seriously incapacitated and elderly members.

Thousands of pounds are sent annually to head office, received from bequests, and fund raising activities such as bric a brac sales, but there is always a need for new activities to be carried out.

"After 20 years, I feel it is time for someone else to come along and commit themselves to ensuring the future of the branch" says Chris. "I have taken this decision in consultation with my wife Sandra who will be leaving the committee with me.

"We look back with real satisfaction at much of the work that has been done and say goodbye to some good friends, but feel that the time had come for fresh blood.

"We also want to recharge our batteries and do other things, although we will always be supportive of the society."

If you feel that you can play a part on the Sheffield Parkinsons Committee, please ring branch secretary Val Heap. Tel.2620468.

It is not necessary to have the disease yourself or even to have a friend or relative who is affected.

The main requirement is to want to play a part in helping the community, to have something of a caring nature and to have plenty of go and zest. Please think about it. You could be the ideal person.

Roger Davis.

Negative Thoughts on Supertram

Since visiting the display on Supertram at Sainsbury's in the autumn I have been brooding on the effects we might see in Totley, not the advantages. Coming out of town, by the time you get to Millhouses at present there is a feeling of approaching the countryside (so pleasant after the city) with Millhouses Park on one side with the bank of trees behind. A slight blight at Abbey Lane crossroads with the maze of lane lines, lights etc, but then beautiful Ecclesall Woods and the Hamlet with the mill dam and the stone walls. Beauchief Gardens (could do with some attention), all giving the feel of pleasant space and greenery. The thought of the overhead wires and tramlines going through this oasis to city life does not appeal. The route proposed seems vague at present, but even if my apprehension regarding the above is not justified, it was mentioned in the Independent a few issues ago that the people of Totley itself and the Totley Brook area would be out on a limb if the tram finished at Dore Station and the bus service might be inadequate. If, over the next few years before any final decisions are taken for the upheaval and expense the Dore/Hellaby route would entail, the bus service could be more reliable and comfortable I should have thought the damage to our lovely environment out to Totley could be avoided.

Mrs D Styles

Do you use Totley Buses?

Have you experienced long waits for a bus?

I am collecting evidence of excessive waits.

If you experience a long wait, please keep a note of the place, date and times.

For example, one of my own long waits was:-

Place – Abbeydale Road, Date – 17 December, Waiting Time – 4.10 pm to 5.05 pm.

Telephone with your information – 236 8009.



" I
IVE MET SOME UNFORGETABLE,
PEOPLE IN TOTLEY BUT ICANT
REMEMBER WHO THEY ARE! "

BRING BACK THE BIRCH?

Some readers will be aware that before Christmas BBC radio invited listeners to submit suggestions for a new law. The hope was that an MP would be able to present the most popular suggestion to Parliament and hopefully get it adopted.

Not surprisingly the winner was aimed at not penalising householders who took steps against anyone invading their property. I assume that many people supporting this proposal had in mind the gaol sentence passed on the farmer who shot the young man who had persistently burgled his home.

The first comment I heard after the result was announced ran along the lines of "You can't expect Parliament to introduce a law which gives carte blanche to anyone to shoot a sixteen year old intruder even if he's cowering in a corner on discovery" Of course virtually all will agree, but surely this should not kill attempts to find a bill more sympathetic to the injured party and less so to the intruder.

Some readers will also know that the United Reform Church on Totley Brook Road has been repeatedly vandalised over the past year. I am not a member of the church but I make use of the concessionary path through the grounds and I have seen windows broken, doors forced and rain water pipes wrenched from gutters and walls. On one occasion I had a few words with two men replacing one of the fall pipes. "Why not encase it in barbed wire to prevent the mindless idiots climbing up?" was my suggestion. I was told the law does not allow such preventative measures – any barbed wire has to be at least 8 feet from the ground. I can only presume different laws apply in the countryside. Barbed wire fences are evident everywhere and usually brought sufficiently close to stiles to be a hazard to hands. Indeed, on a recent local walk amidst houses, my wife and I were amused to see a wide gate into a garden surmounted by coiled barbed wire. "Why the amusement?" you ask. Because the hedge adjacent to the gate had numerous obvious gaps!

