

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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DERBYSHIRE CHALLENGE WALK 2004

Up to two hundred walkers are expected to take part in this year's popular on **Saturday 17th July** Derbyshire Challenge Walk, organised by Totley Primary School.

The walk, which starts and finishes at the school, on Sunnyvale Road, Totley, covers a 26-mile circuit taking in the stunning scenery of the White Peak area of Derbyshire, including Curbar Gap, Baslow, Chatsworth and Beeley.

Those preferring a more leisurely stroll can opt for a shorter, linked walk of 14 miles.

On application, which costs **£8.50** for adults and **£4.50** for children, entrants will be provided with essential information outlining a list of checkpoints en-route and details about the historic monuments they will pass.

Application form from Lynda Jakubovic of 2a Main Avenue, Totley



Transport 17

Transport 17 would like to thank everyone, organisers,

garden owners and visitors, who took part in the Totley Open Gardens event at the end of June. Your efforts are very much appreciated. We are a local charity and it is good to know that our efforts and yours are helping local people, not just in S17, but various other parts of Sheffield. That really is "community work". Who knows when any of us may need the minibuses?

Our "Odds and Ends" Coffee Morning is on Saturday 17th July, from 10am till noon. This will be in our office, 172 Baslow Road, Totley. For a donation of 50p, there will be coffee or tea and biscuits. This is a chance for you to meet us and vice versa. Our number is 236 2962.

On Friday, 13th August, we will close after the last passenger is safely home. We open again on Wednesday 1st September. This is to give, not just all the clubs, but their helpers, and us a break, hopefully in the sunshine.

I think it is amazing the amount of time, energy and kindness many people in this area give to others. Once again, true community spirit. They are not Saints but "ordinary" people with the same joys, sorrows and worries as all of us. God bless them all. Have a lovely summer. Best wishes, Margaret Barlow

LOOKING BACK FONDLY

A few weeks ago, another great past 'Character of Totley' died in Mexico where he finally settled 20 years ago.

His name was 'Oswald Tyler' or Ozzie as we all affectionately called him, and he was landlord of the Fleur-de-Lys during the 60's, 70's and 80's.

Ozzie was a proud Barnsley man and in his younger days worked down the pit. It wasn't long before he left the colliery days behind him; he married his first wife Phyllis and moved to The Peacock at Owler Bar, they had two children Neil and Louise.

The family moved to The Fleur-de-Lys and formed a strong relationship with the people of Totley in the early 60s. People from all over Sheffield visited The Fleur and Ozzie had many friends, some quite famous, like top footballers and cabaret artists who would flock to greet this fantastic character. He was a good, old-fashioned type of landlord with an infectious smile and a boisterous laugh and loud voice. You could always tell if he was around. He was louder than the jukebox! He was straight John Bull and would tell you to your face if he didn't like you or anything that was said and going on.

Depending on what mood he was in, he would bar you one day and buy you a welcoming drink the next. But he never bore a grudge; even he had fallen out with that person. It was the 60's and 70's and Ozzie loved the crowds coming in from Totley College. He also loved fame and fortune and soon Ozzie and Phyllis were driving around Totley in a Rolls Royce, reg number OTY 1. He always had a huge wad of money in his pocket and would display this quite often to show his wealth. But he was also a generous man and wasn't afraid to spend his new found wealth.

Ozzie loved music and although favourites were Sinatra and Shirley Bassey in private, he would encourage the young and old to accept rock n roll in his pub by introducing groups and discos. Joe Cocker was a regular singer with his band at the pub and I was his regular disc jockey where upon I got to know him very well, and had a series of fun-packed crazy nights. We had Harvey Dawson (bar man), Bud Rawlings, punter and doorman, and on the other door, bouncer and character "Gearbox Gary" with the late Mr Don Brown sweeping the floor to earn an extra pint. What a team, and what fun, and drunken nights we all shared with Mr Ozzie Tyler. They were "Fabulous" (his favourite saying). Goodnight Ozzie and God Bless, and as Ozzie would always shout at time 'Andy and Pandie are waving goodbye'.

Regards

Alan Dale.

ACTIVISTS

Dear Ed

Maurice Snowden wrote "for people with a Christian faith the serving of others is recognised as one of the fundamentals of the Gospel." This comes close to the old misapprehension that only Christians have the monopoly on moral or ethical principles. Funnily enough there are many people of non-Christian faiths, as well as atheists or non-believers such as myself, involved in all sorts of community activism or "service"; it's just that we don't try to claim the moral high ground like some Christians do.

Yours

Jennie Street

SMART SCHOOL - SMART WATER

Schools are often seen as 'easy targets' for burglars as the buildings are often quite remote and access to the school is easily gained. In addition, many schools now have expensive items of equipment (particularly computer equipment) that are attractive and easily sold to unscrupulous buyers. As a result increased security measures have to be taken to make them less attractive to the thief.

Over the years, many steps have been taken to increase security at King Egbert School and this continues to be the case. Our latest step has been the introduction of 'SmartWater', a product capable of marking property to such a degree that it has been likened in concept 'to DNA profiling'. Each bottle of the 'SmartWater' is produced with a unique blend of components giving it a 'forensic fingerprint'. The Forensic Science Service maintains a national database, which makes it easy for the police to identify the legal owner of any property they recover that has been marked in this way.

It is a harmless, water based chemical which, when applied to an item of equipment, leaves a permanent mark on it. It is virtually invisible to the naked eye but, under ultra-violet light, the mark becomes visible. It is said that the scientists only need a 'SmartWater' mark the size of one quarter of a full stop, to be able to identify the property's legal owner!

Obviously, 'SmartWater' in itself, will not deter thieves from breaking into the property so we also have a supply of window and equipment stickers that are displayed prominently in an attempt to prevent any theft from our premises.

Even with all the technology available to us, there is still no substitute for vigilance in deterring crime. Staff, pupils and our neighbours can all play a part by reporting to the police, any suspicious activity on and around the school premises at whatever time of the day or night, so if you see anything suspicious - REPORT IT!

Eric Robinson

School Administrator



HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW FISH OIL SKINS, & I'VE GOT A THERMAL PANEL IN MY PARASOL AS WELL!



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Entry forms available inside

The July/August Independent

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ARRIVAL OF DOG POO BINS

At last Totley Hall Park has its own dog poo bin. It had been difficult to walk in the park without treading in dog poo. Most responsible dog owners have always picked up after their dogs and taken it home. With the arrival of the black litterbin, some people used this to deposit their dog's mess, but with the new dog bin in place there is now no excuse for not using it. Don't be one of the few who still allow their dogs to foul the park and surrounding streets.

I know there are two latch key dogs who are allowed out to run free in the park some mornings. Unfortunately I do not know where these dogs live, so the owner(s) of these dogs will be blissfully unaware of what they are up to. Apart from the lack of control and risks this presents, you could probably do with the exercise. To the vast majority of caring dog owners the message is keep up the good work, and let's make Totley Hall Park a pleasant environment for all to come and enjoy.

Please note there is now a second dog poo bin in Green Oak Park. This is by the gate near to the children's play area. This is particularly welcome, as the other dog bin always seemed to be full, resulting in some misuse of the litterbin. So please use the facilities now they have been provided, and the anti-dog lobby please note that most of us are doing our best to keep Totley pleasant and free from dog mess.

Responsible Dog Owner
CAROL PUGSLEY

A Walk Around Totley's own Green Belt

Let us head for the hills on this summers morning. Leave the car at home, forget the heavy traffic areas of Bakewell, Castleton, Fairholmes and Chatsworth. Just simply walk out from home and sample our own doorstep delights.

Distance of walk 8-9 miles, allow 6 hours. Hiking boots desirable. Start from Totley Bus Terminus. Route as follows. Hillfoot Road, Chapel Lane, cobbled causeway to Penny Lane. Just above The Cricket Inn and to our right enter the signed field path through Bents Farm to the charming hamlet of Old Hay. Locate the bridge just beyond the final bungalow which spans the old hay brook and head left to the lane leading to Avenue Farm. Gate and stile forward across field area to the head of Shorts Lane and the horseriding stables. Turn left into the realms of Blackamoor. A well signed path skirts the side of the blacker dyke brook and just beyond the ford. Leave the main piper house track and locate the signed route to our right through the mixed woodland scene that climbs fairly steeply toward the "devil's elbow" gate and the Fox House road. Here we join the main A625 road after a half a mile stead climb. Walk a few hundred yards to our right, cross the road with care and opposite the top of Whitelow Lane locate a gate that takes us onto the slopes of Houndkirk Moor. On route note the Sheffield Corporation site of the "Devil's Elbow" (once a notorious blackspot for road accidents before the road improvements). This area was often named the "Meg and Gin" hollow in bygone days. The path ascends through the heather towards a solitary concrete post. Spend a few minutes time to climb to the summit of shapely Houndkirk Hill. Well worth the effort for the grand views.

Retrace our steps back to the concrete post. Walk a few yards to our right and cross the feeder stream of the Red Car Brook to avoid a few boggy patches. The waymarked route for the short crossing of Houndkirk Moor to the bridle road seems to have been placed in the wettest section of the moor so you will not regret my recommended line over the slopes. Soon we reach the highway known as the Houndkirk Road (an ancient coaching road between Fox House and Ringinglow). Head towards Ringinglow and The Round

House. On route on this classic highway we pass the site of Foxdale Lodge (once the home of the Duke of Rutland's gamekeeper). Now all these moorland areas are owned by the Sheffield Corporation.

