

Totley Independent

Published continuously since 1977

www.totleyindependent.co.uk

February/March 2016

No. 378

20p



Totley Bents

Tidying Up Totley!

If you notice the streets and pavements of Totley looking cleaner in the next few weeks, it will probably be because of the work of a new group of voluntary litter pickers.

Local resident Julie Gay and her friend have started a regular monthly community litter picking group, alternating between Totley and Dore, and starting on January 30. Julie told us, "this is to raise people's awareness of the impact that litter has on the environment and on our communities. We would love it if people wanted to join us, even if it's only for 20 minutes".

This local group will be one of 60 community groups around the city who are seeking to reduce the amount of rubbish on our streets. The Education Officer for Amey, Millie Guthrie, has supplied litter-grabbers, black bin-bags and disposable gloves for the group, and co-ordinates the

collection of bags after each litter-pick.

In Totley, says Julie, litter is everywhere, but the main target areas will include Baslow Road, Totley Rise shops, Glover Road, Green Oak Park and Queen Victoria Road, and of course not forgetting the area outside the Co-op where, says Julie, "it's always grotty!"

In Dore, the group will concentrate on areas outside King Ecgbert school, Furniss Avenue and outside the shops and pubs in Dore village.

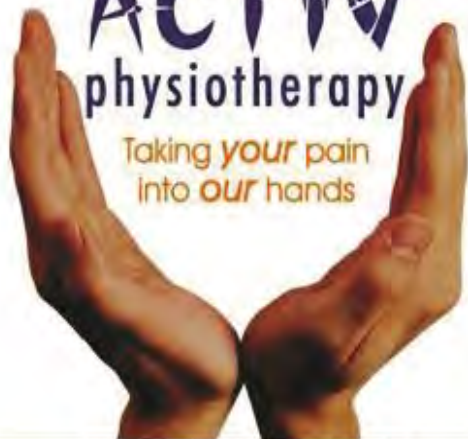
The meeting on January 30 will concentrate on Dore, and will meet at 10.30 am at the main entrance of King Ecgbert School. Meetings targeting litter in Totley will meet outside Totley library. If you would like to get involved, you can contact Julie by email at ju.gay@btinternet.com



Bags of litter awaiting removal

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Remembering Mr Miller

At the end of November, we received the very sad news that Allen Miller, our much-loved caretaker here at Totley Primary School, had passed away following a long, brave battle with illness. As well as working at the school for around 13 years, Allen was also a big part of the local community - living as he did with his wife, Leigh, and son, Ben, in the house at the bottom of the school drive.

Allen was truly devoted to the school. During his time at the Totley Primary, the fabric of the building and grounds were improved immeasurably through a wide range of projects he helped to co-ordinate. These included classroom refurbishments, a new roof and windows, an expanded



outdoor area for Foundation Stage and (the children's favourite) a resurfaced and colourfully marked playground! Each time a project was completed, Allen would proudly survey the scene, smile, nod his head and say, "We're getting there aren't we?"

Allen came into the world of education later on in life, having been a specialised welder earlier in his career. He brought with him a willingness to graft and a genuine twinkle in his eye. He was a larger than life character whom the children loved for the sense of fun he brought into their lives. As his time at Totley went by, Allen developed a passion for gardening and established a fantastic school

allotment complete with poly-tunnel, hen house and duck pen. This was put to good use by the school gardening club, which Allen took great pride in leading, along with a dedicated band of local residents. It truly was a proud day when the school cook was able to put their home grown vegetables on the menu in the dining room. You will be pleased to know that the ducks and hens did not suffer the same fate!

After the initial shock and sadness of hearing about Allen's death, there was a genuine outpouring of love and gratitude from the school community to acknowledge the positive impact he had made over the years. The outdoor classroom at the top of the drive became a place to leave a huge array of cards, messages, poems, pictures and photographs of happy memories that children and parents would remember him by. It really was quite remarkable. On the day of the funeral itself, the school closed to allow staff to go and pay their respects. The service was incredibly well attended and the sheer number of former pupils, parents, staff and local residents present was testament to the high regard in which Allen was held.

So thank you Mr Miller. You truly put the "care" into "caretaker" at Totley Primary School and you will be greatly missed!

Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher

Allen Miller 1951– 2015 An Appreciation

A friend of a huge number of families and residents of Totley, Allen Miller was that smiling face that greeted you at the school gates on the "school run" to Totley Primary School. He was the Building Supervisor with a difference.

Allen passed away peacefully on November 27th; a great loss to the community. Chris Stewart, ex-headmaster of the school, gave a lovely warm and fitting tribute at the funeral, recalling several humorous stories of Allen's involvement at the school and stressing the important role he played there and how much he meant to the staff and the children.

Allen reminded me of the Lion from the Wizard of Oz with those ruddy cheeks, a great big grin and, of course, his stature. He demonstrated enormous courage during his long drawn out stay in hospital, fighting to the end, but throughout he retained his sense of humour with those one-liners and the little smile to follow.

I had the pleasure of helping to run the school's Gardening Club with him over a number of years and I know, first hand, how much the children thought of him, what new skills they learned from him and how much knowledge they gained working with him. And they certainly enjoyed checking out his hen house with him at the end of each session, to see how many eggs his hens had laid and he always arranged to have ice creams for each child at the end of term which they eagerly anticipated. Tom Steel and "Little" Alan (to the children) Stead also helped in this after school activity and we spent many a happy half hour together after each session with our mugs of tea, laughing and joking, with Allen telling his wonderful stories and so often winding Tom up with the fact that his runner beans were going to be longer or his marrows and potatoes would be bigger and better than Tom's at the Totley Show. He also joked with his neighbour, Harry Liddle, that his blackberries would outshine Harry's at the show; such fun.

As far as the Totley Show is concerned, I know (*cont.p.4*)

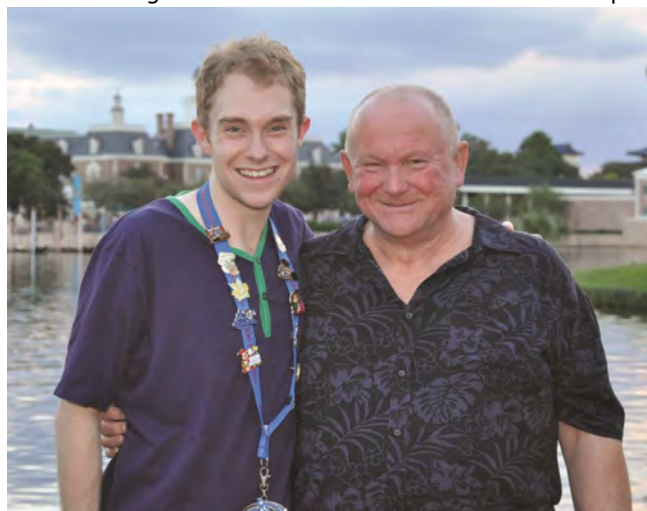
how much the Show's committee really appreciated Allen's support and contribution over the years. He was always on hand at the outset to ensure everything at the school was arranged to accommodate the show, and he was there to help with the final clearing up, always the last to leave.

He was without doubt a great and generous neighbour, always offering help and assistance to all, no matter how busy he was up at the school. I will miss the ducks' and hens' eggs, and the variety of vegetables from his allotment, left on the doorstep at some unearthly hour of the morning, and the pots of jam and chutney he loved making. I will miss him putting out the sand and salt along the snow-covered pavement of Sunnyvale Road to help children and parents walking to school, and the fact that he would always throw a bit on my drive to assist with getting the car out.

So many stories to tell but there is one in which he created a wonderful image of himself, watering the numerous flowering hanging baskets that we had planted with the children. The baskets were hanging on the outside walls of the school and he was walking on the flat roof of the school, watering them from above by leaning over the edge of the building - only on this occasion the school inspectors were present, underneath and watching! Health and Safety! So it was safety ladders after that, much to his disappointment.

He was always on the look out for a bargain or a favour to benefit the gardening club, with deliveries of woodchip, manure, seeds, plants etc, and if there were any builders on site at the school he was often given an old spade, bucket or wheelbarrow as a donation to the cause. He certainly had that gift of chatting with people; they could not resist or refuse him. And on one occasion he had great pride in showing me his latest acquisition - a massive water tub, as tall and as big as he was. He explained that it was surplus to requirements having been seized by the

police in a drugs raid. Priceless. You couldn't make it up.



He had that lovely sparkle in his eye when he told me that one.

So many people feel very lucky that Allen came into and was a part of their lives, he will be sorely missed. He was a devoted husband and father and was so very proud of his wife Leigh and son Ben. Our thoughts go out to them and other members of their family.

One thing is for certain, his memory will live on. You only have to walk up the drive to the school and see the trees and flowers he has planted. So when the crocuses and daffodils are in bloom or the Cherry trees are in flower think of him and his special contribution. I know I am one of many, many people who feel it has been a real privilege to have known him.

Chris Measures

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Explore Longshaw in a Different Way!

The National Trust has teamed up with British Orienteering and local club Derwent Valley Orienteers to provide a unique event that will give you the chance to explore Longshaw in a whole new way.

The National Trust Orienteering Challenge, which is part of a national series, takes place on Saturday 20 February and is what is known as a "score" event. You have to use your navigational skills to find as many control markers as you can, to win as many points as you can, in 60 minutes. Extra points can be gained by completing special challenge controls where your mind will be tested as well as your body!

Ruth Tweedie, Sports Development Officer for the National Trust at Longshaw, says "It's fantastic that we've been able to work with British Orienteering to develop the concept of the Orienteering Challenge. We want people to come and explore National Trust properties and this is a really new and exciting way to do it. We also are really lucky to have Derwent Valley Orienteers, our excellent local club, running the event with us; their knowledge and experience will make sure that everyone will be able to have a really enjoyable time."

Mike Godfree from Derwent Valley Orienteers says "This is a great way to introduce new people to the sport. Orienteering can help improve fitness as well as navigational skills. We hope the event will encourage more people to take part and join us at future events."

You don't need any experience of orienteering but you will need to be 16 or over and have a base-level of fitness to get around the course. Booking is essential and can be done online at <http://www.fabian4.co.uk/default.aspx?EventID=1385>

For anyone under 16 or for those who would like to try a

gentler introduction to orienteering, there will be a novice course of approximately 2.5k for anyone to try, no need to book, just come along on the day.
For more information, contact Ruth Tweedie on Ruth.Tweedie@nationaltrust.org.uk

All MoVe Strictly Dance Season

Have fun learning to dance!

Starts Thursday 18th February, from 8.00pm – 9.30pm
At Dore and Totley United Reformed Church.

Due to the success of our four previous Strictly Dance Seasons, we are starting our fifth season (eight-weeks) on Thursday 18th February. The season is for absolute beginners to the partner dance styles we introduce - Modern Jive, Salsa, Cha Cha Cha, Foxtrot and Waltz.

Online advance booking required. To book your place(s), go to the Strictly Dance Season page on our website www.all-move.com.