But back to the main problem of combating the relatively small percentage of the population who will not obey the rules. I have always argued that simple enforcement is not a practical proposition. How many policemen would it take to guard all the churches in our neighbourhood, let alone all those in the city, against the wanton destruction described earlier? And once the churches are guarded, how about more police to watch out for local businesses? It is common knowledge that our two Post Offices suffered more than one burglary, as did Mr. J. Martin, ultimately forcing closure. This is a sad loss to the individuals concerned and a loss to the community at large.

Until society finds a way to persuade all its members to "fit in" for the common good we shall have to continue putting up the barbed wire - even though we are not allowed!

Perhaps some other readers can advise MPs and the police what should be done.

Don Ashford.

Main Avenue

It is very pleasing to see that repairs to the property at the top of Main Avenue are being carried out. It is a great pity that the owner of the property did not feel it necessary to carry out even the most essential repairs when the previous tenants, Betty and Tony Baylis, lived there. They deserved better!
Barbara Tomlinson

RSPCA, Spring Street, Sheffield

The Shelter is most grateful to all those kind people who have donated food over the past year for the animals at the Shelter. Also, many thanks to Totley Library and our Late Shop Co-Op for providing collection points.

Please continue help in 2004, regrettably there are always many mouths to feed as the unwanted animal problem continues. Blankets and towels for use at the kennels can be left at 10 The Quadrant, Totley, but no jumble please.

If anyone feels able to give a good home to a rescued dog or cat, there are always animals waiting hopefully.

Mrs D Styles

Friends of Green Oak Park

An inaugural meeting in Totley Library was held in November. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

Officers and committee members were elected. Plans for the children's playground were discussed. The council have offered the group £20,000 in addition to 2 pieces of equipment, including a roundabout. The people present were showed the 5 options from companies for a single integrated play unit and asked to vote for their favourite, local schools also took part later (a choice has been made). An open discussion took place about a range of improvements that were needed, including dog fouling and the need for an additional bin (the expense of emptying them was highlighted), the state of benches and the need to replace them and relocate them away from the back of the gardens on Lemont Road and improvements to the bowling facility for away teams. A short discussion around young people and their needs too place. The committee have had another meeting. The work on the children's playground is to start soon as the £20,000 has to be spent by April. It is hoped there will be enough money to resurface the old tarmac with a safety material. A meeting with Living Spaces for us to put in a bid for £45,000 towards the cost of a multigames facility on the tennis courts is being held. Three different plans are to be put forward. We hope we will be able to persuade them of the necessity of a multigames facility is needed for the young people in Totley. We hope this will be successful, if not the committee will have to do some fundraising. We have to see some improvement in Green Oak Park.

Sylvia Ruddle

Spring Hair

A man is driving along a highway and sees a rabbit jump out across the middle of the road. He swerves to avoid hitting it, but unfortunately the rabbit jumps right in front of the car.

The driver, a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulls over and gets out to see what has become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit is dead.

The driver feels so awful that he begins to cry.

A beautiful blonde woman driving down the highway sees a man crying on the side of the road and pulls over. She steps out of the car and asks the man what's wrong..

"I feel terrible," he explains, "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The blonde says, "Don't worry."

She runs to her car and pulls out a spray can. She walks over to the limp, dead rabbit, bends down, and sprays the contents onto the rabbit.

The rabbit jumps up, waves its paw at the two of them and hops off down the road.

Ten feet away the rabbit stops, turns around and waves again, he hops down the road another 10 feet, turns and waves, hops another ten feet, turns and waves, and repeats this again and again and again, until he hops out of sight.

The man is astonished. He runs over to the woman and demands, "What is in that can? What did you spray on that rabbit?"

The woman turns the can around so that the man can read the

label. It says...

(Are you ready for this?)

It says,

"Hair Spray - Restores life to dead hair, adds permanent wave."