After the thieves bridge we note the imposing ox stones than dominate the high ground of Burbage Moor. Junctions of tracks join from the Sheephill Road. Hereabouts is the Jumble and Sod Road, close by are the secret springs known as God's springs and Sparkinsons springs, indeed waters and nectars for the Gods. We fringe the side of Lady Canning's plantation, it was here that the disastrous fire in 1976 caused severe damage to large areas of Burbage Moor, an act of vandalism. After this final highway crossing we soon arrive at the village of Ringinglow with its historical interest of The Round House. Maybe a bar meal would be most welcome at the popular Norfolk Arms Inn, at this halfway point. At the end of Sheephill Road, locate the stone stile and enter the realms of the limb valley (which incorporates part of the Sheffield Round Walk). The field path passes the ruined shell of copperas house. Hereabouts was the site of old coal mining works. A delightful path wends its way through the woodland scene along the banks of the limb brook as it flows into the lovely gardens of Whirlowbrook Park.

Further refreshments can be obtained at the Hall, linger a while for these gardens are a pure delight. We cross the main A625 road at Whirlow Bridge. Here was sited an old coaching inn, demolished at the turn of the early 1900s. Our next stretch of path is known as Rycroft Glen. We walk close to the field areas and sports section that soon joins the head of Ecclesall Woods, keep to the right hand path that finally brings us close to the miniature railway and eventually the A621 road at Dore Road corner.

All the way from Ringinglow we have followed the course of the infant Limb brook. Cross the main road at the garden centre and pass the Dore and Totley railway station by the cutting into Twentywell Lane. Take the field path by the side of the bridge into Poynton Woods. Traverse the lower level to finally join up with the exist at Mill Lane where we finish our round walk at the Totley Rise Shops.

Nothing difficult about this walk where you will have sampled some of the grand scenery right on your own front doorstep.

John C Barrows.

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**GOOD NEWS FOR
HOLMESFIELD.
BAD NEWS FOR
TOTLEY.**

The good news for Holmesfield is that a weight restriction is being put on the road through Holmesfield to stop heavy lorries travelling through to Bradway. Which means they will have to come down from Owler Bar down Baslow Road at Toleys expense.

Make a Scarecrow Scarecrow Competition for Totley Show Sat 18th Sept

We are having a Scarecrow Competition!

We would like you to use your imagination to build any type of scarecrow you might imagine - well-dressed or scruffy; man, woman, or child; zany or serious; famous or ordinary; scary or happy.



And give your scarecrow a name.

The only request is that you use a stake or broom handle about 2m long as the basic structure to enable the scarecrow to be propped up or stuck in the ground outside school for judging on the day.

(Available from a certain DIY shop on Baslow Road for £2 if there's nothing suitable in the shed....)

Can you make a scarecrow to beat them all?

(Tip: go to Barlow village well-dressing 11-19th August and get some ideas from their scarecrow competition)

A Scarecrow Poem By Barbara Euphan Todd*

Ye Scairey-crows of dry-land,
Your little fields have bounds,
Come sail with me and you shall see,
The sun upon his rounds.
The sea-flowers bloom year out, year in,
The Plough is in the sky.
As you sail, as you sail,
And the time goes passing by,
And you will forget the fields you knew
As the times goes passing by.

**Author of the Worzel Gumbidge books*

Lots of websites give you ideas for making scarecrows. Type "How to make a scarecrow" into a search engine (Google, Yahoo) to find them.

Good sites on a scarecrow theme:

www.scarecrowland.co.uk/history.html

www.powen.freemove.co.uk/kids/scarecrow/scarecrow.htm

www.mrspohlmeyskindergarten.com/scarecrows.htm

www.bestgardening.com/bgc/hub/kidsscscarecrow01.htm

For more information on Totley Show: contact Les Firth on 236-4190 or Jennie Street on jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

Snakebreath – Update

In our October 2003 issue we published a review of the book 'Snakebreath' – a thriller set in the Peak District, by local author Andrew Hassall. Andrew sends us the following update:

Things have been fantastic. The feedback has been good and there is still strong interest in 'Snakebreath'. Reviews continue to be promising and I have been invited to speak at the forthcoming Ashbourne Arts festival. Perhaps, there has been an element of using the mythical, mystical landscape of the Peak District to 'tap into the zeitgeist'. However, I really must thank you and the Totley Independent for crucial support when it was most needed.

Things have moved on. There has been a most exciting development. It seems that the potential of 'Snakebreath' as a screenplay has at last been recognised.

My ambition, right at the outset, was to turn 'Snakebreath' into an atmospheric thriller along the lines of 'The Edge of Darkness'. I have now completed a 'Writing for Films' course at Hallam University (Sheffield). Thanks to the excellent teaching of Richard Hines, the course tutor, I am now in a position to deliver the script.

It is my intention to use the magical and mysterious landscape of our region for the film locations. I do not think that any area other than the Dark Peak could do justice to the dark and brooding tale. In addition, I should like to maximise involvement of local people and give encouragement to all our other local writers, including the Peak District Writers Group. For the soundtrack, I hope to engage the talent of 'Aftermath', an exciting new band based at Eckington. It seems that the screenplay of 'Snakebreath' will happen - not quite hot property, but certainly on the way!

I'm very excited about this project. Obviously, it's early days yet, but the potential is enormous both for myself and for our fabulous region. Moreover, I remain convinced that our current cultural climate could benefit from a transfusion of raw, primeval earth energy!

THE TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

**Please note amended date for July
meeting**

July, Thursday 29th.

August, No meeting.

**Meeting
11:30am, until 12:30pm
at 4 Grove Road, Totley**

**Newcomers are most welcome, for details
please first ring John or Pat on 2550758.**

The Old School Friend (Part 1)

I was in the fifth form at the grammar school when I fell ill. Up until then I had been a healthy, if rather spotty, individual with reasonable all-round ability and a particular leaning towards art. I tried to please my parents by my industry and they were quietly appreciative.... but when I was struck down it all started to go wrong.

The disease could have had a number of names but my personal strain was called 'motorcycles'.

There might, looking back, have been warnings that I would be susceptible to this kind of germ. A visit to Beaulieu in 1959 had resulted in recurring bouts of 'old cars'. But since this was masked by occasional mild waves of 'old aeroplanes' and 'old musical instruments' it was not taken too seriously.

But 'motorcycles' hit me like a sledgehammer. One minute I was slowly negotiating the mathematics of solids...the next I was in a stupefied dream in which I was Icarus, flying along close to the ground in a whirr of spokes, chains and tappets and a fierce crackling of exhausts.

Where did this malady come from? I was too young to ride a motorcycle so had no first hand experience but the seeds of the problem had already been sown and it was just waiting to explode. It may have begun very early. I was a boom baby who, like many of my contemporaries, spent their first months in a big coach built pram which had already served several generations. The revolving elegance of its large diameter wire-spoked wheels must have made a deep impression.

My father inadvertently sowed another seed when he gave me, at the age of 5 or 6, rides round the block on the crossbar of his old black bicycle. The freewheel down hill and swoop into our road with the blurred ground rushing past under my swinging feet had a profound effect. This was embedded 8 or 9 years later by my father's creative skill at woodwork, which resulted in the old back door being recycled as a devilishly fast soapbox 'kart' using those same pram wheels. Now I was even closer to them and could marvel at the ingenious way a small amount of metal and rubber could be made to carry me at speed down our steep (but thankfully quiet) street.

The next seed was sown on the inspection, in the field behind my cousin's house, of a black and gold machine abandoned in the hedge. It was, I now know, an AJS of around 1953 and belonged to a strange young man called Michael from 5 doors down.... but he already had a metal plate in his head from a childhood fairground accident and we surmised that the Ajay had been banned by his mother as an instrument to tempt fate. My inspection revealed some revelations.... this machine was a miniature car. It had brakes and lights and gears and a clutch (as well as other mysterious levers) and the whole thing balanced elegantly on two beautiful wire-spoked wheels. I experienced a wave of profound insight...this was clearly an instrument of freedom and, even partly embedded in privet, it still shouted an invitation.... "Hey, come on...let's go...what are we waiting for?..." But although the call echoed gently around my impressionable mind, my feet were still glued to the floor by innocence and youthful poverty.

Soon after my fourteenth birthday my chronic shyness was abruptly cured by a kind older friend who dragged me into the local youth club in a half-nelson shouting 'Orl-right girls. Who wants this one, then?'. Sixty pairs of teenage female eyes made a lightning appraisal of what was on offer and an even quicker dismissal, and I was relegated to welcome obscurity on the social sidelines where I could watch and learn from the 'big kids'.