To find out more, visit our website or email us at: all-move@live.co.uk or telephone Ivan on: [07793 403 969](tel:07793403969).



Sheffield Rugby Union Football Club

Fixtures for March and April 2016:

Sat. March 5th at Abbeydale Park SRUFC v Cleckheaton
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kick off 3pm.
Sat. April 16th at Abbeydale Park SRUFC v Firwood Waterloo
kick off 3pm.



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Dore and Totley Minesweeping Trawlers Comforts Fund

In the last issue, we featured an item from Totley History Group which referred to a box of documents relating to the 'Dore and Totley Minesweeping Comforts Fund'. Here, Pauline Burnett gives more detail on what's been discovered.

I was certainly intrigued when we were given a box of World War II correspondence revealing the story of how local women grouped together to provide 'extras' for the men working on minesweepers in the North Sea. It became a superbly-run organisation that sent almost 8,000 knitted items of clothing and gifts of money to secure sports equipment, Christmas treats etc. over a five year period.

It was started in 1940 by Hilda Duffy and Kathleen Grayson, gathering knitters from the west of Sheffield to make warm garments for men serving on the minesweeping fleet based at HMS Calliope, North Shields.

Communication was with various officers at the base, Capt. L. M. Shadwell and Rev. A. W. Mandall being the main contacts, and we have names of all the trawlers supported by the group, together with many of their crew.

An affiliated group was formed in Fulwood and Sheffield City Centre that became known as *The Sunshine Trawlers Group*, due to the fact that they met in the Shelley Room of The Sunshine Café in Orchard Street. It was organised by Mrs Dove and Amy Wass, with Miss Ann Turner looking after the youth sector who ran many fund raising events.



Knitting patterns from the Depot for Knitted Garments for the Royal Navy

Do you remember your mother/grandmother knitting jerseys, sea-boot socks, gloves and balaclava helmets for the cause?

The group held huge garden fetes each summer to raise funds...maybe you were taken to one of these in Dore Road or Brook Hall?

Any memories of the group, or of that time in Dore, Totley and Sheffield would be most welcome. Did you have a relative who served on the minesweepers? We want to hear from you as we hope to tell their story in our next book.

Please contact me at paulineburnett17@gmail.com or Tel: 0114 235 2344.

Thank you.

Pauline Burnett

Free with this issue! Your Own 11 Plus Exam!

The Totley Independent's Independent Education Reporter reports:

Once upon a bad time, every February and March, every 11-year-old in Totley had to sit the 'scholarship' exam to decide who you would be for the rest of your life! But here's your chance to sit it again! Are you a sheep or a goat? Test your family and friends!! Get your lifetime results on p 33!!!

- How long is Totley Tunnel?
 - Not long enough
 - Five miles exactly
 - 6230 yards
 - It depends which end you measure it from
- Which of these is a lost landlord of a lost Totley pub?
 - Izzie
 - Ozzie
 - Fozzie
 - Wuzzie
- These successful writers all lived some of their lives in Totley. But which wrote 'Totley Tom'?
 - Angela Thirkell
 - Colin Macinnes
 - T Hague
 - Edward Carpenter
- These were all teachers from Dore and Totley - but who's the odd one out?
 - Hannah Wild
 - Dolores Wild
 - Mr Wileman
 - Mrs Wileman
- What do we know of Totley Library when it wasn't where Totley Library is?
 - It was in Dore
 - It had been a car show room
 - It was something to do with electricity
 - It had plenty of Dr Dolittle and The Lone Pine Five but if you wanted a rude book there was a block of wood instead, and you had to ask at the counter
- Why was there a lot of drinking at 87 Baslow Road, once?
 - It was once half of a gentleman's club
 - Geoff Cash once lived there
 - Though it was once a temperance hotel, it became Ab-beydale Club
 - It was once the Kings Arms Hotel
- In the the great snowstorm of January 1917, what was Nanny Jessop doing?
 - Delivering Fred Cartwright's daughter
 - Playing snowballs
 - Making jollop
 - Catching Asian flu
- If we urgently need a slice of Bakewell Pudding, how far is Bakewell from the Totley boundary down by the Methodists on the bridge over Old Hay Brook?
 - 15 miles
 - 13 miles.
 - A sign on the railway bridge says Totley starts up there
 - 99.37 metres
- In 2012 in the Hope Valley Premier League, who got the 'Mr Footie' award for his last-minute penalty in the game versus local rivals Hunters Bar ?
 - James Joyce
 - James Hogg
 - James Martin
 - James Stephenson
- The Totley Ten is/are -
 - Commandments
 - Pubs
 - Fags
 - The missing number on the dart board at the Shepley
- Is it -
 - All Saints School
 - All Saint's School
 - All Saints' School
 - All Sain'ts School

Pass or fail your 11±? See page 33 for your results!

Totley Hall Farm – the latest!

Yes, it is true that we plan to retire this year.

There are a number of reasons for this, the first of which is that we are both past the recommended retirement age. I am now 67 years old, this is past the normal retirement age of 65 and indeed these days many people seem to retire much earlier - at 55 or 60 – although some do like to carry on in a part time basis at least.

I left school at 15 and went straight to work on a farm in my home village of Bampton in Oxfordshire. This means that I have spent 52 years in farming, one of the most arduous and dangerous occupations there is. As you get older you become less agile and less able to avoid accidents whether machinery or livestock orientated. Farmers I know of have been killed when they carried on for too long



Edwin with Male champion, Great Yorkshire Show, 2013

and became less able to jump out of danger quickly enough to avoid injury. This is a very good reason to retire when you still can.

During my time in farming, I have moved up the farming ladder to two farm manager positions and then to be a tenant farmer in my own right. We have now been farming in Totley for 33 years and have seen many changes around us during that time. Most of these have been due to development. Firstly the Stocks Green estate, then the old scout hut site (or was it the other way round?) followed by the Old Hall and Lowfield sites and lastly the Hall Lane farmstead area.

Totley Hall farm has seen many changes in the use of the land and farmstead. Initially, most of the land was used for cereal production, with potatoes and oilseed rape used as break crops. The initial five acres of PYO soft fruit grew to 20 acres before customer demand dropped off and this became unviable. Likewise, the cereal, oilseed rape and potato enterprises were dropped when they too were subject to low market prices. 17 acres of poorer land was planted with native species to form part of the extended community forest known as Gillfield wood. The net outcome of this is that today all the fields are down to grass to provide sheep grazing for what was one of the biggest Poll Dorset flocks in the country. The farmstead buildings have been used for many different enterprises - initially grain and potato stores, a chicken shed, a pig breeding unit as well as lambing pen accommodation for the 150 mongrel ewes in our first flock. We have done retail freezer

meat sales, egg sales, Christmas turkey and tree sales, rabbits (very short lived!) and now nativity plays, barn dances and log storage.

Sadly, most of our Dorset flock were sold in October at a livestock market at Sedgemoor near Bridgwater in Somerset. This was a pity in one sense as they had become one of the most productive and high performance flocks in the country. However, we decided that we did not want to have to cope with feeding and lambing them over another winter particularly as my knees are making it very difficult to get down to lamb a ewe and even worse to get up again! The noise and feeling of my knee bones grinding together when trying to hold a ewe still to clip her toenails, was also telling me it was time to pack up! I can sense a double knee replacement operation coming on in the near future. Jenn still suffers from the back injury she sustained many years ago when struggling with a recalcitrant lambing ewe at 4 o'clock one morning. Hopefully a less arduous lifestyle will reduce the severity of this pain.

Totley Hall has never been the easiest farm to run due to its position in a built up area with the land being scattered about, separated from the farmstead and in small field sizes. As product margins have become smaller, it has become more and more difficult to produce a living from this size farm. We have managed by diversifying into many other enterprises over the years, PYO fruit and now agricultural contracting and Nativity plays. Many people



Fruit fields 2001

would now say that you need at least 300 acres to be able to stand a chance of making a living out of farming alone. We have 80 acres at Totley Hall so pure agriculture here is not sufficient to provide a reasonable living.

We are planning to retire to Brixham in Devon where we have been holidaying for over 20 years and have made many friends there. No date is fixed at the moment; it looks as if it may be June or July time. We have purchased a bungalow there and need to have some extension work done on that prior to moving. We are both looking forward to a more relaxed lifestyle in a warmer climate in a picturesque setting near to the sea.

What is the future for the farm itself? As you are probably aware, the farmstead has been advertised for sale and will probably be sold to a developer. There is much scope here for an upgrade to the farmhouse and the adjoining courtyard buildings subject to constraints imposed by their listed and conservation area status. As I write, this area is still on the market and unsold.

I know that some of you will be very concerned about the future of the land. This is all in the green belt and will remain so. The planning authorities have (*cont'd p.8*)

taken steps to ensure that all the fields will be re-let as agricultural land to other farmers when we finally give up the tenancy. There is therefore no prospect of any of it being sold for development in the short or medium term as the main focus is on redeveloping brown field sites within the current urban area.

You now know as much about the future of Totley Hall as we do. There have been various rumours floating around, some true, some untrue, so I felt it was appropriate to set the record straight now before it reached the point where fiction took over from fact!

We would like to thank all our friends and customers for their support over the years we have been here and wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Edwin and Jenny Pocock

Memories of Totley Carnival 1973

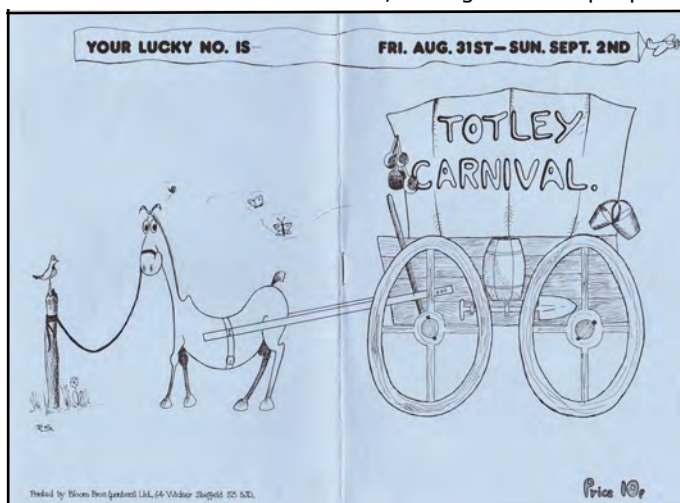
Does anyone remember this three-day event in the late summer of 1973? I was the acting secretary at that time of a group of individuals from Totley Sports and Social Club and Totley All Saints School Parent Teacher Association.

The newly-formed PTA was trying to raise funds towards new classrooms at the church school, and at the same time Totley Sports and Social Club was fundraising towards a new pavilion on Totley Bents recreation ground. It seemed a natural thing to join together for a full week-end of fundraising activities.