One man went to mow...
...but his mower wouldn't go!

Now is the time to call

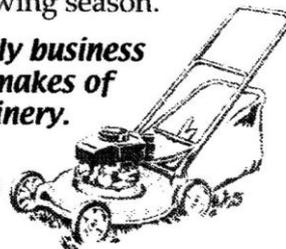
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Clinical Audit Patient Panel – Is It For You?

What is the Panel for?

Within the Health Service, examining quality of care is something we do regularly – one aspect of this is called “clinical audit”. At the moment we do this largely from the perspective of the clinical staff who provide the care. It is important that we have a panel of patients or carers who can tell us about their experiences and we can ask questions about the audit work we are planning.

What kind of people are we looking for to apply?

- You might be a past or current patient/user of the Trust’s health services.
- You might be a relative or carer of a past or current patient.
- You should have an interest in helping us to improve the quality of care that we provide to patients.
- You should have good communication skills.
- You should be self-confident and not afraid to say what you think.

What do YOU get out of this?

You will be provided with a training course to help you understand what clinical audit is all about.

You will have the knowledge that you are helping us to improve things for future patients.

Hopefully YOU will enjoy being part of a team!

We will reimburse your travel expenses plus any other expenses you might have for helping us.

If interested please contact Emma Challans, Clinical Effectiveness Facilitator at:-

Sheffield South West PCT

5 Old Fulwood Road

Fulwood

Sheffield S10 3TG

Telephone 0114 2711151

Fax 0114 271 1248

Email emma.challans@sheffieldsw-pct.nhs.uk



ROADS

A piece of black tarmac walks into a bar and says, "Oi. barman, give me a beer, I'm a piece of tarmac and I'm hard. I come from the A45 and lorries and cars drive over me all day but I don't give a fig!"

Trembling, the barman pours him a pint and gives it to him.

Ten minutes later another piece of black tarmac walks in and shouts, "You, bartender, give me a beer, I'm a piece of tarmac and I'm as hard as rock. I come off the M6 and have thousands of cars, trailers, juggernauts and caravans riding over me all day, but I couldn't give a fig cos I'm so tough.

The barman nervously pours him a pint.

Ten minutes later a piece of red tarmac walks in, sits at the bar and orders an orange juice. The two black pieces of tarmac get up and looking mighty frightened run into the toilet. The barman follows them in and says,

"What's going on, I thought you two was hard, why are you afraid of that little piece of red tarmac in there". One of the pieces of black tarmac replies timidly, "Are you kidding, he's a Cyclepath".

RUBBISH REMOVED

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Vickers at Wizz Kids 2364919

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Gardening Tips for February

I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year break and are not too worse for wear. It is sun shining at the moment and I would rather be in my garden than sitting indoors but the editor will be chasing me and I am sure you will be waiting with baited breath for my revelations (ha ha!!).

Well, my onion seedlings are coming on nicely in the greenhouse and the leeks are not far behind them so I am looking forward to the Totley Show already, I hope that one of your New Year resolutions is to enter your gardening or other skills you may have in this year's show. The organisers are already working on it so it only needs people to make the effort for Totley to have the best ever show so get cracking now.

The weather is always a worry at this time of year, the greenhouse can be 100C when the sun is out then 40C the same afternoon so a bit of heat juggling is required because plants are not too happy when the fluctuations are so extreme. Insulation helps keep the cold out, I use bubblewrap and a small heater and an autovent helps when the temperature goes too high, not the perfect solution but it is the best I've got and seems to work. I have not lost too many plants over the years. Outside the tender plants are put in a sheltered spot or covered with fleece and the pond has a floating raft to keep an area free of ice so that the fish etc can breathe. I hope your garden is nice and tidy (if it isn't what are you sat there reading for?). The vegetable patch should be tested for PH levels so that you can balance the lime content in good time before planting, if you have got some areas which need digging do it as soon as possible, leave the clods of earth large so that old Jack Frost can break it down and knobble all the nasties as well. Any brassicas, ie spring cabbage, broccoli etc will benefit from a dressing of nitrogenous fertiliser. On good days you should look at your furniture, sheds and fences as they may need a coat of preservative, do not leave it too late as I did (I had to replace one side of my shed because I neglected its preservation). Paths and patios need checking over, clean them with anti-algae solution and repair any wobbly pavers, get these jobs done before the busy season starts next month. Now you can sit back and read the seed catalogues and plan what new items to add to your garden.