One of these was the owner of an elderly down-at-heel Bantam which I had hardly noticed until the week my illness kicked-in. From then on I was drawn inexorably to it and, while my new friends were indoors arguing about what to put on the Dansette, I sat on the curb sniffing the smell of petrol and burnt oil. It was inevitable that I would find myself sitting astride it one evening with the tacit approval of the owner, and from there it was a short step to the first illegal ride up the main road, during which I touched a heady 25mph. Sitting in a euphoric trance afterwards I felt as if I had grown 6 inches and, as I had not fallen off (informed opinion said that every motorcycle ride ended in a crash) I must, ergo, be one of the chosen few...the happy breed...the brethren.... who were natural motorcyclists. This was clearly my destiny.

I must have voiced some of these grand ideas at home because a discussion began which turned into a skirmish... and then into all-out war lasting several weeks. My claim of a god-given right to a motorcycle met a stone wall. This was no small irritating wall.... but a very high wall several feet thick and painted black.... with a gigantic 'NO!' written on it. From the top of this wall my father (from now on known as 'The Enemy') poured all sorts of statements to counter my fierce attacks: 'Motorcycles are far too dangerous'; 'You'll kill yourself'; 'Where's the money coming from?'; 'We've nowhere to keep it'; 'You wont do your homework now you don't need any more distractions'.

I, still on full offensive, got the latest accident statistics from RoSPA.... which (it was now 1963) momentarily took the wind from my sails. The figures made it clear that the brethren were fast becoming a self-endangered species. But below the carnage hinted at in the negative numbers was a fascinating piece of information: sidecar combinations were statistically the safest form of transport on the road and had been for several years.

Could this be the winning direction for attack? The enemy, sensing that the battle had reached a worrying level of sophistication, fell back on last resort.... "You can't have a motorcycle.....because I SAY SO!!"

That was it.... I had reached the wall and found it made of papier-mâché.... the smell of victory filled my nostrils.

So, when another school friend let on that his father wanted to sell an elderly Norton sidecar outfit, the red mist came in and, judgment completely obscured, I took an unusual route after school to inspect the plot, handed over four pounds, accepted a confirmatory Woodbine and was still home in time for tea.

Collecting my purchase required cunning. It was unroadworthy due to a broken sidecar chassis, unlikely to start, had no working lights and bald tyres and on top of that...I was still only fifteen.

It took several more weeks (at twelve shillings a week) for the paper round to produce enough liquidity to solve the transport problem and Pickfords Removals were hardly excited by my request to hire a pantehcon on a Saturday for only two hours, but the driver and mate proved to be sympathetic to my disability. They had both been motorcyclists in their youth and recognised the affliction. After dragging the Norton from its lockup I discovered that my four pounds had also bought a second outfit, this time in pieces, which had been hidden in the gloom behind the first. The red mist obscured any practical difficulties which this new information presented and all was lovingly loaded into the wagon.

Arriving home in the dusk, I found the curtains drawn for an evening's TV and so was able to unload quietly into our semi-detached driveway without alerting the enemy. Paying

off my cheerful helpers I let myself in the back door and, no questions being asked, settled down in front of 'Saturday Night at the London Palladium' with the insouciance of a normal family member.

The enemy did not realise they had lost the war until it was necessary to go out for a shovel of coke the following morning and the spoils of victory were blocking the coal shed.

To give him credit, my father did not lose his temper, shout, sulk or otherwise demonstrate his loss. He may have already realised that time and energy were on my side and also that, on a 20-year old sidecar outfit with the chair dragging on the floor and no money for insurance, tax or petrol, I was hardly going to annoy the local constabulary.... and I was still only fifteen.

So I settled into a happy routine: all day at school sketching motorcycles in the margins of any available book, dash home for a quick dinner, straight into the shed for two hours of energetic kickstart jumping, to bed at 11.00pm with a screaming right leg. After nearly two weeks of this evening activity I was surprised by a single explosion from somewhere under the petrol tank of the Norton. Having aimlessly wiggled the levers backwards and forwards during the preceding fortnight I must have accidentally arrived somewhere close to the correct starting position and it took only a further hour of experiment before the decrepit machine coughed into life. I would have danced round the shed in triumph if my right leg had not been rigid ...so I just drank in the heady aroma of burnt oil fumes and carbon monoxide until my coughing drowned the Norton's and I had, at last, to stop the engine.

As the owner of a working motorcycle my esteem grew and there were regular parties of admirers to witness the Norton's static display of noise and smoke. However I was still several months away from the legal possibility of taking to the highway, and these months turned into something of an anticlimax. Sitting in a small shed full of fumes and ticking machinery began to pall, so I started to plan the next move. Finance was going to be important so I took a Saturday job at a city centre fruit stall run by an authentic Del-boy character who found me a good audience for his tall stories. He claimed to have driven at Le Mans and to have at least three current domestic situations in progress, each unbeknownst to the other. This number varied between two and five when the subject was mentioned.... which suggested that, to him, conversation was a creative art rather than a science. He cheerfully encouraged me to manoeuvre his Morris pickup and Thames three-tonner in the back streets behind the fruit-stall and on one glorious occasion suggested that I should drive the lorry across Sheffield to the fruit market while he enjoyed a 'Passing Cloud' in the passenger seat. I blossomed under this tutelage and became a very skilful commercial driver...at least for fifteen-year old.

It was whilst exploring the alleys behind the stall that I discovered Charlie Wathen's scrap yard. Despite twenty years having passed since the end of WW2 the councillors of Sheffield had still not been able to agree on a city centre plan and, consequently, there were open bombsites within 1/4 mile of the town hall. Many were official or unofficial car parks, but this particular area adjacent to a disused pub was obviously leased to Mr Wathen. My first encounter with him was inauspicious...he was sitting on the kerb outside the 'pub' exploring one nostril with a black finger and suggested that I "b.... r off" in a particularly broad South Yorkshire twang. Although the bombsite was covered in piles of cars I had already noticed that the 'pub' yard was full of elderly motorcycles and, after braving a couple more caustic

encounters with Mr W, who eventually realised that I was insane but harmless, I was allowed to browse. There were examples of pre-war Tiger 90, sloper BSA and New Hudson and many two-strokes, as well as the ubiquitous WD Norton 16H (one with a sidecar wheel drive), but my particular interest fell on a dark red machine with an 'M' on the engine case. It appeared intact and undamaged and, apart from a flat back tyre, ready to transport me to Nirvana. When I handed over the asking price of forty-five shillings (£2.25 to you infants) Charlie melted and started to tell me anecdotes from his own motorcycling career and our relationship was firmly cemented. As an English GCE student I was particularly impressed by how many expletives he could fit into a sentence...although I was wise enough not to demonstrate this vernacular skill in front of my parents.

I left the yard pushing my Matchless and got as far as the fruit stall where I leaned it against a rear wall and finished my day's tasks. When he heard that I blithely intended to push the machine (still with a flat rear) six uphill miles home after work, Del-boy exhibited a rare moment of generosity and offered to take it on the back of the pick-up with the day's rotten veg., which was going in a similar direction to a pig-farm.

So I set out on my motorcycling career on the eve of my sixteenth birthday at the princely cost of forty-five shillings. Of course this was not the sum of it, and the bills started to accumulate as I got to know my new love.... an inner tube and a tin of black Japlac, some 'jungle juice' lubricant, a pair of fancy motocross grips. and as my 'amour passe', the Norton was now history I sold it to a gang of local urchins for one pound and it was last seen freewheeling down the hill covered with a seething mass like a Poona bus.

Now the activity became more urgent. I intended to be on the tarmac ASAP after my birthday and the minor problems of legality had to be solved.

Adrian Holden

Adrian now lives in the Midlands, used to live on Stonecroft Road, and the Youth Club was at the UR Church Hall on Totley Brook Road. Adrian's father (C N Railton Holden) used to write short articles for The Independent, but he sadly died after a short illness on New Years Day this year, just before his 85th birthday. Adrian also understands there is to be a 50th anniversary for Totley Primary (County) School next year – if anyone has any details, please let the Independent know for publication.



TOTLEY SHOW ENTRY FORM

THE TOTLEY SHOW THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD AT TOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUNNYVALE ROAD, ON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th.

The classes for this year are as follows: -

HANDICRAFTS

1. Hand Knitted Garment
2. Decorative Cushion
3. Soft Toys
4. Tapestry
5. Cross Stitch
6. Decoupage
7. Paper Craft
8. Textile Art

DOMESTIC SECTION.

9. 4oz. Victoria Sandwich Plain(see recipe)
10. Dundee Cake (see Recipe)
11. 3 Decorative Buns
12. 3 Scones on a plate
13. Apple Pie
14. Jam
15. Lemon Curd
16. Marmalade
17. A 1lb.(455grms) Loaf of white bread
18. Chutney

CHILDRENS SECTION.

51. Age up to 7yrs. Animal Vegetable
53. Age up to 8 yrs. Computer Art A4 size maximum
55. 3 decorative bun (up to 14 yrs.)

FLORAL SECTION

19. Table Decorations Fresh (up to 6")
20. Table decorations Fresh (over 6")
21. Table Decorations Artificial(up to 12")
22. Cut Flowers 3 of any variety in season
23. Any one house plant in container up to 6"
24. Any one house plant in container above 7" to 12"

FRESH PRODUCE.