We held our planning meetings at the Cricket Inn, beginning the previous autumn, and Kath Dyson remembers committee members walking down Chapel Bank holding hands to keep upright in deep snow! It was planned to hold a Cow Pie Supper and Hoedown on the Friday evening in the barn at Far Nova, Hallfield Farm, Shorts Lane. On the Saturday there would be a Grand Gala in the

church school grounds with sideshows, displays, amusements and competitions; and a Barbecue and Disco at Far Nova in the evening. On Sunday afternoon there would be a celebrity cricket match between a Derbyshire X1 and a Yorkshire X1 on Totley Bents recreation ground, followed by a service to be led by the Rev. Hallatt. Looking back through the letters and minutes of meetings was actually a tremendous undertaking to organise all this.

Jim Trotter and Norman Cann were joint chairmen and I was the secretary of the steering committee, with various subcommittees at the start, though various people



Back and front covers of the Carnival programme

dropped out along the way. So many details had to be arranged! Licensed bars for the evening events, all the food, bands, chairs and car parking for each venue. Advertising, posters, sale of programmes, paper plates and cutlery, dancing licence, marquees and balloons etc to decorate them. Then we needed eight stewards to sleep overnight in the marquee to protect the bar equipment, games, roundabouts, pony rides, tug of war etc for the Carnival. Wow! It seems that we had big ideas and lots of energy!

The programmes for the weekend cost 10p and had a lucky prize number. Apparently, 1900 out of 2500 were sold, and local businesses advertised for a fee of £12 per page or £3 per quarter page. The adverts make interesting reading of all the local services provided in Totley in 1973. Among these were Totley Bridge Service Station (now the local vet), Willars Footwear and the Baby Bar on Totley Rise, Ladies' Fashions and even a launderette, by the side of the Heatherfield Club. Tickets for all the events were on sale at Totley Post Office where John worked with his parents at the time. The whole event was covered by a report in the Sheffield Star headed "Take your partners for a Cowboy Carnival" and photographs were also published in the Star.

It would be interesting to hear from anyone who has memories of the event. Denys Dyson remembers sleeping in the marquee and having to ward off youths who were trying to get to the beer, and his wife Kath remembers the bacon sandwiches were taken to the stewards for their breakfast. I have no record of the amount raised but Kath thinks it may have been around £100.

I enjoyed revisiting the file and hope it has been of interest.

Pauline Perkinson

215th (1st Totley) Scout Group

Due to a recent change in leadership we are URGENTLY seeking to recruit some new leaders to our thriving Scout Group. In particular we need:

Cub Scout Leader
Scout Leader
Group Scout Leader

All of these roles are very rewarding and we have a great group of enthusiastic boys and girls who love coming along every week to enjoy all the activities that Scouting has to offer.

Do you think you could help us?

All of the above roles could be done as a 'job share'. Maybe your expertise lies in the paperwork side of things, maybe you are more hands on and enjoy the practical activities that Scouting has to offer. We can offer lots of help and support if Scouting is new to you. All you need is enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and have fun.

If you feel you could help us out with any of the above, or indeed know of someone who might be interested please get in touch.

If you want to find out more about what the different roles entail we would be very happy to talk to you.

Contact: Sue Bridgens 07982 719284 or email hallamadccubs@gmail.com



Friends of Gillfield Wood Diary

FEBRUARY

Saturday 6th: Bird Walk with Chris Measures. The first opportunity of 2016 for a stroll through Gillfield Wood to familiarise yourself with its birds. At this time of year, we may see winter thrushes such as Redwing and Fieldfare. Meet 9 am at the Scout Hut, off Aldam Road. **No experience necessary.** Bring binoculars and cameras. Strong shoes are essential given the rain we have had. The walk will last about 2 hours.

Monday 15th: Talk by Allan Parker entitled 'Nature's Year'. Totley Library, 7:30pm. Allan will share his photographs of birds, invertebrates, etc. from across a year, giving us a primer as to what we ourselves may see in 2016. Refreshments available. Bring a friend.

Sunday 21st: Friends of Gillfield Wood: Practical conservation morning run with the help of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am at Baslow Road bus terminus. Refreshments, tools, etc. provided. Please wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing. All levels of help required and guidance given. Check our website at www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com – for any late changes.

MARCH

Saturday 12th: Searching for Crusts in Gillfield Wood

Come along and learn about fungal crusts from an expert in this field, Steve Clements (who returns after leading a survey last autumn). Fungal crusts have interesting textures discernible with a good x10 lens. Other fungi found will be recorded as well. For those of you less interested in fungi, do join us as there should be opportunities to see a range of invertebrates and possibly photograph them as we turn over dead wood. **Wear appropriate clothing and footwear;** and bring a packed lunch if you wish to stay into the afternoon. We start at 10am at the Bus terminus on Baslow Road.

Sunday 20th: Friends of Gillfield Wood: practical conservation morning run with the help of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am at Baslow Road bus terminus. Refreshments, tools, etc. provided. Please wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing. All levels of help required and guidance given. Check our website at www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com – for any late changes.

Paul Hancock

Totley Yard Sale!

Sunday 17th April 2016, 11.00am

Sell your unwanted goods from your own front garden! You pay £5 which goes to Totley Open Gardens Association (which distributes money to various local community organisations every year — the total raised to date is over £25,000) and you are included on a list with a map which is sold to buyers on the day for 50p.

To register, email jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk or Tel. 0114-236-2302

Have a clear out, raise some money for yourself and contribute to supporting the local community!

Jennie Street



Older People's Services in Totley

Are there enough, services, activities and information for older people in Totley? Or could the area benefit from better provision for over-50s? Age UK Sheffield is asking people from throughout the city where the gaps in provision for older people are, so the charity can focus its work for maximum impact.

Chief executive Steve Chu said: "We are following the Council's approach of trying to provide much-needed services at local community level. We know that some areas have extensive networks of local support from community-based organisations. But in other parts of the city, there are gaps in provision for older people – whether they be lunch clubs, support for people with memory loss, or respite services for family members.

"We would like people to tell us where these gaps are. We can bring our expertise in working with older people to local areas, perhaps working with community centres, care homes or accommodation providers to put on new activities in local communities."

If you have an idea for a new service that is needed in your area, for over-50s, people with memory loss, or their families, please contact Steve Chu at:

steve.chu@ageuksheffield.org.uk

Steve Chu, Chief Executive, Age UK Sheffield

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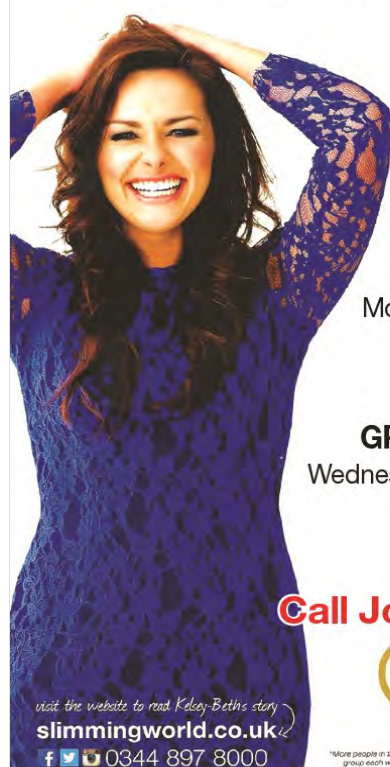
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Friends of Gillfield Wood

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Bird Walk, November 2015

It was something of a surprise to wake up to icy conditions and a thin layer of snow lying over Totley and the surrounding fields at the end of last year. It was 8.30am on Saturday November 21st, the temperature was just under 4 degrees and, to say the least, it was a bit on the chilly side. Slipping and sliding to the metal gate at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane, a small group gathered for our last event of the year. No pressure on the leader following the event being advertised as "a Bird Walk not to be missed"!

Greeting us at the start of this walk, Robin, Wren, Blue Tit and Goldfinch were crisply calling from nearby hedge-rows and trees. Then Chaffinches put in a brief appearance on the path in front of us before diving back into the hedge as we climbed carefully over the wooden stile and stood in that first field scanning the lower branches of the large Oak trees in front of us. We knew that a Little Owl



Little Owl (Library photo)

had been seen here a few days before; it had been seen to fly out of a Holly bush at the corner of the field and land in one of these Oak trees. Little Owls, approximately two thirds the size of a Tawny Owl, can quite often be seen during the hours of daylight and sometimes you can be lucky enough to see them sitting in the lower branches of trees, where they face the sun with eyes half closed "taking in the rays". Surely we could not be so lucky to see one this morning, but the sun was certainly playing its part and shining well. And then, unbelievably, one of our group pointed out that an owl was sitting in the entrance of a small hole in an old Ash tree at the edge of the field. Huge excitement as we all gathered around two telescopes and took it in turns to get excellent views of this beautifully marked Little Owl as it sat facing the sun, undisturbed and yes, its eyes were half closed. What a brilliant start to the walk.

No doubt we were all wondering how we would follow that as we progressed along the footpath towards Gillfield Wood. But as we entered the centre of the wood, we detected birds calling and as we edged carefully down a steep slope to get closer, a small party of Long-tailed Tits with their trilling calls were found working their way through the bare branches of a number of trees next to us. Then suddenly, along the brook, just below us, there was a flash of a small bird in fast flight only a metre above the water. It banked slightly and the chink of cobalt blue on its back shouted out to us that it was a Kingfisher. It landed briefly but clearly knew we were there and immediately left its hidden perch and headed fast up stream, calling clearly as it left us behind. Another special moment, but over all too quickly, and disappointingly not all the group managed to 'get on' this bird. However you might be interested to know that there have been numerous sightings of Kingfisher throughout 2015 from

the Scout Hut area to the east end of the wood, the last sighting being on New Year's Eve day, so perhaps we all have a chance of seeing one in the area during 2016.



Kingfisher (Library photo)

Our next two target species were Redwing and Fieldfare so we moved out of the wood to the fields on the south side. These two species, referred to as "winter thrushes", are members of the thrush family and are winter visitors from the continent. At this time of the year one can normally expect to see these birds in our area but the recent mild weather conditions have almost certainly had an impact on the numbers moving through; they were unfortunately being seen in quite small numbers during November. Nevertheless, there was still a chance that we might be able to see them and our perseverance paid off as we scanned the trees and Hawthorn bushes in the fields below Fanshawe Gate. Getting good views proved somewhat difficult, but there they were, Redwings, feeding on the red berries of the Hawthorn bushes. Hidden in or on the far side of the bushes the colours of these birds blended in so well with their surroundings. Redwings are the size of Song Thrushes; they have olive-brown backs and we could just make out the pale stripe over the eyes, the streaking on the breasts and the flush of rusty-red on the flanks and they occasionally made that lovely seeping call as they moved about the bushes with a few Blackbirds in attendance.