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 herbaceous 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 hydrangea paniculata similar to the way you prune buddlia, this will encourage strong growth and larger flower heads. Remove 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 shallots 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 February if 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 its 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. Starting 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 2.5 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. Re-pot fuschsia, shake away all the soil from the roots, then place them in the smallest pot that will take all the roots comfortably, they 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 greenhouse 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 leaves and debris that may be on your lawns, weather permitting. Keep off when frost is on the grass, you could apply a top dressing of sand if you haven't done this earlier.

Cheerio for now,
Tom BUSY BEE



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TUESDAY 30 MARCH

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TUESDAY 27 APRIL

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TUESDAY 4 MAY

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SATURDAY 8 MAY

University Orchestra

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Martin Hindmarsh conductor

TUESDAY 11 MAY

University Wind Orchestra

Programme to include Messiaen's: Oiseaux Exotiques.
Anthony Houghton conductor Peter Hill piano

SUNDAY 16 MAY

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**LUNCHTIME CONCERTS SPRING
2004**

These concerts are of the highest musical quality yet free to the public. They are held in the Drama Studio in Shearwood Rd. every Thursday of term from 1:10-2:00. These concerts are perfect for 'active' retired people, or for people working in the area who want to spend a pleasant lunch hour listening to great music. I draw your attention to the March 18 concert with American pianist Jerome Reed. He will be coming to England to speak about and perform the Charles Ives Concord Sonata. A great chance to hear a wonderful artist perform an important piece of 20th century music; for free!

FEBRUARY 12 Tim Mottishead *piano*

Music by Dallapiccola including *Quaderno musicale di Annalibera*

FEBRUARY 19 Susan Yarnell *soprano* Steven Kings *piano*
Messiaen: *Poème pour Mi (Deuxième Livre)* and songs by Haydn, Grieg and Ned Rorem

FEBRUARY 27/28 Music Theatre Events

MARCH 4 Tapton School Piano Group

MARCH 11 Melanie Levy *mezzo soprano* Nigel Simeone *piano* Broadway Classics

MARCH 18 Jerome Reed *piano*

Charles Ives: *Concord Sonata*

MARCH 25 Music for Flute and Clarinet performed by Hannah Traves and Emma Barber

APRIL 1 The Pisgah Ensemble

Music for strings by Vivaldi, Grieg and Elgar

Piano music features in this term's lunchtime recitals : American pianist Jerome Reed performs Charles Ives's wonderful *Concord Sonata*, Tim Mottishead celebrates the centenary of Dallopiccola's birth and pupils from Tapton School show us what they can do. In the last week of February there are two theatrical events given by participants in an International Music Theatre Conference.
Mitzi Matlock

Evacuee By Hugh Percival

On the 3 September 1939 war was declared on Germany, a day forever etched in my memory. We did not have a wireless set at that time but, many years later, I heard a recording of Neville Chamberlain's broadcast to the nation at 11.00 am that Sunday morning and was impressed with the calm, sincere speech of the Prime Minister and compared it favourably with the ranting, frenzied speeches of Adolf Hitler that I had seen and heard on the newsreels at the picture houses.

That Sunday morning, sunny I recall, my mother and I walked past St Augustine's Church on Brocco Bank as the bells solemnly rang out. Later that day the air raid sirens sounded, a new, fearful experience. Fortunately it proved to be a false alarm, or simply a trial run.

My mother, like everyone else expecting a bombing campaign to start at once, sent me to her sister at Hope in Derbyshire, a village some 14 miles from our house at Hunters Bar. I was heartbroken at leaving her for the first time in my short life but less so when she promised to come out and see me each week. I was one of many evacuees who travelled to the countryside at that time, their gas masks in brown, cardboard boxes hanging prominently around their necks. I was 7 years old just one month short of my 8th birthday.