25. 1 Plate 4 Eating apples
26. 1 Plate 4 cooking Apples
27. 1 Plate 8 Blackberries
28. 4 Matching Potatoes
29. 3 Matching Leeks
30. 3 Matching Onions
31. Tray of 6 mixed veg. 16" by 11.5"
32. 5 Matching Runner Beans
33. 1 Plate of 5 Tomatoes

34. 1 cucumber
35. 3 Courgette
36. Largest Onion
37. Heaviest Marrow
38. Longest runner Bean(One per person)
39. Miscellaneous Veg

ART

40. Oil or Acrylic Painting
41. Water Colour
42. Pen and Ink Sketch
43. Pencil sketch
44. OPEN Multi media

PHOTOGRAPHY (Prints only)

45. Colour
46. Black and White
47. Computer Prints

WOODWORK

48. Wood turning
49. Small Furniture
50. Sculpture. (ANY MEDIUM)

TEDDY BEARS PARADE and SCARECROW ROW (Open to all)

DUNDEE CAKE

175gms.(6oz) Plain Flour 1 rounded teaspoon mixed ground spice
125gms.(4oz.) Margarine 3 eggs
125gms.(4oz.) Soft brown sugar 125gms.(4oz) Sultanas
125gms.(4oz.) Raisins 125gms.(4oz.) Currants
75gms. (3oz.) Chopped mixed peel and chopped cherries.
40gms.(1.5oz.) Blanched almonds to decorate.
21/4 level teaspoons of baking powder.
METHOD. Line 7" deep cake tin. Sift flour & spice together. Cream Margarine & sugar, Beat in eggs 1 at a time adding a tablespoon of flour with the last two. Fold in remaining flour and fruit till thoroughly mixed. Put in tin & decorate with nuts.
Bake in a preheated oven 140c:290f: gas 2: for 1 hr. then lower to 130c:270F: gas 1 for 1/2 to 1 hour approx., pierce with skewer to test.

VICTORIA SANDWICH

125gms. (4oz.) Margarine
125gms. (4oz.) Castor Sugar
125gms. (4oz.) Self Raising Flour
2 eggs.
METHOD. Cream margarine and sugar. Beat in eggs 1 at a time with a little flour. Fold in remaining flour. Divide between 2* 7" sandwich tins greased or lined with greaseproof paper.
Bake in pre-heated oven 180c:350f: gas mark 4: for 20 – 25 mins. Sandwich with jam and sprinkle top with castor sugar.

Please note classes may change. No entry in any class should have been in previous Totley shows. Entries may be donated to be auctioned at the end of the show but this is not compulsory nor a condition upon which entries will be accepted.

SHOW PROGRAMME

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9-30 am. to 11-00 am. Entrants registration.. | 2-00 pm. Official Opening |
| 11-00 am. to 12-30 pm. Judging and awarding of certificates | 3-00 pm. Teddy Bears Parade & Scarecrow Prize giving |
| 1-30 pm. Doors open to the public.(Entrance fee 50p.Children 20p.) | 3-30 pm. Prize Giving & Auction of donated items. |

Please leave all exhibits in place until **3-15 pm.** For public viewing. Prizes First £1-50, second £1-00, third 50p.

If less than three entries in a class then there will be a first prize only. Any monies not collected by 4-30pm. Will be put to the Totley show fund for next year.

If an entry does not fit with a class it can be left for viewing but no prize will be given and there will be no entry charge, which for other entries will be **30** pence per exhibit.

ENTRY FEE 30P. PER ITEM

PLEASE BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU WHEN YOU BRING YOUR ENTRIES.
PUT A TICK AGAINST THE CLASS OR CLASSES YOU WISH TO ENTER.
YOU MAY ENTER AS MANY CLASSES AS YOU WISH.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

If your produce or exhibit does not fit into a class, it can be left for public viewing but no prize will be given and no charge will be made for the entry.

TOTLEY SHOW ENTRY PROCEDURE

PLEASE REPORT TO THE RECEPTION DESK

AT THE DESK PLEASE GIVE YOUR

NAME
ADDRESS

AND STATE IF YOUR ENTRY CAN BE AUCTIONED.

YOU WILL THEN BE GIVEN AN ENTRY CARD AFTER PAYING THE EXHIBIT FEE PER ITEM.

THE CARD WILL BE GIVEN AN EXHIBITORS NUMBER.

ENTER ON THE CARD THE "DIVISION" AND "CLASS NUMBER" OF YOUR EXHIBIT.

PLACE YOUR EXHIBIT ON THE TABLE WITH THE APPROPRIATE CLASS NUMBER.

IF YOUR EXHIBIT IS NOT TO BE AUCTIONED PLEASE COLLECT IT AFTER **3-15 p.m.**

PRIZES AND AWARDS TO BE GIVEN AT APPROXIMATELEY 3-00 pm.

GOOD LUCK.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

This year - 2004 - marks the 75Anniversary of the organisation, and we are making a nationwide effort to recruit new members.

We at Totley Townswomen's Guild have a membership of 70 and our celebration will be at our own 18th Birthday Luncheon in October 2004.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month (August excepted) and after half an hour devoted to business, we are served with coffee and biscuits and the next half hour is set aside for chatting with friends and buying from our very popular Sales Table, articles being kindly donated by members each month.

At 11 o'clock we have a Speaker - a good variety of subjects - many with slides, and we finish the Meeting at 12 noon.

Below are various Group activities held each month -

- Social Studies
- Play reading
- Choir
- Rambling
- Exercise Class

We also have a mid-summer cream tea in June and a Coffee morning in Augusta when we have many raffle prizes and a Sales Table - proceeds to charity.

Outings are arranged to places of interest several times a year.

Ours is a very friendly Guild and visitors are always welcome so do come along and see what you think of us!

Secretary – Mrs.J. Sturdy

Telephone no. 01246 417689

Meetings at Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10.00a.m.

Courtesy Oldtime?

During a week's holiday in Guernsey we were able to witness to the truth of the statement that "It is like England used to be!" One aspect of this was the courtesy which everyone seemed anxious to display. More than once when we were waiting to cross the road a car driver would stop and beckon us to cross in front of him. On other occasions a passer-by would stop and ask if we needed help. They were all so friendly.

On one trip we were riding in a mini bus and came to a corner where the driver had to stop. On that same corner there were walkers studying a map. Our driver asked them where they wanted to be and then gave them directions. These seemed to be a bit complicated so our driver then said that since he was going in their direction they should hop on board and he would give them a lift!

On one trip we were boarding the bus at its terminus and enquired if it went past our hotel. The answer was that it wasn't but could drop us somewhere close. Imagine our surprise when the driver set off up the hill and then turned round and went back to the start. Apparently he had instructions over the radio that he had to collect some children from a school which was not on his normal route. He made the necessary detour to collect the children and then dropped us off exactly outside our hotel gate!

We also noticed that bus drivers didn't move off until the newly boarding passengers were seated. It really was a pleasure to be treated as if we were important. Such courtesy goes a long way towards making a holiday venue attractive but it also reminds us that similar courtesy in our everyday lives would be very welcome. We must try it sometime!

Maurice Snowdon.

GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY/AUGUST

Summer is here at last (10th June), high temperatures and little rain means more work for us gardeners “but we don’t mind that do we?” Watering, dead heading, and weeding are usually the main occupation, the forecast is for more of the same, so polish up your barbies, dust down your deckchairs and enjoy the fruits of your labours. By the time you read this you should be on your second batch of lettuce and radishes. The raspberries and strawberries should be well on their way if not eaten already and those lovely fresh young potatoes will be there to enjoy, nothing to beat your own grown spuds despite the odd slug being a bit chewy. My onions (have I mentioned them before?) are coming on a treat; they love the sunshine so long as their roots are not dry. The leeks are slow to start but with a little extra food and a bit of time and full encouragement should bring them on nicely in time for The Totley Show. I said last month that I am not very good with carrots. I am proved correct this year, one row hasn’t even germinated and I have got bigger radishes than carrots (can you boil radishes?). Friends and neighbours are enjoying the salad crops no matter how I try to plant successionally they all seem to develop at the same time and lettuce is very difficult to store or freeze. I have grown a new type of Cos lettuce cos I like helping the seed people test new varieties. It’s OK but it is also enormous. I have had smaller cabbages! One or 2 leaves is quite a plateful but it has a lovely nutty flavour and goes down a treat with a bit of Thousand Island or French dressing. All this talk of food reminds me to remind you to get your plans ready for The Totley Show. It’s a bit later this year, 18 September, so there will be time to finish off your artwork, knitting, photos etc as well as bring on the garden exhibits. The schedule is in this issue so have a good look and HAVE A GO! It can be a lot of fun and you could win a cup or certificate (not for onions). Don’t forget the show relies on people to turn out with their exhibits to make the show a success. I will be commenting on the Totley Open Gardens in the September issue because it takes place a bit late to be included in this issue.