And then we turned to see at the top of a Larch tree at the edge of the wood, Siskins feeding. Three only, but it is always nice to see these tiny finches. With their bright



Siskin (Library photo)

yellow plumage shining in the sun, they were hanging upside down feeding on the dangling cones. Perfect, but all too brief, as above our heads appeared an immature Sparrowhawk. Wings and tail out-spread, it was quietly

circling, but so low you felt you could reach up and touch it. The pale brown markings, streaks and bars, on the undersides of the body, wings and tail were beautifully clear, this must have been due to the sunlight reflecting upwards off the snow on the ground. The presence of this bird of prey scared off the Siskins and Redwings and all was quiet, but....

Our purple patch continued when we found and enjoyed close up views of Goldcrests nipping through the tangled shrubs on the very edge of the wood, calling as they went; thin high pitched contact calls to help them stay in touch with each other. Goldcrests are minute, Britain's smallest bird, and it is not unusual to encounter them in our wood at any time of the year. On this occasion there were at least four together which may have been influenced by the huge number that had flown in off the sea on the east coast this autumn where some of these tiny migrators were so exhausted, that on reaching land, they had fallen to the ground at the feet of the birders who were there at the time.

As we progressed back through the wood, Coal Tit and Tree Creeper were seen and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard calling. One or two Fieldfares, that other winter thrush, were then noted moving through the tops of trees and out of sight at the bottom of Shep's Hill, so our species list continued to increase and we added to that list Black-headed Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull as they were seen to lazily flap high over the fields nearby. Our final observation point was in the field at the back of the houses on Rowan Tree and as we watched a number of birds including Greenfinch flying back and forth across the gardens, we once again managed to get good views of Tree Sparrows. It is so pleasing to see that this species, which has declined dramatically across the country, has found a niche in this area and seems to be holding its own, but almost certainly they have been helped by the residents of this row of houses putting out suitable bird food. Excellent.

And so it was, our bird walk ended with another target species under our belt and everyone reflecting on a great morning; good company and good birding....what could



Greenfinch (Library photo)

be better? And yes, with Little Owl, Redwing, Fieldfare, Sparrowhawk, Siskin, Tree Sparrow etc on our "seen list" it did perhaps turn out to be "a Bird Walk not to be missed"!

Chris Measures

Please remember that you will be made very welcome on any of the events run by Friends of Gillfield Wood and you do not have to be a member to attend. If you are

interested in one of our outdoor events, no experience is necessary to take part, so do come along and join us. Just check out the diary of FOGW events in this publication or visit and explore our website www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com. We also have indoor meetings in the library when we invite guest speakers who usually present illustrated talks. In addition we have conservation work mornings on a regular basis in the wood for anyone wishing to get involved—see page 9 of this issue.

The next quarterly bird walk is planned for Saturday February 6th. We will be meeting at 0900 at the Scout Hut, so we hope to see you there.

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Happy New Year everyone. I hope that you have all recovered from the over-indulgence quicker than me. Every year I say to myself "Next year I'll take it steady" but do I listen to myself? Not a chance. But I did enjoy myself and nowhere better than at our Christmas Concert. It was another packed house and we had a lot of laughs as well as a right old mixture of music!



Above is a scene from our production of *The Merry Widow*. We now have to concentrate hard on rehearsals for *Orpheus in the Underworld* which is to be our next show at the Montgomery Theatre from Wednesday, April 6th to Saturday April 9th. Most will recognise much of the music, which is delightful.

This is not your typical operetta 'love' story. Orpheus is overjoyed when his wife, Eurydice, is seduced by Pluto, dies and accompanies the King of the Underworld to Hades. On the other hand, Calliope, Orpheus's mother, is not best pleased and demands that he accompany her to Mount Olympus (in a balloon with a pilot who should have gone to Specsavers) to ask Jupiter to return Eurydice to the mortal world. All is not well with the gods, however. They are disillusioned with a sedate life of ambrosia and nectar and want a taste of 'life down below'. So they all descend to the underworld where they end up having one riotous party. Come and join us for a 'hell' of an evening as we sing and dance our way through Offenbach's fabulous music (including the famous infernal gallop - better known as the Can-Can. New book and lyrics by Phil Park.

Tickets (£13 adult and £6 children) are now available from Judith Bettridge, 238 Carterknowle Road, Sheffield S7 2EB - telephone 0114 2507155.

Please enclose S.A.E with cheque made out to Dore G&S Society or via Sheffield Theatres Box office (also accessible from our website www.dore-gands) or any member of the Society.

Derek Habberjam
0114 2362299



Last term seemed to be the busiest yet at Totley All Saints, with a fantastic Autumn term & run up to Christmas. That's aside from all of our usual lessons, activities, visits & visitors! As ever - It's all happening at TASS!

TASS Christmas

It was all go leading up to Christmas! Events started on November 27th with our Christmas Fair and Discos led by our amazing PTA – the Fun-d Raisers! We enjoyed our Christmas Service at All Saints Church with our governor,



Rev. Paul Oakley, went on a 'Journey to Bethlehem' at Totley Rise Methodist Church and then put on our amazing productions: The Nativity with the infants (see photo above), plus an afternoon of 'Do the Christmas Rock' with the Juniors. We had parties and presents - plus had a visit from a man with a white beard and in red suit! The choir



sang carols at our Christmas Fair, then at the Dore Moor Fair and then for the senior citizens' Christmas Lunch at All Saints Church. Finally, we enjoyed a Carol session on the yard at 3pm on the very last day and parents had mulled

wine and mince pies. It was a great end to the year!

Visitors and Extra-Curricular Activities

We like to provide our children with a wide variety of experience and we have various visitors and extra aspects to get them engaged. Visitors last term included: Mike Warren, a Christian storyteller, and Saints Alive Puppets assemblies. Our after-school and lunchtime clubs included: Mad Science, Mad Maths, Art, Hockey, Football, Cricket, Athletics, Orienteering, Cross Country and Pyjama Drama.

Merit Treats

We reward our children for doing the right thing in terms of behaviour and learning, and regularly give out Merit cards. These are added up at the end of the week to give us an overall winner at the end of the term. The teams are: Ruby, Sapphire, Diamond and Emerald – all led by our fantastic Y6 Merit Captains. Each half term, the School Council decides on three possible choices of what the special Friday afternoon treat could be and then each child from the winning team gets to choose. Just before Christmas, the Rubies won (see photo left) and chose a 'Movie Night' wearing pyjamas, drinking hot chocolate and watching Cinderella. Teddy bears were also invited!

So what now? Well, we're getting ready for our TASS Aspire day where we will be having visiting University students as well as professionals in the community to come in and talk about what they do and how they got there. This is all to inspire our children for the future and make them think about how they will get to their chosen line of work.

If you want to find out even more of the exciting things that are happening at our school, then please visit our new website or email us at:

enquiries@totleyallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk

We'll be so happy to let you know!

Karole Sargent, Head teacher

Totley Scouts

After a short break for Christmas we are back with a varied program of events for the boys and girls in Totley Scouts. We have five sections— Beavers, two Cub packs, Scouts and Explorers.

It is a rewarding hobby for the Leaders and regular parent helpers. One reward is seeing Jack Budd and Abigail Clark moving from Beavers up to Cubs having received their Chief Scout Bronze awards. Lissy, the Beaver Leader, expects to present more over the next couple of months. This is the highest award that a Beaver can earn having completed many tasks to achieve it.

The winter months can mean most activities are indoors but the Explorers are intrepid. So if you hear strange noises coming from the woods on a Friday evening it could be the Explorers using the woods for an 'activity in the dark'!

Please take a look at our job advert if you are interested in helping any of our sections. We always need more adults to help with fun and exciting programmes for the children. It really is just a hobby but can be very rewarding. Being a warranted Leader is also good for your CV!

I mentioned last time that our Treasurer, Andrew Eaton, is resigning. He has agreed to stay a little longer but we really need a new Treasurer as soon as possible. Andrew has carried out the role for many years and we will be sorry to see him leave us. So if you have accounting experience and would like to help Totley Scouts as Treasurer, please do contact me.

Richard Frost, Chairman, 1st Totley Scouts
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The Tale of Peter Flint – 19th Century Tenant of Totley Hall Farm

On page 7 of this issue, Edwin Pocock gives us his account of his years at Totley Hall Farm. Here, Totley History Group member Josie Dunsmore tells us about the earlier history of the farm.

Peter Flint was a Totley farmer and by the late 18th century was a tenant of the Coke family of Brookhill Hall, Pinxton near Mansfield. Absentee landlords, Rev D'Ewes Coke and his wife, Hannah, owned Totley Hall and two farms which had fields between Totley Hall Lane and the Coke-owned Gillfield Wood. These adjacent farms had been separately owned until they were inherited by the Rev and Mrs Coke in 1791, but the two "parcels" of farm fields had both existed for at least a century before that. Peter Flint and his family probably lived in what is now Edwin Pocock's farmhouse in Totley Hall Lane. An 1813 map shows this to be two cottages with a barn, cow-house, fodder sheds, corn chamber, slack yards and fold. The second farm was tenanted by Thomas Platt, whose father, Robert, was tenant before him. Peter Flint's farm was larger than Platt's and included three outlying fields by the allotments above the Shepley Spitfire.



The sketch map of 1809 (by courtesy of Sheffield City Council Libraries and Archives –Sheffield Archives FC/CP/11(1)

The Platt family appeared to be struggling to cope as, in 1807, Peter Flint took over half their farm which abutted his own, and then took on both farms a year later. From this date Totley Hall Farm seems to have been much as it is today, as farmed by Edwin and Jenny Pocock, with a few exchanges and the addition of 30 acres of Broad Carr by the 1841 Totley Inclosure Award.

Fairbanks, Surveyors of Sheffield, were commissioned to survey the united farmland. The result, in 1809, was a rough "eye sketch" drawn by Peter Flint which listed the two original separate farms by field name, acreage and land use, which was mostly pasture and meadowland with a few arable fields of oats, wheat and turnips. This sketch is important as it shows the location of fields that were grouped on the two farms dating back to at least the mid-1600s.

After the death of Rev D'Ewes Coke in 1811 the Totley Estate passed to his second son, (Sir) William, Chief Justice of Ceylon. A new survey was requested from Fairbanks in 1813 and this time a more accurate sketch

and plan were produced. The sketch details buildings and shows that Peter Flint had moved into the old Totley Hall, which had a barn with a threshing floor, stable, fodder and cow house, folds and garden.

In 1818 a third survey was commissioned by D'Ewes Coke, who inherited the Totley Estate after the death of his brother, William. He was a more hands-on landlord, a lawyer who, as the Duke of Rutland's land agent, was determined to get the best use out of the land. Fairbanks' report showed that the farm buildings and farmland were in a run-down condition and recommended a rent reduction as Peter Flint (and other Coke tenants in Dore) were in arrears partly due to crop failure in the summer of 1817.

But despite his rent being reduced, Peter Flint just wasn't coping, and by the end of 1820 the writing was on the wall. D'Ewes Coke sent in his own man to look at the farm and he spoke "so unfavourably of its condition and possible management that I have stated to P. Flint my intention to remove him on Lady Day". Coke decided to keep the Hall in his own hands together with some of the land and let out the farmhouse to a new tenant farmer.