Aunt Peggy and Uncle George Carstairs were a hardworking, no nonsense, down-to-earth couple. Their teenage son Jimmy was away serving with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Also resident were a sealyham dog named Badger and a white rabbit called Peter. Aunt Peggy took in travellers who were visiting the area, commercial men or holidaymakers out to enjoy the splendid scenery. She was of slight build with fair hair and bright blue eyes and was an excellent cook. Her meals were as substantial as rationing permitted and included vegetables grown by her husband in the bungalow garden. I had always had a distaste for greens but Uncle George, a strict disciplinarian like my departed father, insisted they were essential for good health. Under his influence, initially backed up by the use of a thick belt, I was soon eating cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts and leeks, the latter being a speciality of my uncles and formed a regular part of our diet. Uncle George had employment at the village garage as a jack-of-all-trades being mechanic, salesman, driver and general factotum. He was short and sturdy with the bluest of blue eyes and light brown, close cropped hair, a fresh, pink face and had an air of determination about him. He was hard working but knew how to enjoy himself when off-duty being an inveterate imbibor of alcohol.

I resumed my education at the village school and soon reached an eminent position being one of only 2 pupils who could do real writing as distinct from printing. The other eminent scribe, an evacuee from London named Douglas Slater, became my best friend. His cockney accent was a source of amusement and mimicry amongst the pupils.

One hazard that had to be faced on my way to and from school took the form of a ferocious looking bulldog. This canine lay on the pavement outside a cottage licking its lips seemingly in anticipation of the flesh it would sample from passers by. I always crossed over to the other side of the road when approaching this monster and hurried by with accelerated steps often finishing at a run.

The forge, which stood in those days on the main road next to the Woodroffe Arms, soon attracted by attention. Often after school I would stand at the entrance of the single storied somewhat dilapidated, stone building, watching the blacksmith ply his trade with great endeavour and

earnestness. The fire, blazing away inside, shed its warmth kindly on the cold winter days. I took delight in observing the powerful farmhorses as they quietly accepted being shod while being held at the bridle by a farmhand. The blacksmith, Joe Evans, burly, bearded with a mass of black hair, was my hero. Not only did he shoe the beloved horses with great care and skill but he played in goal for the village football team and also, I was informed by classmates, bowled at great speed for the cricket team in the summer.

I was enraptured by horses from this time, a trait still with me after 60 years. Occasionally, I had the joy to ride one of the horses at the farm where a classmate, Jim Young, lived. I particularly recall Joe, a powerful, brown, shire gelding, a gentle giant indeed. How I used to relish giving him a handful of carrots surreptitiously taken from my uncle's garden.

Each Wednesday after school I took the bus to Hathersage to collect groceries from the Co-Op there, a distance of 4 miles. One bitterly cold January day the bus raced past as I was leaving the shop on the return trip and I was not in time to board the vehicle. I was in despair for no other bus was scheduled for hours, the wartime service being infrequent due to petrol rationing.

Reluctantly I began the walk to Hope in the twilight, a heavy carrier bag in each hand. My progress was slow having to stop often to rest my arms. At length tears welled in my eyes as my predicament struck home. What would Aunt Peggy say when I didn't appear at my usual time? I thought of the slipper that Uncle George sometimes applied to my posterior instead of the thick belt.

Traffic was irregular in those wartime days and I had walked a good mile in the darkness before a car with lights dimmed appeared. I put down the carrier bags and waved frantically as the car swept by. I gave a cry of anguish. Fortunately the wartime spirit prevailed and the car came to a halt some 50 yards ahead. I hastened to the vehicle with my load.

"Where are you off to my young man?" the driver enquired in a local, rural, burr. He was of middle age, burly with a rosy face, light brown hair and blue eyes if mine did not deceive me in the poor light.

"Hope if you please sir. I missed the bus at Hathersage" I replied anxiously.