FLOWERS

Remove any blooms or flower spikes that are so faded as to be no longer decorative. The object is to prevent seed formation, which weakens the plant unnecessarily; unless of course you want some seed for next year, then just leave one or two plants for this purpose. Water and feed your plants so they can give their best show and stay healthy. Summer prune wisterias shorten to about 6 leaves all side growths formed on the main branches. Watch out for the nasties, caterpillar, aphids etc. etc. will all be munching or sucking at your plants deal with them before they get a strangle hold. Tulips, Hyacinth and other bulbs will now have completed their growth and may be lifted and cleaned, lay the bulbs in shallow trays and stand them in a cool, dry place, but not in full sun, crocuses only need thinning if they are overcrowded, they gain nothing for being out of the ground. Border carnations can be increased by layering, select non flowering shoots that can easily be bent down to soil level, and make an incision with a sharp clean knife through a joint near the base of each, then the slit portion of the stem is bent down to open the slit covered with fine sandy soil and held firmly in position with a wooden or wire peg. If they are kept well watered roots will soon be formed late August or early

September, the rooted layers can be cut completely from the parent plant and potted up or planted elsewhere. Lightly prune bush and standard roses when the first flush of flowers is over. Cut back to about 2 leaves all stems which have flowered, that have no promising buds on them, give the beds a good dusting of Tonks or other rose fertiliser and hoe this in. July is a good month to plant Madonna Lilies, plant them about 8" (20cm) apart and 2" (5cm) deep, this lily prefers a sunny position in good but not freshly manured soil.

Plant colchicums, autumn flowering crocuses and stembergias, if you can find supplies they are rare at this time. At the end of July start to feed chrysanthemums, give small doses every 5 days, the more varied the feed the better. Some gardeners have some disgusting method of producing the liquid feed, which I'd rather not detail, as I have just had my breakfast. There are quite a number of fertilisers made especially for chrysanthemums, which are not quite so smelly, stick strictly to the manufacturers instructions.

Take geranium cuttings. Propagate Pansies and Violas by cutting off the present flowering shoots, to within 1" (25mm) of the roots, cover with a little fine soil mixed with sand and leaf mould, they will produce shoots which will provide cuttings next month. Prune hydrangeas, at the end of August, cut off each faded flower truss as far back as the first plump looking growth bud, and remove any weak looking stems.

VEGETABLES

Thin out any vegetable seedlings sown last month, before they become overcrowded. Cut globe artichokes as they become available do not leave them on the plant too long. Continue to plant wintergreens, keep them well watered. Leeks need to be blanched by drawing earth up around the stems or wrapping them with a bit of roofing felt or similar. They should be just right for the Totley Show in September. Keep making successional sowings of your favourite veg, turnips (for the last time), lettuce, endive, and summer spinach, choose a shady spot for these, as they will soon run to seed in the summer heat. Have you tried letting a few radishes run to seed? The pod they produce, if picked early are quite delicious and make an interesting addition to a salad. If you are contemplating sowing more carrots choose a stump rooted variety they will produce young roots by autumn.

Gather herbs for winter use. Mulch and spray runner beans. Beetroot should be getting big by early August, don't leave them too long as they do not improve with age. Water marrows regularly this will make them nice and plump ready for the Show (see the schedule). To help onions ripen, towards the end of August bend over the leaves just above the neck of the bulb.

TREES, SHRUBS and FRUIT

Cut off and bum any branches on apples and pears, and plums which show any signs of silver leaf, be drastic as it could kill your trees, start to summer prune apples and pears by shortening side shoots by two thirds. Do not leave the trimming of hedges, especially evergreens, later than August, or the new growth will be damaged by frost later. July is a good month for taking cuttings from most shrubs. If your strawberries have had any mildew, or other disease, or have been attacked by green fly, and the beds have been covered with straw, set fire to the straw) when you have gathered the last of the fruit. This will bum up all the foliage and leave the bed looking rather sad and bare for a week or so, but the crowns themselves will not be damaged and will soon produce healthy new growth. If you are producing runners from strawberries do not fire these plants, peg the runners into pots of compost let into the ground near the parent plant, take no more than 5 plantlets from each parent, cut off the runners which are not needed. If you have been troubled with codling moth on apples (small creamy grubs) inside the apple, spray insecticide after the blossom has fallen and as the fruitlets form. Kill woolly aphids on apples, it looks like little tufts of cotton wool on branches, brush with methylated

spirit into the patches, if it is widespread use a spray of fentrithion or similar.

GREENHOUSE AND INDOOR PLANTS

As with all the summer months ventilation and watering are the most important criteria for a healthy greenhouse. So shading particularly the younger plants is important, pick over plants removing dead or yellowing leaves regularly. Watch out for the green house nasties (yes we do get them in the greenhouse). White fly and greenfly are most common, spray as soon as they are seen, as they increase quite rapidly. To avoid the dreaded spider mite (it lives in a gossamer like web) and is not readily seen without a magnifying glass. Spray the plants regularly with clean water they thrive in dry conditions, if it's too bad use an insecticide specifically for this pest. If you have vine weevil in your greenhouse, which at one time was difficult to eradicate (this is a little fat creamy white grub with a black head which eats the roots of plants) do not despair.

Good old PBI have come up with a vine weevil knobbler called "PRAVADO" and it works, it's a bit pricey just now but it goes a long way. Pot on any plants and cuttings sown earlier. Continue removing side shoots from tomatoes and do not let them dry out, feed continually as soon as the first truss has set. Greenhouse primulas, calceolarias and cinerarias, sown in June, will need pricking off into trays or boxes; earlier ones can be put into pots. Cuttings from most greenhouse plants can be taken now, geraniums, fuschias, busy lizzies etc. keep them well shaded, geraniums do not need a lot of water to start with. Late August begonias and gloxinias will have finished flowering, their water supply should be gradually reduced so that they ripen their growth and go to rest. If you keep a warmish greenhouse through the winter, sow broomrape stock and Schianthus for an early show from Christmas to February or March. Pot up freesias for early flowering. Restart old cyclamen corms, in second week of August clean off all the old foliage and soil and re pot in the smallest pot, which will take the roots comfortably without any doubling up. Keep them in a shady spot, water moderately at first, but spray the corms daily with tepid water to encourage them to make new growth. Give a little water to nerines that have been resting (third week August) and increase the amount as soon as growth appears, a sunny spot is ideal. If you want narcissi by or even before Christmas pot up the bulbs now.

LAWNS

Set the mower high, if the weather is dry, and remove the grass box so that the cuttings act as a mulch to keep in the moisture, at the end of August seed can be sown on a prepared bed. Keep well watered. Well that's it, have a nice summer holiday, lets hope for good weather so that we can enjoy sitting in our gardens or perhaps having a barbie, it makes all our labours worthwhile.

Cheerio for now

Tom, Busy Bee

Coffee Cakes and Cuttings,

A big thank you to all the folk who helped and supported this event on May 22nd. We were blessed with very good weather and people were able to linger, have a second coffee and buy more from the stalls. As a result over £800 was raised which was the best ever in the 15 or so years since we started. Transport 17 will receive £500+ and the rest will go to Outreach charities.

Thank you

John Artindale

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION SHEFFIELD CENTRAL BRANCH (COURSES PROGRAMME)

Classes start the week beginning, Monday, 20th. September 2004 and are normally for 10 weeks. Most W.E.A. courses will continue for a 2nd. Term starting Monday, 10th. January 2005 and a 3rd. Term starting 11th. April 2005.

For general information on any course telephone June Fisher on 0114 272 4983 or Ian Horsfield on 0114 285 5672 or Abbeydale Centre on 0114 242 3609.

Fees for a 10 week course of 2hs. Duration (under review):-

Full fees £30

OAPs and full time students 19 and over £15

People on means tested benefit nil

St. John's Church or Guild Room, Abbeydale Rd. South.

Tel: 0114 285 5672 or 0114 272 4983

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | 1-00p.m. Gardening for pleasure. 2-30p.m. Reading & Understanding Geological Maps |
| Tuesday | 10-00a.m. French language & culture. Level 2 10-00a.m. Calligraphy (1) 1-00p.m. Calligraphy (2) 1-00p.m. Jazz Appreciation. |
| Wednesday | 10-00a.m. Decoupage & Beadcraft (1) 10-00a.m. Painting & Drawing (1) 1-00p.m. Painting & Drawing (2) 1-00p.m. Decoupage & Beadcraft (2) |
| Thursday | 7-00 p.m. Painting & Drawing 3 |
| Friday | 1-00p.m. French Language & Culture 1-00p.m. Flower Arranging (Fresh & Dried) |

Enrolments at St. John's Church Hall **Friday 17 Sept. 2004**

2-00 p.m. All Courses.

St. Oswald's Church Hall or Crypt, via Bannerdale Rd.

Tel: 0114 272 4983 or 0114 285 5627

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | 10-00 a.m. Art Appreciation The Medieval World 1-00p.m. The Author Abroad. Study of writers meeting other cultures. |
| Tuesday | 10-00a.m. Veneering & Marquetry. 1-45p.m. Botanical Illustrations (beginners) |
| Wednesday | 10-00a.m. Orchestral Music Workshop. 10-00a.m. Art in 16 th . century Europe. 1-00p.m. Literature (Biography & Novels) 1.00p.m. History of Ancient Palastine 1-00p.m. Ancient Greece 3-00p.m. Ptolemaic Egypt 7-00p.m. String Orchestra. |
| Thursday | 10-00a.m. Birds & Natural History. 10-00a.m. Study Activities for the 50 plus 1-00p.m. Local History Workshop. 1-00p.m. Aspects of Medieval Life 7-00p.m. Birds & Natural History. |
| Friday | 10-00a.m. Music inspired by Shakespeare. 1-00p.m. Natural history for All. |

Enrolments at St. Oswald's Church Hall.