In 1821 when he left the farm, Peter Flint was 62 years old and had been a tenant farmer on the Totley Hall Estate for well over 20 years. However, he was not left destitute. Dore Inclosure Award 1827 shows that he (and his wife) owned a house, garden and croft in Townhead Road near Cromwell Cottages, and an allotment on Blackamoor. He was also a tenant of three fields in Totley, right until his death in 1836, aged 78.

Josie Dunsmore

(For more information on the history of Totley Hall and farms, please see the Totley History Group website. THG wants to collect as much of its history and stories as possible. If you have a tale to tell or a snippet of information, please pass it on to THG or to the Totley Independent.)

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Totley Independent Poetry Workshop

Sally Goldsmith

To those of you new to this section, each issue I have been publishing a poem by a reader which rises to a challenge I set previously – and using a poem by a respected contemporary poet as a jumping off point. Last time, I gave you a poem by Peter Sansom called 'Instead of Going to Work' and asked you to write a poem also starting with 'Instead of...' about the things you do rather than doing something else. It was to be written, like Peter's, in everyday language. A few people sent in poems: Pat Pillow's was about sitting around in her old green dressing gown in the morning – and forgiving herself. Both poems had some lovely specific detail in them but the one I chose is by a new poet to grace our pages, Pauline Perkington. I like the playfulness and almost experimental nature of this poem and its unconventional line length – the spaces at the ends of the short lines slow you up and show the process of the person in the poem thinking and pondering. There's also a lot of understated rhyme and almost rhyme – 'up' and 'book'; 'ponder' and squander; 'so' and 'tomorrow' which I like. The main criticism I have is that there is a lack of the sort of specific detail I found in Ann, Pat and Peter's poems – I would have liked to have known exactly what the tasks were that were being avoided – 'cooking, cleaning and washing' is a bit vague – or what was being done instead. It's observed detail that tends to bring a poem alive. But great Pauline – and thank you. No excuse now not to get on with that book!

ONE DAY

by Pauline Perkington

Just a thought,
maybe,
one day,
instead of cooking, cleaning, washing up,
I might give time to writing that book.
Time is the same for everyone,
twenty four hours in one day,
seven days in one week.
Time is a gift to use well and not squander,
so now that I sit and ponder it
I see the time I seek is there
each and every day, and each and every week.
Mmm
so
as well as cooking, cleaning and washing up
I should have the time to write that book.
Tomorrow?

Aspiring poets – I'd encourage you to read as much good contemporary poetry as you can – it's the way to get better and you can't write well without reading. A good place to start is The Poetry Archive online which has lots of poets reading their own work: <http://www.poetryarchive.org>

This issue I'm giving you a poem to get you going by the marvellous prize-winning poet from Devon, Alice Oswald – a great favourite of mine. This one, 'Owl' is from her collection 'Woods etc.' published by Faber.

Owl

by Alice Oswald

last night at the joint of dawn,
an owl's call opened the darkness

miles away, more than a world beyond this room

and immediately, I was in the woods again,
poised, seeing my eyes seen,
hearing my listening heard

under a huge tree improvised by fear

dead brush falling then a star
straight through to God
founded and fixed the wood

then out, until it touched the town's lights,
an owl's elsewhere swelled and questioned

twice, like you might lean and strike
two matches in the wind

Don't worry if you can't quite understand the poem – but do read it carefully and see why and how it works, why she has ended lines and broken it up in the way she has, what senses she is using. Open your ears, eyes, and mind to the poem and let it work on you. Now, can you listen, take a bird call and write from there too? How is the call more than itself and where does it take you?

Please send your entries to Sally Goldsmith, at goldsally@googlemail.com by Wednesday 9th March. I'll choose one to publish and comment on.

Sally Goldsmith is a prize winning poet, script and songwriter. You can order her collection of poetry, 'Are We There Yet?' through www.poetrybusiness.co.uk

fencing to archaeological surveys, educational events and wildlife monitoring. Youth Ranger Dominic Heslam said: "Being a Youth Ranger is really fun. It gives me the opportunity to learn new skills and do different things that you wouldn't be able to do normally, whilst protecting my surrounding countryside"

Conservationists aged 11 – 18 years old can take part in Youth Ranger events, and those curious to know more are invited to our taster day on 5th June, 10am-4pm. For adults, there's a taster day on 2nd June, 10am-4 pm.

To find out about any of the above volunteering opportunities or for more information about taster days, contact Bryony Thomson on 0114 2891543 or bryony.thomson@easternmoors.org.uk

Eastern Moors Partnership



giving
nature
a home

Everyone encouraged to try volunteering on the Eastern Moors in 2016!

Outdoor enthusiasts, wildlife addicts and conservation heroes of all ages and abilities are encouraged to give volunteering a go on the Eastern Moors, part of the Peak District National Park.

Bryony Thomson, Community Involvement Ranger said: "Our volunteers of all ages are incredibly valuable to us and have a real impact on conserving the Peak District. We are lucky to have lots of really skilled and enthusiastic people helping us with a whole range of important tasks. With the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund we want to ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute to caring for this special place."

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, there has never been a better time to get involved and everyone is invited to help take care of this special place. The grant has enabled the team better equip and train volunteers, whilst increasing volunteering opportunities for all. The Eastern Moors - managed in partnership by the RSPB and National Trust - has accessible moorland and woodland, boasts breathtaking scenery and is home to an abundance of wildlife species such as curlew, red deer and adders.

Muck In Days take place once a month throughout 2016, and offer the opportunity for all ages and abilities to drop by and join in. Couples, individuals, students and families (aged 2 to 102!) are welcome to join us for mucky morning sessions of practical outdoor tasks and those under 18 can collect stamps and rewards for volunteering efforts and work your way to becoming a fully fledged Junior Ranger.

Adult volunteers on the moors assist with everything from

So you feel you are safe to drive?!

I was with my wife doing a bit of last minute Christmas shopping in Totley when a silvery grey car in front of us, clearly attempting to reverse from a parking space, revved its engine to screaming pitch as the driver attempted to engage gear. This naturally caught our attention and on looking closer at the vehicle it was clear from the dents along the side of the vehicle that it had been involved in several bangs in the recent past.

Such an experience reminds us that many people driving are not only a danger to themselves but more importantly a danger to pedestrians (including children) and other road users. So at what point do you stop driving? As a retired person, aged 70, I believe that many people driving all over the country have a responsibility to face up to the fact that they should stop driving.

Speaking as someone who made that decision 30 years ago, I am well aware of how traumatic such a decision can be. After all, it takes away part of one's mobility; but adjustments can be made to one's lifestyle. We are relatively well served by buses and in my experience family, friends and neighbours are only too willing to help out when they know one does not drive.

Yes, it's inconvenient, but local traders operate delivery services and even taxis can be used. How many weeks go by without some report of people driving when they should not be driving? It can be as a result of alcohol, poor eyesight, a medical condition, carelessness, inexperience or simply old age. All will recall the incident in Glasgow when a bin lorry driver killed several pedestrians. Does it really have to reach that situation before an irresponsible driver stops?

I have a relation, a so-called 'responsible' retired civil servant, who could register as blind. But if he did so he would have to stop driving. Strangely, not many people travel far with him. Another person I know stopped driving, when involved in an accident, aged well over 80. So at what point does one stop driving? When you realise that if you were honest with yourself, you are a danger to other road users!

In my case and the case of the old lady who was involved in a minor accident, we realised we could not live with ourselves if we killed someone or pinned someone up against a tree or lamppost. It could be a young child or an innocent bystander, as was the case in Glasgow. If you or anyone you know owns a silvery grey vehicle with several dents in the side please give the matter serious consideration.

"I only use the car locally" is a pathetic irresponsible remark.

Rob Wilks

Ask your Pharmacist

I hope you all had a lovely break over the holiday season. Of course now is the time of year for New Year's resolutions. Two of the most popular resolutions are to lose weight or to stop smoking.

The huge health benefits of stopping smoking are now familiar to most, particularly in reducing the incidence of cancer and improving the health of your heart and lungs. The health benefits of losing weight are just as significant but have generally been less well publicised. This does seem to be changing now though, and the topic has been in the news quite a lot lately, particularly in relation to the increase of diabetes in the western world. Due to less active lives and richer diets this condition is becoming more prevalent. Weight loss can also benefit your heart, breathing and joints. Stopping smoking and weight loss both can give you more energy and help you lead more active and fulfilled lives.



If you are one of many who have these targets please come and see us at Totley Pharmacy for help and advice.

To help you stop smoking we stock a full range of products which will make quitting easier. There is plenty of evidence showing that people who quit with the help of Nicotine Replacement Therapy and a support program have far higher quit rates at 4 weeks and 12 months. It is also a very expensive habit, and the cost of NRT nowadays is cheaper than smoking. Indeed a useful motivator can be to put the money you save towards a reward such as a holiday!

While it can be difficult to achieve in practice, weight loss is a simple matter of using more calories than we consume. Sensible dietary changes and modest changes to your activity levels can achieve weight loss though results may be modest too. We can advise you on such changes. To help achieve greater and quicker results we stock a variety of supplements and meal replacement products. Our meal replacement products are very high quality and high in protein with a low glycaemic index, and so keep you satisfied for longer, so you eat lighter meals and snack less.

If you wish to lose a large amount of weight or wish to lose weight quickly we offer the Lipotrim Pharmacy Programme. This involves a Very Low Calorie Diet which replaces meals with Lipotrim Total Food Replacement formulas. These are low in calories but nutritionally complete, so they will keep you healthy, well nourished and comfortable while you lose weight. Lipotrim products are only available to buy from pharmacies participating in the Pharmacy Programme so that you have a highly trained healthcare professional on hand for information, advice and encouragement. When followed properly you can expect to lose a stone a month (a stone and a half for men). We have many patients who

have achieved this rate of weight loss with quite a few going on to lose as much as four stone each. I'm sure you will agree these are fantastic results. Compared to this programme, trying to eat a healthy nutritious Very Low Calorie Diet with foods is almost impossible. The benefits of this programme have also been proven by studies which show that they can reverse the symptoms of diabetes. It can also be enormously beneficial for blood pressure problems. So the benefits can be long lasting and far more than just cosmetic.

We will make sure any products you use or changes you make are compatible with any medication you may be taking. We may even help ensure you can stick to your New Year's resolutions longer than the apparent average of 10 days!

Taj Singh

Otter sightings in Sheffield prompt appeal

Otters have been spotted living along the River Don in the heart of Sheffield.

Signs of these rare and elusive creatures have been recorded all along the stretch of river from Middlewood in the north west, along river banks near Meadowhall shopping centre, and further out towards Rotherham.

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust (SRWT) has now launched its Otterly Amazing! appeal in a bid to raise £20,000 to restore the otters' watery habitat and record their daily activity.