"I'm going past the village. Put your bags in the boot and hop in young man", the driver replied to my great relief.

I had experienced little travel by car at that time but I do not believe I have ever had a more rewarding journey before or since. My sense of relief overwhelmed me and a torrent of words sped from my mouth in gratitude. The driver was loquacious too and I think we both enjoyed the ride – I know I did. I was profuse in my thanks when he dropped me outside my aunt's bungalow.

She was greatly relieved to see me and the full carrier bags. I was not unduly late and the thought of Uncle George's slipper no longer worried me. He had not yet returned from the garage. My aunt berated me for missing the bus and urged me to be more careful in future.

The village school curriculum was simple just the 3 R's if I recall correctly. I remember playing conkers and did well with one baked in the oven under the supervision of my uncle. This conker reached a high number around 300 before it was eventually shattered by a rival to my great regret. It was a cold winter and the pupils indulged in snowball fights and sliding in the school asphalt playground.

After school I often played with neighbouring children in the field that lay beyond the bungalow garden wall. Our

(contd from page 10) favourite game, knights and their ladies, took the form of jousting tournaments where the victors were rewarded by kisses from the girls. Chicken huts stood in the field in those free-range days and it was pleasing to see the birds pass in and out of the huts chirping merrily away. Our neighbour, Mr Watson, owned a large, old-english sheepdog which often appeared in our garden after jumping clean over the 5 foot wall. Badger, our Sealyham, took exception to these visits but was unable to stop them as the sheepdog had a significant advantage in height and weight.

Uncle George's duties at the garage included driving the firm's lorry to deliver produced and other items. One day, when for some reason I was not at school, he took me to Sandbach, a town some 40 miles distant. I enjoyed the rare trip particularly lunch at a pub and was much impressed by the competent way Uncle George drove the lorry and performed his other duties.

One day on returning from school Aunt Mary, at the kitchen sink, called out "Hugh, the hot water tap is dry. Run over quickly to the garage and fetch Uncle George. Hurry."

My aunt seem to be agitated so I rushed off and quickly returned with my uncle.

"Hugh. Stay out in the garden until I call you" said Uncle Gorge in peremptory tones.

I later heard that, on a ladder, he had poured buckets full of cold water into the cistern in the loft, the bucket having been passed to him by his wife.

A while later Uncle George came outside, "You can come in now. That was a close shave Hugh. The building could have been blown to smithereens" he said thankfully.

I then realised the danger that had passed and was aware that he had deliberately kept me out of harm's way.

As previously mentioned Uncle George was a heavy drinker when off duty. One Sunday afternoon the smell of burning drifted through the bungalow where myself and Aunt Peggy were reading in the lounge. She sniffed the air once or twice and went into the kitchen to find smoke rising from the sofa on which Uncle George lay in a stupor having returned unannounced from the Woodroffe Arms the worse for drink. Aunt Peggy drew a bowl of cold water from the tap and threw it over the sofa and her sleeping spouse. Uncle George stirred and turned over while my aunt repeated the performance several times. She then withdrew a cigarette that was loosely held in her husband's fingers. Later on when Uncle George came to his senses my aunt gave him a severe talking. She took some time to forget the incident and next day when talking to her neighbour she angrily remarked "I should have let the bugger burn."

Every Saturday my mother came to the village by bus and, of course, it was the highlight of the week. She had a reserved seat on the vehicle. She always bought me a few sweets and was not slow to help Aunt Peggy with her household chores – baking bread and cakes, cleaning the windows or some such task. I cannot recall whether or not my mother paid her sister for my board but, knowing my mother, I should be very surprised if she did not for her heart was always bigger than her purse.

The phoney war continued and the threat from enemy aircraft did not materialise. My mother, aware that the village school was not up the standard of those in Sheffield, decided that I should return home and at the end of March 1940 I left Hope. I had regrets at leaving my new classmates and the horses but these were more than offset by the delights of returning home to my mother. I trust I thanked my aunt and uncle for their hospitality.