Wednesday 15th. September 2004 2-00p.m. for Monday to
Wednesday courses

Thursday 16th. September for Thursday & Friday courses.

**Totley United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Tel.
Number 0114 236 7351**

Wednesday 7-00p.m. Abbeydale Writers' Workshop.

Enrol at the first meeting.

Early Days

I was born at Croydon in October 1931. My earliest memory is of an incident in, I suppose, my third year. I am at the top of the stairs in our house at Wandle Gardens in utter darkness. From below comes the sound of a booming voice. "Hugh, get back to bed - or a big, bad wolf will come and eat you up." I am back in bed in an instant.

Another early memory, equally horrible, is of being run over by a cyclist when I was four or five. I ran out from an entrance in Wandle Park without looking to right and left then right again as I had been taught to do by my dear mother. She was with me at the time and, distraught and anxious as to what my father would say, took me to a chemist shop where my injuries were patched up by an obliging assistant. Fortunately I was soon on the mend much to my mother's peace of mind.

My earliest companion was a teddy bear named Ecgbert. Light brown in colour with eyes of a darker hue he was quite large and made an appealing squeak when turned upside down. Every morning before leaving my bedroom I placed Ecgbert on the windowsill to watch passers-by so he would not be lonely in my absence. He remained my friend for many years until in old age with one leg, one eye, devoid of fur and under suspicion of harbouring fleas; he was consigned to the dustbin by my mother during spring-cleaning one year.

In September 1937 my life changed forever when my parents separated and my mother took we children to her home city of Sheffield where her parents still lived.

My mother lost no time in finding cheap, affordable accommodation. She rented a room in Hanover Street a rundown thoroughfare of terraced houses near to the city centre. The landlady, a buxom, fair-haired, fresh-faced woman, with two children of her own, welcomed us cordially and continued to treat us in a friendly, compassionate, manner throughout our brief stay of some six months.

I attended the local infants school on Napier Street known as St. Mathias. One winter's day, returning from school at about four o'clock, I was shocked to find the pavement outside our residence blocked with furniture and other belongings. On a chair staring forlornly into the roadway, sat a gaunt, unshaven, white-haired, old man whom I recognised at once as one of our neighbours. By his side stood our landlady, Mrs. Whitehead, offering comfort to the old man,

"Bailiffs!" she exclaimed. "They're not human. How I would like to give them some of their own medicine. Come inside Mr. Burrows and have some tea. We can then decide what to do. Come in Hugh. You shall have some tea too before your mother returns." My mother visited her elderly parents on South View Road nearby every weekday without exception and did not return to our room until six o'clock each evening. Mr. Burrows had been ejected for failure to pay the rent of his room. When my mother returned she shared Mrs. Whitehead's sympathy for the evicted tenant and the two ladies made a fuss of the old man and poured scorn on the bailiffs. Mr. Burrows was put up on the couch in the landlady's front room for the evening. The next day her husband Norman, a slim, bald-headed, employee in the Co-op's grocery department, made arrangements to store or pawn the old man's belongings while Mrs. Whitehead took the evicted tenant to the almshouses near Norfolk Park to enquire about vacancies.

Eventually, a month or so later Mr. Burrows was granted rent-free accommodation at the almshouses. Prior to that he

stayed at our house. I recall his simple gratitude to the Whiteheads when a party to celebrate the good news was held at Hanover Street. The whole episode impressed on my young mind the abject poverty common at that time. Things would not improve much until the introduction of the welfare state some ten years later.

My only memory of St. Mathias School is provided by a photograph still in my possession over sixty years after it was taken. It features the school band. My slight, short-trousered figure sits self-consciously at the end of the middle row pathetically playing the triangle while all about my schoolmates are gloriously playing drums and bugles. I shall never know why I have kept the photograph such is my embarrassment whenever I look at it.

In the following April my mother found better accommodation at a similar low rent. We were to sublet the front upstairs and downstairs rooms and have the use of kitchen and toilet facilities of a terraced house in Fulmer Road at Hunters Bar, a slightly more salubrious neighbourhood near Endcliffe Park. The tenant, Mr. Balmforth, was disabled having been injured in a mining accident many years earlier and spent most of his time asleep on the couch in the back room near the kitchen facilities. His manner was abrupt and taciturn but he did thaw a little once my mother in her usual kindly, hardworking way became of use to him. She helped one of his relations to clean his rooms, do his washing and shopping and generally made life more tolerable for the crusty old widower.

I attended the infant's school at Hunters Bar. A memory of this time is of playing the part of the wolf in Red Riding Hood in the school pantomime. I suppose I must have had an aggressive temperament to be selected for the role. Another memory is of fishing for tiddlers with a net in the boating pond in Endcliffe Park. One day when about to net a stickleback I overbalanced and fell headfirst into the pond. After that my enthusiasm for the sport declined.

I vaguely remember discussing the German invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1938 in the school playground so it must have been a topic of some interest to we juveniles. I also recall a visit together with my mother and sister to the Regent Cinema in the city centre to see Paul Robeson in Sanders of the River. This was a rare treat as my impoverished mother had the utmost difficulty in paying the rent and buying food and other necessities.

As a poor boy I was provided with breakfast by the Council and still remember with gratitude the thick slices of bread and jam that were the staple fare and the kindly caretaker who prepared them.

I have already written articles for the Independent about my experiences as an evacuee and in the blitz in December 1940 so I will not repeat them here.

In May 1941 my mother, sister and I were roused from our slumbers by Uncle Norman, my mother's youngest brother. He was serving as a rear gunner in the Royal Air Force and was an infrequent visitor to our home. I had met him at our grandparents' home where he lived before joining up as a volunteer at the outbreak of war. Tonight his manner was agitated. He gave a despairing look at my mother.

"It's Bob!" he exclaimed. "His ship's been torpedoed again. He's not coming back this time."

My poor mother burst into tears and fell back into a chair. "No - not dear Bob. "She cried. "Never."

"I'm sorry" said Uncle Norman in a dejected manner. "Don't upset yourself Kitty - crying won't help".

My mother was inconsolable. Her body shook with tremors as cries of anguish rang out. I too was upset and ill at ease. I could not recall ever having met Uncle Bob. He had been a

marine in the Royal Navy and was on the Reserve at the outbreak of war. He had volunteered to serve as a gunner in the Merchant Navy and it was in this role that he had met his demise. Twice previously his ship had been sunk but he had survived on one occasion after several weeks at sea in an open boat. He had not survived the third sinking. The missile struck the ammunition store directly under the deck where Uncle Bob manned the ship's sole gun. There was no escape this time.

After a while my mother's cries of anguish diminished and she recovered sufficiently to make Uncle Norman a cup of tea. The two of them recalled old times spent with their elder brother before his marriage and were full of sympathy for his widow and two infant children. I shared this feeling and trembled with anxiety.

Eventually in the small hours Uncle Norman gave a sigh, kissed my mother and returned to his parents' home where he was staying on leave.

Soon after the blitz we resumed our education. Home service prevailed for a time. This was a system whereby lessons took place in private houses usually for half a day at a time. Eventually we returned fulltime to the main school where playtime was taken up with games of marbles or of cowboys and Indians.

Envy, the Bible says, is a sin and I was not immune from it. A neighbour of mine, Philip Brown, appeared one Saturday dressed in a Red Indian outfit complete with feathered headdress. My mother could never have afforded to buy me such an expensive costume and my desire to possess it was strong. I was the elder of we two boys by a year or more and persuaded Philip to lend it to me. You can imagine my pleasure when I wore the outfit during a game of cowboys and Indians. I always liked to play the part of an Indian and was in a seventh heaven. My despair overwhelmed me when I had to give the costume back to Philip on his return home.

At this time I joined the cubs. Several of my friends at school were members and one of them, Tom Smith, persuaded me to join. Tom, the leader in all our endeavours, was my best friend. I particularly enjoyed the games of British Bulldog. The cubs had to try and cross the large room while several scouts barred the way and it was quite a rare achievement to reach the other side. I reached the rank of sixer and on occasion carried the flag at church parade. I later joined the scouts but did not stay long as their meetings clashed with games of football in Endcliffe Park.

My mother encouraged me to go to Sunday school and I attended the local Methodist church on Psalter Lane for a time. She had bought me a children's illustrated Bible and I became an avid reader of the Old Testament stories such as David and Goliath.

Girls went to school in a building attached to ours. A young goddess by the name of Christine Beard attended this holy of holies daily. She was blonde, of fair complexion with blue eyes and, in her gymslip, presented a desirable object seemingly out of reach to we mortals in the boy's school. One day Tom Smith remarked that he would like to take Miss Beard to the pictures. Ever willing to oblige my friend and conscious of how unworthy I was compared to our leader, I scaled the wall over which lay the girls' section and approached the young goddess.

She seemed unaware of her status as she sucked a lollipop in the company of other young angels likewise engaged. They chattered excitedly at my unauthorised presence and I went up to the goddess. "Tom Smith says he would like a date," I said abruptly. "Not one with a stone in it!", I added determined to make myself understood.

The goddess and her companions laughed and screamed in excitement. One of the angels told me in forthright manner "She's not available. She already has a boyfriend."