Photo: Catherine Trigg

Cathy Slater, head of development at the Trust, said: "Records on the activities of the Sheffield otters are slim and work to improve our knowledge of their daily life is vital to our understanding of these well-loved creatures and our ability to protect them and encourage their return."

Though rarely seen, tell-tale signs that otters are in the vicinity include their distinctive footprints, the runs they take to the water's edge, and their 'spraints' – otter droppings.

Perhaps most surprising of all, some of the strongest indications that these enigmatic mammals have made their way back to the region were recorded under well-used bridges that carry high volumes of traffic through the very heart of the city.

The money that the Trust hopes to raise will (*cont'd p.19*)

go towards a number of initiatives aimed at improving wildlife habitats in and around Sheffield and Rotherham. This will build on SRWT's 'Living Landscape' project, which has been working hard to establish a network of connected green spaces along Sheffield and Rotherham's river corridors.

The money raised will be added to funding already secured by the Trust from the Wren Biodiversity Action Fund. Part of this money will be used to purchase camera traps that will record the comings and goings of these shy creatures, building up a picture of where they live and how they use the river.

Improved water quality has been key to the return of the otter. Work by organisations such as the Environment Agency, along with changes to regulations about what can be put into the river, has had a huge impact on their recovery. But there is still a long way to go before we can be confident that otters have a strong foothold in the city.

Mrs Slater said: "We've already got some habitat improvements planned along some of our sites in Sheffield, so we want some funding to improve wetland habitat that will hopefully help otters and other species."

The Trust has already aided in the development of a massive new wetland at its Centenary Riverside site. Centenary Riverside is a 4.5 hectare wetland reserve nestled alongside the River Don. The site was developed on one of the largest steel foundries in the area, known as the Seven Sisters. When the foundry closed in 1993, the site became overgrown. The Wildlife Trust, working with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, began to develop the site as a wetland in 2006, with the aim of transforming it into a wildlife haven.

If you would like to contribute to the Otterly Amazing! appeal you can find contact details on the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust website at:

<http://www.wildsheffield.com>. Or you can send a cheque to Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield S2 2SF. Please make cheque payable to Sheffield Wildlife Trust and write 'Otter appeal' on the back.

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust:

Tel: 0114 263 4335

www.wildsheffield.com

Recently Spotted



THE TIME TRAVELLERS

Discovering our lost Iron Age and Roman heritage

Local archaeology group The Time Travellers, who cover South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire, have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant of nearly £60,000 to discover our lost Iron Age and Roman Heritage and to provide opportunities for a wide range of people of all ages to develop new skills.

Based at Whirlow Hall Farm, where the only Iron Age-Roman settlement to be identified within the City of Sheffield was found in 2011, this exciting project will enable volunteers from the local community and schools to learn about Sheffield's Iron Age and Roman heritage. Field surveys and excavation will offer a wide range of participation and learning activities under professional supervision, to determine the extent of the site, its condition and how to protect and manage it for future generations.

Thanks to National Lottery plays the project will provide opportunities for a wide range of people of all ages to engage with heritage through participation, skills development, talks, walks, creative activities, digital and published materials with potential for national TV coverage. School children will be involved in the fieldwork to help generate enthusiasm; interest and learning; as part of their Key Stage 2 National Curriculum.



As a result of this grant this important site will be better interpreted and explained, and its story told to thousands of school children, together with the many other visitors to Whirlow Hall Farm each year.

The Time Travellers, whose membership comprises about 80 local people who share a common interest and enthusiasm for archaeology, offer a variety of related activities, visits and research. They are mainly amateurs, varying from 'Time Team' fans to keen trowel detectives. The group have their own programme of events, are active in support of professional excavations and provide a news service on interesting events and activities in South Yorkshire and N E Derbyshire. They are elected affiliate members of the Council for British Archaeology. You can find out more about the group at:

www.thetimetravellers.org.uk

Fiona Spiers, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund – Yorkshire and the Humber said "This is a fantastic project which will allow people, young and old to learn about the history beneath their feet. The discovery at Whirlow Hall Farm in 2011 is particularly significant and thanks to National Lottery funding the local community can get involved, learn new skills and discover more about this fascinating aspect of Sheffield's History."

John Baker, chairman of The Time Travellers said: "We are delighted to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident that the project will extend the knowledge of Iron Age and Roman Sheffield, while increasing an interest and knowledge of our heritage within the wider community".

Tony Pedder OBE, chair of the Whirlow Hall Farm Trust said "Everyone at Whirlow Hall Farm Trust is excited about the generous Heritage Lottery Fund support for this Time Travellers-led project. Many youngsters will be involved before and during the dig, and all the children and adults who visit the farm can learn the fascinating story of this part of Sheffield up to and including Romano British times."

What's on at the Library



Review of 2015 at Totley Library

Looking back over the last year at everything that has been achieved at Totley Library by our volunteers and the community working together, I think everyone involved should be very proud.

We took over the running of the library from the Council in October 2014 and the first few months was all about training our volunteers and finding our feet delivering this valuable service to the public. We have been very fortunate to have had 101 volunteers working in the library in 2015, manning 2,622 shifts with an incredible 14,208 hours in total. The public feedback has been phenomenal and in 2015 Totley Library issued the most adult and children's books of any of the volunteer run libraries in Sheffield. We always need new volunteers to join our team and in particular at the moment we are looking for more people who can help with our fundraising events, technicians for our cinema club, gardeners and a deputy Building Manager. If you are interested in volunteering please pop into the library to pick up a volunteer registration form or complete it on our website www.totleycric.org.uk.

At the start of 2015 the Trustees of Totley CRIC met to decide on some long term objectives for the library. These included putting the library on a sound financial footing for the future, increasing service provision for children and the over 65's and establishing Totley Library as a hub for the community.

We are fortunate that until April 2017 the running costs for the library are fully funded by a Sheffield City Council grant. But whether we get any further funding after this date is in doubt so last year we started to raise as much funds as possible to prepare for the future. In 2015 we raised almost £8,000 through a combination of fundraising events, book sales, Friends of Totley CRIC, donations, selling refreshments and the new Totley Library Cinema. We estimate that it will cost us £15,000 per year to run the library so increasing our fundraising efforts will remain a key priority for 2016.



Reindeer from Toddler group craft session

The children's library at Totley is a fantastic resource and through the dedicated work of a small group of volunteers,

ably led by Jill Hnat and Sarah Leckenby, we have grown the service offering to children. The Toddler Craft and Storytime is incredibly popular - you have only to visit the library on a Wednesday morning to see it packed out with pre-schoolers and their parents/grandparents happily painting/sticking/drawing away. In addition our volunteers have organised school holiday activities including art classes, family nature walks and the summer reading challenge. And we also now offer French classes for pre-school and primary children and baby yoga sessions each week. Upcoming activities for children include a Storytelling session on National Libraries Day on Saturday 6th February and an Art and Craft workshop hosted by Imagination Gaming on Saturday 13th February from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Please see posters in the library or visit our website for more information.

To establish Totley Library as a hub for the community and increase the offering to over 65's we have held a programme of fundraising events across the year, launched the new Totley Library Cinema and also worked closely with local groups and community organisations to encourage them to use the library for their meetings. Our most popular and memorable events of 2015 included the Plant Sale organised by the now sadly deceased Avril Critchley, Boots Fresh Air and Ginger Beer written by Sally Gold-



The 2015 Plant Sale — the best fund-raiser so far!

smith and performed by actors and local Totley folk, Jan Flamanck's comedy nights, and numerous concerts as part of the Totley Music Festival. Please keep an eye on the events page on the Totley Library website for upcoming events in 2016.

Local groups who use Totley Library on a regular basis include Poetry Group, Craft Group, Book Group, Computer Classes, Health Walk, History Group and Friends of Gillfield Woods. If you are interested in joining any of these groups then you can find further details in the library or on our website. We would like to thank the following community organisations who used Totley Library for their public meetings in 2015 - Neighbourhood Watch, Friends of Dore and Totley Station and Dore and Totley Ward

Road Safety Forum.

Totley Library Cinema has proved very popular since it launched in October. The first two family films Home and Big Hero 6 sold out completely and the showing of Far from the Madding Crowd was very popular with adults.



We will show one film every month for families and another for adults. The forthcoming screenings will be on:
Sunday 17th January, 2:00pm
Friday 29th January, 7:30pm
Sunday 21st February 2.00pm
Friday 26th February 7.30pm
Sunday 13th March – 2.00pm
Friday 18th March – 7.30pm

Unfortunately due to advertising restrictions we can't promote which films will be shown outside of the library. You can find out, however, from posters at the library or join our email newsletter—see www.totleycric.org.uk/

All that is left to say is a big thank you to all our volunteers, everyone who has supported our events, donated second hand books and used the library. Please continue to support us in 2016 to keep this important community resource thriving in Totley.

Regular events and meetings at the Library

Monday:

French for children – 10 am toddlers and babies; 3.40 reception and Yr 1; 4.10 years 2-4; 4.40 years 5 to 6.
Readers Book Group, every first Monday, 1.30–2.45 pm
Friends of Gillfield Wood, occasional Mondays, 7.30 pm onwards. Talks on local nature and conservation. See posters, the *Independent Diary*, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com
Councillor Surgery, every two weeks, 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Tuesday:

Basic ITC Sessions, 10am – 12 noon. To book, phone Heeley Development Trust on 0114 250 0613.
Craft Group, 2.00 – 4.00pm
Poetry Group, last Tuesday in month, 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Wednesday:

Coffee Morning, 10.30 – 12 noon
Toddler Story Time, 10.30 – 11.30 Craft activities, singing and stories.
Health Walk, 10-30 – 12 noon. One short and one longer ranger-led walk. Tea, coffee and biscuits in library afterwards.
Totley History Group, occasional Wednesdays 7.30 onwards. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters in library, the *Independent Diary*, or www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

Thursday:

Friends of Gillfield Wood, occasional Thursdays, 7.30 pm onwards. See entry for Monday, above.

Natasha Watkinson



Totley History Group Programme 2016

Unless stated otherwise, meetings take place at Totley Library at 7.30 pm.

Feb.24th: 'A - Z of Sheffield' by Ted Hancock. An exploration of the history and geography of Sheffield visiting diverse places and giving knowledge of events and people who shaped the city.

March 23rd: Open Meeting. Bring your memories to share and catch up with recent research and discoveries.

April 27th: AGM followed by '900 years of Sheffield history in one building: the Sheffield Cathedral' by Janet Ridler.

We have regular speakers on various topics and have been on several visits and walks to local places of interest, our current list of walks, visits and speakers are available on this website.

We have acquired a valuable resource of photographs and postcards of old Totley some of which you will also be able to access on line. We are always interested in welcoming new members who can come and just listen or get involved with projects if they wish.

We usually meet every 4th Wednesday of the month in Totley Library at 7.30pm and a full programme of events is published on our website at:
www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

Wild Play Winter Wildlife



At: The Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods, Abbey Lane, Sheffield, S7 2QZ

Date: Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 10am-12 noon and 1.30pm-3.30pm



Come and join us for fun in the woods!