I was thus back in Sheffield in time to witness the blitz in December 1940, but that's another story.



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St John's Guild (Abbeydale) held their annual barn dance on Saturday, 29 November 2003 and the total proceeds amounting to £650 have been donated to Weston Park Hospital Cancer Appeal.

The evening was a great success with the major fund raiser being the Grand Raffle. In total there were 67 raffle prizes, and our thanks are offered to the Guild members and their friends who gave prizes and also to the following local sponsors:-

Abbey Friar, Hoopers, The Castle Inn, Country Garden, Liberty Foods, P C Casson, Pomade Haircare, The Luxury Gap, Totley Pharmacy, Baslow Road News and Off Licence, Totley Gift and Flowers, A Riddick (Chemists), Sweets 'N' Treats, Fred and Gingers and Totley Deli.

Thanks are also expressed to the Guild members who contributed with their hard work to make this Barn Dance an enjoyable evening, and also a record fund raiser.
Phyllis Glossop (Guild Secretary)

Totley Library

The staff at Totley Library would like to thank Totley Residents' Association and everyone who has given donations to the Library, as we have recently been able to purchase the following books:-

Montague Don The Complete gardener
 Peter Choy T'ai-Chi: 37 steps to happiness
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Piers Harper Little owl
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 Quentin Blake Mrs Armitage - Queen of the road
 Niamh Sharkey Ravenous beast
 Miriam Moss Snowtime tales

The telephone number of Totley Library has changed recently. It is now 2930406. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this. The number at Greenhill Library remains the same as do the numbers for the Central Library.

Many thanks for your continuing support

Yours sincerely

Pauline Rosser
 Community Librarian

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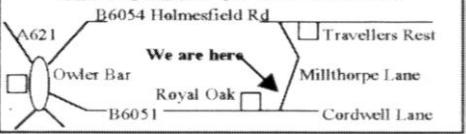
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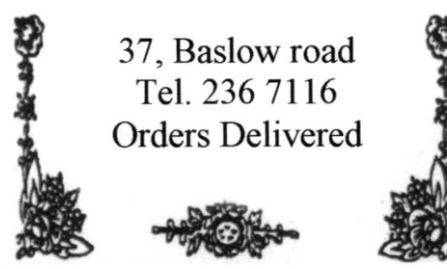
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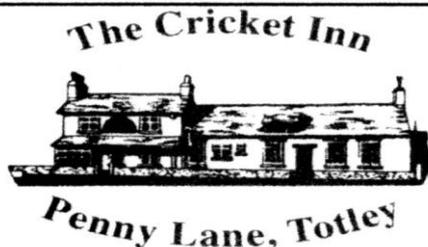
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- MONDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am. To noon
- TUESDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon.
CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm.
- WEDNESDAYS.** COFFEE in the LIBRARY, 10am. to 11.30am.
MODERN SEQUENCE 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 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.

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Sunday 21st	Sunday 1st	
<u>April</u>	Sunday 15th	
Sunday 6 th	Sunday 29th	
Sunday 11th Easter Sunday	Monday 30th (Bank Holiday)	
Monday 12th Easter Monday	<u>September</u>	
Sunday 25th	Sunday 12th	
<u>May</u>	Sunday 19th	
Sunday 2nd	<u>October</u>	
Monday 3rd (Bank Holiday)	Sunday 3rd	
Sunday 16 th	Sunday 17th	
Sunday 30th	December	
Monday 31st (Bank Holiday)	Sunday 5th	} Santa Specials
<u>June</u>	Sunday 12th	} 11am to 3.30 pm
Sunday 6th	Sunday 7th	

July
Saturday 3rd } Open Days and
Sunday 4th } Exhibition
Sunday 20th

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THE INDEPENDENT FOR MARCH 2004

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

SATURDAY 28th. FEBRUARY 2004

COPY DATE for this issue will be

SATURDAY 14th. FEBRUARY 2004

Editor Ian Clarke Tel. No. 235 2526.

E mail iangclarke@hotmail.com

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

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