Dejected I mumbled an apology and began my return to the boys' section but at that moment a teacher, having seen my intrusion from a window, appeared and escorted me to the headmistress. Miss Buckland, a fearsome amazon in my eyes, was outraged and showed her displeasure. She strapped my hand three times with a strange instrument of punishment and warned me not to venture there again. The pain was mild, much less severe than that from the cane applied to my hand by the headmaster, Mr. Bingham, for late arrival in the mornings.

Suitably admonished I returned to the boys' school where I was welcomed as a hero and adventurer. Tom Smith gave me his commiseration and I was surprised at how quickly he overcame his disappointment at the rejection by the goddess. Some time elapsed before I overcame my own infatuation.

I discovered by chance that Miss Beard took piano lessons nearby and I haunted the house in the hope of seeing her but to no avail. She lived nearby on Osborne Road and I frequently passed the house on the chance of getting a glimpse of her. On a few occasions I was lucky and my delight knew no bounds. This behaviour lasted until I left junior school in the following summer and our paths parted forever.

I was of a strong constitution but nevertheless was not immune from childhood illness. I contracted measles of both the German and native varieties and also had a severe attack of mumps. This latter illness, a most painful condition, lasted a fortnight and I was in a distressed state for the whole time, notwithstanding my absence from school.

One common sight at that time but now not to be seen was the hordes of native red squirrels that occupied the woods in Endcliffe Park. They were a pleasure to watch as the small, furry, creatures collected acorns or frolicked in the trees. Today, of course, their immigrant grey cousins have taken over the territory to the complete exclusion of the reds. I understand that there are still pockets of red squirrels in southern England and the Isle of Wight and they are prevalent in the Lake District and Scotland. Let us hope they will continue to survive in their native land.

I had never had a holiday away from home since leaving Croydon for my mother's slender resources did not permit this. In the summer of 1942 our physical training teacher, Mr. Hill, a slim, athletic, popular, and religious man exempt from service in the armed forces, arranged for our class to visit youth hostels in Derbyshire. As the cost was modest my mother had somehow saved sufficient money for me to go on the tour.

The weather was wet for the entire week but I enjoyed the experience. We walked some twenty miles between hostels each day, myself usually at the rear. I particularly remember sighting trout in the River Dove and some of the boys swimming in this and other rivers. I could not swim at that time. Each night at the hostel we retired into our sleeping bags and were soon at rest tired out by the days walk. A similar tour took place the following summer but this time with better weather.

Before the second holiday took place I had sat the eleven plus examination and the results arrived after my return. To my mother's delight and my own satisfaction I had succeeded in gaining entrance to Nether Edge Grammar School, the third choice among my preferences.

Hugh Percival
(To be continued)

PEAK DISTRICT EVENTS

July

Thur. 1st to Sat. 3rd. Tideswell Wakes & Well Dressing. Wakes stall open daily 10am-5pm. Market stalls open 3rd July. Tel 01298 872181

Sat. 26th. June to Sun. 4th. Hope Wakes & Well Dressings Week. 4 Wells decorated. Tel. 01433 621312

Sat 26th. June to Sun. 4th. Litton Well Dressings and Wakes. 2 wells dressed. Tel. 01298 872569

Sun. 27th. June to Sun. 4th. Bakewell Carnival and Well Dressing Week. Events throughout the week, programmes available May. Tel. 01629 814112

Sat 3rd. Bakewell Carnival. From 2pm on the Recreation Ground. Tel. 01629 814112

Thur. 8th to Wed 14th. Pilsley Village Fair & Well Dressing. 8th Well Blessing at 7pm followed by entertainment. 10th: Village Fair, 1.45pm-4.30pm. Tel. 01246 583432, Email: zoe.wareham@btinternet.com

Thur. 8th to Sun 18th. Buxton Well Dressing Festival. Dressing of wells in St John's Church – 8th: 12noon – 8.30pm, 9th: 9am-8.30pm, 10th: 9am-6pm. Blessing of the wells from 2pm on 11th. A full week of events will follow. Carnival day on 17th from Town Centre at 2pm. Tel. 01298 24201

Fri. 9th to Sun. 25th. Buxton Festival Fringe. Arts festival featuring drama, music, exhibitions and more. Various venues in and around Buxton. Tel 01298 70562. Web: www.buxtonfringe.com

Sat. 10th to Sun. 18th. Little Longstone Well Dressing. 2 wells at centre of village. 10th: Blessing at 1.15pm. Viewing of well dressings in progress from 5th in the barn at Home Farm. Tel: 01629 640301. Email: ann.wrench@btinternet.com

Sat. 10th to Sun. 25th. Buxton Festival. Various events taking place. Tel: 01298 70395 (admin), 0845 12 72190 (Box Office). Web: www.buxtonfestival.co.uk Email: info@buxtonfestival.co.uk

Fri. 16th to Fri. 23rd. Dronfield Woodhouse Well Dressing. Carr Lane, Dronfield Woodhouse. 16th: Blessing at 6pm. Tel: 01246 234166.

Fri. 16th to Sun. 25rd. Millthorpe Well Dressing. Millthorpe Lane/Cordwell Lane junction, Millthorpe (nr Holmesfield). Well blessing on 16th. Viewing of well dressing in the making from 10th. Tel: 0114 2899303.

Thur. 22nd to Sun. 25rd. Sheldon Day Events. 22nd: Fell Race at 7.30pm. 24th: Village Fetet at 2pm including brass band, cream teas, vintage display, stalls, fun dog show & junior cross country. 25th: Vintage tractor run 11am. Tel: 01629 812266.

Sat. 24th to Mon. 2nd August. Stoney Middleton Well Dressing. 3 wells are dressed, all in The Nook (opposite the Moon Inn). 24th: Opening ceremony at 3pm. Viewing of wells daily 9am to dusk. Tel: 01433 631590.

August

Sun. 1st to Mon. 2nd. Stoney Middleton Well Dressing. 3 wells are dressed, all in The Nook (opposite the Moon Inn). 24th: Opening ceremony at 3pm. Viewing of wells daily 9am to dusk. Tel: 01433 631590.

Wed. 4th to Thur. 5th. 174th Bakewell Show. The Showground, Bakewell. 9am-7pm daily. Tel: 01629 812736. Web: www.bakewellshow.demon.co.uk Email: info@bakewellshow.demon.co.uk

Sat. 7th. Bradwell Open Gardens. Approx. 20 gardens open around the village. 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm. Light refreshments available in some gardens. Tel: 01433 621049

Sat. 7th & Sun. 8th. Great Longstone Artt Show. 10:30am-5.30pm, Great Longstone village hall & school. Tel: 01629 640550 or 640337.

Wed. 11th to Wed. 18th. Barlow Carnival, Well Dressing & Flower Festival. 11th: Blessing at 6.30pm. 14th: Carnival at 2pm. 11th-17th: Flowwer festival in St Lawrence Church, 10am-dusk. Tel 0114 2899381.

Thur. 12th to Sun. 15th. Great Hucklow Well Dressing & Wakes Week. 12th: Blessing at 7pm. 14th: Gala Day 2pm-5pm. Tel: 01298 871385

Sat. 21st. Chatsworth Horticultural Society Annual Show. 2pm at Cavendish Hall, Edensor: Presentation of trophies at 3.30pm followed by auction of produce. Tel: 01246 582923.

Sat. 21st. Grindleford Horticultural Show. 2pm-4.30pm. Tel: 01433 630219.

Sat. 21st. Bamford & District Gardening Society Annual Show. 2.30 pm Villiage Institute. Tel: 01433 651417.

Sat 21st to Sat 28th. Taddington Well Dressing and Flower Festival. 2 wells – 1 in the churchyard and 1 at High Well (10 minutes walk). Demonstrations in village from 16th to 20th. Tel: 01298 85396. Email: jimjan@tesco.net

Sat. 21st to Sun. 29th. David Slade Exhibition. An exhibition of photographs exploring the richness of the White Peak. Works will be for sale. Ilam Park Information Centre. Open daily 10am to 4pm. Contact the National Trust South Peak Estate Office on 01335 350503. Email: ilampark@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Sun. 22nd. Macclesfield West Park Family Fun Day, West Park, Prestbury Road, Macclesfield. 10am – 5.30 pm. Tel: 01625 504408. Web: www.macclesfield.gov.uk

Thur. 26th. Pilsley, Chatsworth Fell Race, 7.30pm. Fell Runners Association Rules. Tel: 01246 583432. Email: zoe.wareham@btopenworld.com

Thur. 26th to Fri. 3rd Sept Holymoorside Well Dressing. 2 wells at centre of village by Recreation ground. 26th blessing service at 7pm. Tel: 01246 569177.

Sat. 28th. Edale Horticultural Society's 147th Show Day, Edale Village Hall 2pm-4.30pm. Auction of Produce 4.15pm. Tel: 01433 670237. Email: betnbert@hotmail.com.