Suitable for families with children of all ages

Booking is essential
£3 per member/£5 non-members under 2's free with a paying sibling. No charge for adults

All activities take place outdoors
Please wear suitable footwear and clothing
Parents/carers are required to stay for the duration of the activity

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

For more information and to book go to
www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on
Or call 0114 2634335



The Wildlife Trusts or its partner organisations may use photographs taken at this event for publicity purposes. We hope you are happy with the service we provide. If you are unhappy with any aspect of our work or would like to talk to someone independently and in confidence, please call: Liz Ballard (Independent Person and Safeguarding Lead) Sheffield Wildlife Trust on 0114 2634335
Registered charity no. 700638. Registered company no. 2287928

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

Letter to the Editor

Trees on The Grove

There has been a long-running saga in Sheffield of the Council and their contractors, Amey, deciding to cut down perfectly healthy trees. Sheffield Trees Action Group was formed and is calling on the Council to have a moratorium and review on cutting all trees.

Now, Sheffield City Council has decided that six perfectly healthy cherry trees on The Grove should be cut down and replaced with new saplings of a different variety. These six trees constitute no obstacle, are not a danger, are a part of this road, and help create its good aspect, as well as being good for the environment.

Just before Christmas, the Council/Amey posted notices on the trees saying that residents had 2 weeks to complete a survey, but gave no deadline date. Cllr Terry Fox had a letter hand-delivered to houses on The Grove, saying that there was a survey of residents' opinions, but his letter was not dated, and gave no deadline date for the completion of the survey.

People had problems with the web address and by the time it was sorted, the survey had closed! After protests, the council extended it by one week until the 8th January, but in order to complete the survey, residents had to enter the URN given on their letter! But how many people would still have this letter after Christmas!?

In my view these trees could be pollarded (trimmed) rather than destroyed, but it is completely unnecessary to take them out and replant with trees that will take many years to reach a good height again. It appears to me that this decision is a money-saving proposal by Amey, as they have a 25-year contract and don't want to come again and do any work on them.

We need all the trees we have, and I do not consider that spending money cutting them down and replanting with trees which may well be vandalised and lost anyhow is either reasonable or contributes to Sheffield's green city. What happens if the new trees are vandalised or die? I don't imagine Amey will replace those, will they?

I say to the Council, leave these six trees as they are, and do not destroy perfectly good, healthy trees. And if any other trees in other roads in Totley are facing the same problems, action will be needed to save them too.

If you wish to protest about these trees or join the Tree Action Campaign in Sheffield, these are the people to contact:

Cllr Terry Fox: terry.fox2@sheffield.gov.uk;
Andrew Walshaw, Performance and Research Manager, Sheffield City Council: andrew.walshaw@sheffield.gov.uk;
Sheffield Trees Action Group: sheffielddtreestreesactiongroup@yahoo.co.uk;
In addition, Ellen Beardmore, *Sheffield Star* journalist, is covering the trees saga and her email is: ellen.beardmore@jpress.co.uk;
And finally, Prof Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University, wants to hear about all tree problems, and writes on his blog and in his *Sheffield Star* column every Saturday: ianonthewildside@uke-conet.co.uk. Ian's blog is: <https://ianswalkonthewildside.wordpress.com/2015/12/31/oooops-another-street-tree-blunder/>

Jennie Street
jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

(Editor's note: we have learned that there is a stop on all tree felling apart from emergency work. There is no time limit given for this, but it will probably last until the 'independent tree panel' announced by the Council in November, starts work. If over half the residents responding to a local survey object to tree proposals, the proposals will be considered by the panel which will advise the council)

Brave the Shave to Support Macmillan!

By Altine Booth-King

A ten-year-old boy persuaded members of his family to shave their hair to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, in a touching tribute to his great aunt.

Max Jepson-Holloway, of Dronfield, encouraged his mother Sarah, father James and eight-year-old sister Maddie to participate in Brave the Shave in aid of Macmillan.

Max decided to shave his hair following the death of his great aunt who suffered from pancreatic cancer, as he wanted to do something to pay back the charity that helped his family during the difficult period.



Sarah said: "I'm extremely proud of my kids for wanting to do this, it's a huge decision for a ten-year-old to come up with this idea to raise money for Macmillan."

The family set up a fundraising page on Macmillan's Brave the Shave website. The event took place on 3 December 2015, and together they raised £400.



On the day of the event, the family went over to The Easy Barber shop in Woodseats, where hairdresser Becki Rhodes shaved their locks off free of charge.

Max said: "It gave me a warm feeling inside knowing that we have done something to help other people. Some people may say is courageous but I just wanted to do help in my own way."

If you would like to know more about how you could support Macmillan in 2016, call 0300 1000 200 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/getinvolved

Gardening Tips for February and March

Water, water everywhere, the garden is really soaked. The recently-planted onions and leeks look a bit sad. I expect they will not like this thorough wetting they're getting, even though they are in raised beds. The warm spell, which now looks as though it's over, brought them on, and they could now be a bit tender - if we have a touch of frost I may lose them. Oh, the joys of gardening!

I hope you had a good Christmas and Father Christmas brought you a few gardening goodies. I requested a few things like a self-digging spade, a motor-driven wheelbarrow and a self-shaking riddle, but no luck I'm afraid. I have to settle for a bird-feeder shaped like a bee. Perhaps next year.

The garden is in a bit of a mess. I can't seem to summon up any enthusiasm when everything is so saturated and the leaves are compacted and difficult to pick up. I seem to prefer a good book and the fireside to going out in the drizzle and cold. I must give myself a good shake and get cracking in 2016. I do hope we have a bit of sunshine to cheer us up in between showers.

The plants in the greenhouse have got me worried. The recent warm spell has made them think that spring has arrived early, and a few of them have got buds forming. If old Jack Frost arrives he may nip them in the bud which will set them back and it will take them longer to recover. Talking about things being forward, I think the oriental poppy I left outside in a pot is flowering - see photo! I don't think it will last much longer, but what a surprise, eh?

I remember - though it's a while ago now - Gardeners' Question Time on BBC radio. It started in 1947 and went on for 1600 or so episodes. Bill Sourbuts and Fred Loads and a couple of others used to discuss listeners' gardening problems and they very often argued over the solving of the various questions. I remember Fred Loads saying quite often "The answer lies in the soil" and I think this statement would very likely to apply a lot of our problems in the garden. Soil, earth, tilth, muck - whatever you call - it is the real basis of any garden. Get this right and you are well on the way to successful crops.

Soil needs to be a balance of nutrients required for the type of plants you are growing. A neutral soil, in which most plants will survive, is one with a pH of around 7 (pH refers to how acid or alkaline the soil is).

An analysis of the soil characteristics of your garden is one of the most useful things you can do, especially if it's new to you, or you are making big changes to your beds and borders. It will provide you with information as to how much nutrient reserves are available, which plants you can grow well and which you can't, how much watering you will need to do, and how easy the soil will work.

A detailed soil analysis includes soil type (how much sand, silt, clay, and organic matter is present) and nutrient content. Home test kits are readily available in garden centres for both pH and nutrients, particularly for the three most important macronutrients ('macro' because they are needed in large amounts). These are nitrogen (symbol 'N' which is shown on fertiliser packs) phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Soil type can also be determined at home with the relevant kit.

I hope this bit of information is helpful, especially to new gardeners. I hope to see lots more exhibits at the Totley Show.



Tom's Oriental Poppy

February

Flowers: Cut down old perennials and fork round plants. Work in a bit of Growmore or similar. Clean up rockeries and top dress with compost and chippings. Plant out (on fine days) herbaceous perennials. If you have a heated greenhouse, sow summer bedding plants, like snapdragons, fibrous rooted begonias, busy lizzie, petunias and verbenas. This will give a bit of room later for the faster germinating varieties. Give the flower beds a top dressing of compost (taking care not to disturb any plants or bulbs). This will liven up the soil, which the bedding plants will appreciate.

Watch out for slugs, especially those around newly-sprouting shoots such as delphinium and hollyhocks. Put down slug bait or beer traps as soon as they appear.

Vegetables: Add lime to soil as necessary, two weeks before any sowing takes place. Also work in a dressing

of Growmore or similar balanced fertiliser. Onion seeds should be showing through by now - if you haven't planted them by now, get them in, or the prizes at Totley Show will go to someone else (me for instance!!) Top dress sprouting broccoli and spring cabbage with nitro chalk. Clear and prepare ground, ready for planting, as soon as crops are finished.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Prepare ground for any spring planting you have in mind. Fruit trees growing in grass often make little growth because they are starved of nitrogen. This can be remedied by feeding now with sulphate of ammonia or nitro chalk. Protect fruit bushes from birds with a covering of fleece or netting as the buds begin to swell. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries now. Cut them back just short of ground level. Prune gooseberries before growth is too advanced. Firm in any newly planted bushes and trees that may have

been loosened by frost. Prune late flowering clematis. Cut hard back shrubs like spirea, callicarpa, trumpet creeper. Prune winter flowering jasmine and other winter flowering shrubs as soon as they have finished flowering. Trim back heather with shears as blooms fade, to prevent them getting straggly.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Several greenhouse plants require pruning now: bougainvilleas should have last year's growth cut hard back. Bouvardias, gardenias, fuchsias, zonal and ivy leaved pelargonium should be cut sufficiently to give them a solid foundation for the coming season's growth. Start watering (sparingly) from now on. A rise in temperature will help but is not essential; they all need as much light as possible. Later in the month, start dahlia tubers if you want to increase your stock of plants, place tuber in a deepish box with a base of peat or potting compost. Put more peat around them until the fleshy tubers are just covered but the stumps of last year's growth are just showing. Water them and place the boxes in a light or semi-light place. As soon as growth starts, they need as much light as possible. Water as necessary, any temperature over 13C (55F) will start them into growth.

Pot early begonias and gloxinia tubers, as schizanthus become established in their final pots, they should be fed a liquid feed once a fortnight. All feeding of pot plants should be done sparingly, nothing is gained by giving too much. Do not feed dry plants — water them first. Seed planting and propagation by cuttings can be started in earnest now. Try a few types you've not had before, it makes for a bit of variety in your life. I usually have 4 or 5 new varieties each year as well as Chilterns Lottery mixture (greenhouse plants). They put all the seeds left from last year in a pot and give them a stir and packet them. I have had some weird specimens as well as some fine, unusual pot plants. I have never been disappointed yet.

Lawns: Keep clean, spike and top dress if you didn't do it last year. Keep off if it is frosty. Watch out, spring is just around the corner.

March

Flowers: If you haven't sown your annuals already do so now, or you will be running a bit late. Early March is a good time for potting particularly summer and autumn



flowering ones, and those which are grown for their foliage. Winter flowering plants are a different matter and are best repotted as soon as they have finished flowering. Sow herbaceous perennials and rock plants; these are quite easy to grow, and include delphiniums, lupins, gypsophilas and many more. Towards the end of the month plant gladioli and monbretias - make successional sowings over a 4 to 6-week period. This will lengthen the flowering time.