Sat. 28th. Froggatt Show. 2pm-5.15pm Stoke Lane Field, Horticultural exhibits, handicraft, craft, childrens entertainer, stalls, refreshments, cars display, rider & pony classes. Free parking for visitors. Auction of produce and raffle draw 5.15pm. Tel: 01433 631722

Sat. 28th to Sat. 4th September. Eyam Well Dressing. 3 wells. 28th: Procession leaves Church for Townhead Well at 2.45pm, blessing at 3pm. Tel: 01433 630930. Web: www.eyamchurch.org Email: admin@eyamchurch.org

Sat. 28th & Sat. 4th September. Eyam Wakes Week. 9th Sept: Carnival Day – procession at 2pm. Sheep roast from 10.30am, events and stalls on sports field. Tel: 01433 630349

Sat. 28th to Sun. 5th September. Foolow Well Dressing. 2 wells on village green. 28th: Blessing at 1pm.

Mon. 30th. Hope Show & Sheepdog Trials. At the new showground, Castleton Road, Hope. Traditional family show. Sheepdog trials, showjumping, heavy horses, cattle and sheep including rare breeds, gundog competition, vintage cars and motorcycles, vintage tractors and engines, horticultural tent, crafts plus children's attractions. Tel: 01433 620905. Web: www.hope-show.co.uk

Mon. 30th. Glossop Bank Holiday Market. Glossop Market Ground. Tel: 01298 28404

All the above, plus many more events, can be found in "Peak District 2004" the National Parks Free Official Newspaper and Guide.

Patient & Public Involvement Forum for the S.W. Primary Care Trust

Patient & public health forums have been set up to enable people to have a say in what's happening in healthcare in their local areas. The forums are supported by the national Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health. The forums are independent, but have the roles of working with a particular local NHS trust.

Each forum has members who are volunteers, concerned about the provision of healthcare in their community. The members have a variety of experiences as users of the health service. The forum for the S.W. PCT currently has 11 members and has administrative support from the Carers' Federation, based in offices at the Blades Enterprise Centre in Bramall Lane. Informal meetings take place once a month and public meetings will be advertised and held regularly in different venues throughout the south west of the city.

The forum members will help monitor and review health services from the point of view of patients and of the public. They will also be concerned with environmental issues. The forums are empowered to inspect services – in the case of the PCTs, GPs' surgeries, dental practices, pharmacists' and opticians' premises. They may also refer matters of concern to national bodies.

What relevance do the forums have to people using local health services?

We forum members are determined to make a difference in our local communities. We are committed to finding out what the health issues are locally – whether there are special issues affecting an area, whether there are particular health problems, whether there are communities whose opinions are being ignored. We aim to improve the communication between ourselves as patients and members of the public and those who provide the services which are so important to us as individuals and communities. We will listen to what local people have to say and we will require answers from the people who run the health services.

If you have comments or concerns about the local health services, we would like to hear from you.

The S.W. PCT forum members can be contacted through the Carers' Federation at the Edgedale Suite, Blades Enterprise Centre, John Street, Sheffield, S2 4SW. The phone number : 292 2450/1.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Answers to Garden Quiz

1. George Bernard Shaw
2. A crust that forms on the surface of soil damaged by compaction, heavy rain or watering.
3. Lent Lily
4. As a gum for bookbinders, and as starch for laundry.
5. Convallaria majalis, 'Hardwick Hall' a form of Lily of the Valley with pale gold edges to its leaves.
6. Fell in Pond
7. Because it is made from the fruit of the blackcurrant, or *Ribes*
8. Because it traps moths with a sticky secretion
9. Sand, silt, clay and humus
10. A one-year old tree
11. Clumber Park
12. The depth of a spade's blade

(And a reminder of the questions:-

1. Which famous author and playwright worked in a revolving hut in the garden of his Hertfordshire home?
2. What is capping?
3. By what name are wild daffodils (narcissus pseudonarcissus) commonly known?
4. Name one of the two old uses for bluebell juice?
5. Which flower was discovered at Hardwick Hall and bears its name?
6. Rudyard Kipling built a lily pond in the garden at Bateman's, so his children could use it for swimming and boating. Entries in the family visitors' book were often followed by the letters 'F.I.P.' What did these stand for?
7. Why is Ribena so called?
8. Why was the cruel plant (*Araujia sericofera*) so called?
9. What four ingredients does loam consist of?
10. What is a maiden?
11. Robin Hood could have trodden the ground where this garden now lies. Where is it?
12. How deep is a spit?)

Plant donations needed

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Thank you - I look forward to hearing from you.

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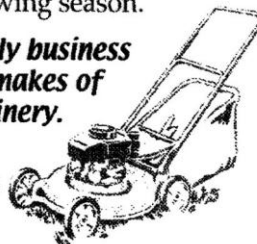
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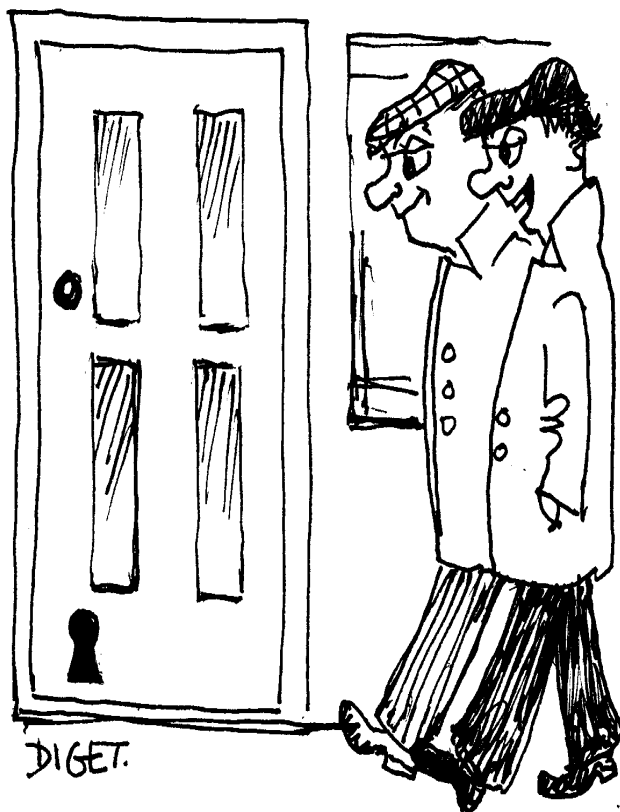
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HEALTH WALKS. 10-30 a.m., Totley Library foyer. For a current programme and/or further details contact:
Sue, The Health Walk Ranger: 0114 2839195
- THURSDAYS** PUSHCHAIR CLUB. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 1.30pm.. to 3pm. Tel. 2363157 for further details.
- SATURDAYS.** MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING. All Saints Church Hall 2nd. And 4th. Saturdays 7.30pm. to 10pm.

JULY 2004

SAT. 3rd and SUN. 4th. MINATURE TRAIN RIDES. Open Days and Exhibition. Abbeydale Road South, first train 1 p.m., last train 5 p.m.

SAT. 3rd SUMMER FETE, Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 2 – 5 p.m.

SAT. 3rd. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, Billy Tudor, Heatherfield Club Baslow Road 8-30 pm. Non Members Welcome. Entry £1-50

SUN. 4th ABBEYDALE INDUSTRIAL HAMLET, "Take a walk on the wild side" – themed living history Sunday. Programme 11.30 a.m. – 4.15 p.m.

TUES. 6th WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. A.G.M., 2.30 p.m. Totley Rise Methodist Church

WED. 7th WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP, "The Sheffield Pals", Shirley Ellins, 7.30 p.m. Totley Rise Methodist Church

SAT. 17th TRANSPORT 17, "Odds and Ends" Coffee Morning at T17 office, 172 Baslow Road, 10 a.m. - 12 noon – new goods, bric-a-brac, books etc. 50p donation charge for coffee and biscuits

SAT. 17th. DERBYSHIRE CHALLENGE WALK. Further details inside.

SUN. 18th. MINATURE TRAIN RIDES. Abbeydale Road South, first train 1 p.m., last train 5 p.m.

TUES. 20th WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. Tea and Talk – in the Church Lounge, 2.30 p.m. Totley Rise Methodist Church

TUES. 20th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, N.C.M. Report, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10.00 am.

WED. 21st WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP, "The Street names of Dore", Dr. John Dunstan, 7.30 p.m. Totley Rise Methodist Church

THU. 29th. TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, 4 Grove Road, 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m

SAT. 31st. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, Dennis Vincent, Heatherfield Club Baslow Road 8-30 pm. Non Members Welcome. Entry £1-50

AUGUST 2004

WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP – No meetings in August

TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED – No meetings in August

TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD– No meetings in August

SUN. 1st. ABBEYDALE INDUSTRIAL HAMLET, "They don't make 'em like they used to" – themed living history Sunday. Programme 11.30 a.m. – 4.15 p.m.

SUN. 1st., SUN 15th, SUN 29th & MON 30th (BH) MINATURE TRAIN RIDES. Abbeydale Road South, first train 1 p.m., last train 5 p.m.

TUE. 24th. STRAWBERRY TEA & 'BRING &BUY', Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 2 – 4 p.m.

SAT. 28th. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, Ray David, Heatherfield Club Baslow Road 8-30 pm Non Members Welcome Entry £1-50

THE INDEPENDENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

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

SATURDAY 28th. AUGUST 2004

COPY DATE for this issue will be

SATURDAY 14th. AUGUST 2004

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