Work in a balanced fertilizer such as Growmore around herbaceous plants. Weed other beds and start hoeing if weather permits. Dead head daffodils. Lift, split up and replant overcrowded clumps of snowdrops.

At the end of the month sow hardy annuals where they are to flower in borders. Lift and divide herbaceous perennials such as golden rod, michaelmas daisy and yarrow when clumps become overcrowded.

Vegetables: Prepare early seed potatoes by exposing them to light in a cool frost-free place (chitting) ready for planting out later in the month. Sow cauliflower, broccoli and



other brassicas in a frame. Sow spinach in a sheltered place, make a small sowing now and more later. Sow lettuce outdoors unless the weather is very bad/. Choose a cabbage or cos type, and sow seeds thinly. Sow broad beans and peas outdoors, choose an open cultivated plot.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Feed cane and tree fruits with balanced fertilizer, give blackcurrants a feed of nitro chalk. Make sure newly planted fruits are firm in the ground and mulch well. Towards end of month prune roses height down to 6 inches or so off the ground though with Floribundas. 12 inches minimum depending on the type. Plant new raspberry canes and strawberries, and complete the planting of tree and bush fruit early in the month.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: If your greenhouse is empty (what a waste!) give it a good clean inside and wash down with disinfectant. If it has plants in, then wait for a fine day to do this. Clear all of the plants out, as most of them will not tolerate even the smallest amount of disinfectant. The greenhouse should be filling up with seedlings and rooted cuttings. These must have plenty of light and air and the temperature maintained around 13 to 16C (55 to 60F) for the majority of popular plants.

Take cuttings of bedding and greenhouse plants such as heliotrope, fuchsias, pelargoniums (geraniums) as soon as they are long enough, around 3 inches for geranium and 3 inches for fuchsia and heliotrope. Cucumber and melon could be sown now in a warm greenhouse, though I generally wait until the end of the month.

Gradually increase watering of indoor plants, feed actively growing plants with potash, liquid feed tomato fertilizer is ideal. Put a bit of potting compost on plants such as ferns and aspidistras. Repot cacti towards the end of the month. Sow summer annuals for planting into pots for a late show in the greenhouse such as cigar plant, busy lizzie, stocks, schizanthus etc. Houseplants such as maidenhair fern, button fern, and spider plant can be divided and repotted.

Lawns: Deal with bare patches by returfing or reseeding. Aerate and spike compacted areas. Prepare areas for seeding or turfing next month.

Don't forget the Totley Show in September - now is the time to make plans!

Cheerio for now,

Tom

Friends of Dore & Totley Station - FoDaTS

What a difference 100 years makes!

Then.....



...and now.....



The latest news is that passenger numbers rose by 5.4% from 2013/14 to 2014/15, which is slightly more than the national average, but please read on.

Then we had four platforms, with stopping trains running to Derby, Sheffield and Chinley for Buxton. There was quite a frequent service to Sheffield at peak times, stopping at Beauchief (and Abbeydale), Millhouses and Heeley. There were less than half the numbers of people living within two miles of the station, yet there were more passengers than there are today. Most came by foot, but some used the bus coming down from Totley where the landlord of the Cross Scythes had set up the first horse bus service to connect with the station when the line first opened.

Today, we have lots more trains passing through - the two pictured here are going to Norwich and Liverpool respectively. But now we have only one platform, so there's limited opportunity to stop for passengers without blocking trains going in the opposite direction.

Then there was a heated booking hall, waiting room and toilets in the building now housing the Indian restaurant. Then W H Smith's had a bookstall on the central platform, which also had heated waiting space. If you look closely you may see the stand of postcards from which the odd postcard was probably bought. And they delivered newspapers to local houses! In those days Dore and Totley was a junction station where travellers from the south might change for the Hope Valley.

All the other stations into Sheffield were closed 50 years ago, and other stations were to have closed along the Hope Valley. Controllers from the west side ensured we

kept those that we have now. The east side managers held firm and close they did - and the second pair of tracks into Sheffield were condemned as well. The bridge over to the southbound London line was removed, and trains no longer stopped. In 1985 the central platform was removed, leaving the single Hope Valley line running through the station.

Now we have an exposed ticket machine, a small waiting shed and a few seats on the platform. We have an automated train departures board, and a car park for 129 vehicles - full and overflowing on weekdays.

This was the backdrop to FoDaTS first open meeting at Totley Library in December. It was good to see so many interested people and to have more excellent volunteers to join our informal steering committee. We are now working on preparing a constitution before formal elections of committee members and officers at a further open meeting.

In the meantime we've looked at the Sheffield Plan and submitted thoughts relating to the station. Fundamental to those were the need to preserve the space from Dore to the city centre to provide at least one further track, be it for a relief track for current trains, or to accommodate a tram/train system. There is a danger that forthcoming electrification may limit that space if the current tracks are electrified where they are. While doing that a parallel dedicated cycle track would provide a safer and quicker route into town, separated from traffic.

The Plan shows a desired Park and Ride facility at Dore, and the spot on the map seems to be right on the station, or the railway triangle. That idea pleases some, but horrifies others. Experience of expanded car parks is that they generate even more demand. With a day's parking at Sheffield costing £14.30, and it being free at Dore, it's hardly surprising that Manchester commuters are preferring to save seven minutes on the journey time and all that cash!

Where are they coming from and where are they going? We have rough ideas, but everyone has different theories as to the distributions. The train companies can't tell us - and as their fare collection systems don't pick up everyone, they wouldn't tell us the full story anyway. We may have to mobilise volunteers to survey passengers for a few days. When they did this at Dronfield, they proved the situation wasn't as the rail industry statistics seemed to suggest. They now have a revitalised service that's gaining more users every year.

Are there other ways to help access? More could walk or cycle (though gradients tend to discourage this). At present there aren't sufficient passengers going to the same places at enough times to make extra buses viable. The warm car wins every time. Possibly a taxi rank? Maybe more trains stopping in the Hope Valley might relieve pressure on Dore. All ideas welcome, but if we see a continued 5% annual increase in passenger numbers car parking is going to get worse and worse.

Adding charges, say a nominal £2, has been suggested, but would push more users up Dore Road and other roads. After which Manchester commuters would swoop in, to mop up the cheap (to them) space! If a tram/train is to be introduced in the Sheaf Valley it's unlikely to come for 10 years, if at all. And that would probably bring even more passengers with cars.

Whichever way you look there are no easy answers to keep everyone happy - go underground? No, that wouldn't work. Watch this space!

You can join FoDaTS by sending an email with your details to Nick Barnes at; nj-barnes@outlook.com or through the FoDaTS Facebook page which is kept up to date with news and opinions.



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Totley Rise Methodist Church

Winter at Totley Rise Methodist Church

9.00 am Early Services (1st and 3rd Sundays). A quieter, more traditional service.

9.30am (2nd and 4th Sundays) Toddler Praise aimed at the under 5's and their parents/carers

10.30 am Mid-morning Service every Sunday. An informal and contemporary service with a monthly Communion

6.30 pm Reflective Worship: every Sunday. A quieter space for worship and listening to God

9.30 – 10 am Tuesday Prayer, every Tuesday. Prayer for the world, community and for healing and wholeness in the Church

Activities and facilities for children at Totley Rise Methodist Church

Creche: The crèche, which is situated at the rear of the church behind a semi-soundproof screen, is manned by loving (police-checked) carers from 10.15 am and throughout the Sunday morning family service. It is filled with colourful toys, puzzles, playdough, rich tea biscuits, etc. It is heated and has sun blinds to keep the little ones at the right temperature. Adults can leave the children or remain with them and still enjoy the service through the sound system.

We warmly welcome all children and their carers/families.

Pushchair Club: Every Thursday afternoon, 1.30–3.00. Babies and toddlers 0-5 years come together with their carers to play and chat in a Christian atmosphere in the TRM Centre. For more information contact Rachel, our Family and Children's Worker, on 07912 352543.

Little Lights: Wednesdays 1.30pm – 2.30pm during term time. A chance for Mums/carers, babies and pre-school children to meet for songs, fun, snacks and crafts all based on a bible story. Contact Rachel on 07912 35243 for more details.

Meeting Place Every other Wednesday 2pm – 3.30pm. All parents and carers are welcome with their babies and toddlers. There will be a bible story, singing, prayer and a chat with each other to discuss the challenges of parenting. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please contact Rachel on 07912 352543 for further information.

Messy Church: We hold a Messy Church on a Saturday afternoon most months. Every Messy Church has a

particular theme. All are welcome – contact Rachel Wilson on 07912 352543 for more details on themes etc or just turn up. Tea and snacks are included.

Messy Church is not just a club for Kids to come and do activities – not just a bridge into "normal" church – not just a social activity for Saturday afternoons. If Messy Church isn't any of these things then what is it?

Messy Church is an all age way to help people discover Jesus, not just church families but the whole community. A relatively new concept, it has now spread internationally (Denmark have to call it something else as they don't have a word for messy in their language!). This happy mixture of games, craft activities, food and lively worship, all based on a bible theme is bringing families together in a new and special way. Churches that have been providing Messy Church are finding that it is creating a new worshipping congregation in its own right. Messy Church is here at Totley Rise.

And for the grown-ups.....

Tuesday Ladies 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Lounge. About 35 ladies consisting of both church and non-church members meet to enjoy speakers or a quiz or beetle drive.

Sometimes the evening includes food such as salmon and strawberries or cheese and biscuits. If you would like more information please call Janet Savage on 01142369002.

Men's Breakfast Escape: London to Paris on a pushbike! Matt Currie



remembers The Fat Lads from Dore's finest hour. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 9.30 am, Saturday 27th February. Complimentary cooked breakfast. Book a place – call 0114 236 3157 or email to Richard.grosberg@btinternet.com

Coffee morning: Every Tuesday, 10 am–12 noon, TRMC Lounge. Come and meet new and old friends from the community and chat over

coffee and biscuits.

Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter: Every Tuesday 12.00noon -3.00pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Centre.

This busy and friendly group has been a great success. They aim to include more people from the area, even the housebound. Housebound does not mean isolated. The group will provide wool, needles and a chat for those who cannot travel to the church. Young people are welcome too. There are skilful, lovely ladies ready and willing to help those new to knitting and sewing.



Many charities benefit from the group's work: Butterfly Wings (stillborn babies), Sheffield premature baby unit and the Christmas shoebox appeal. Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind have adopted knitted Ellie the elephant as their mascot and have given a certificate of grateful thanks. Members can knit/sew (a sewing machine is available) for their chosen charities.

Maxine, the organiser, says that all the ladies love coming. Men are also welcome. You can stay for as long as you like up to three hours. We offer tea, coffee, biscuits and, most importantly, friendship.

The Quiet Garden at Totley Rise Methodist Church

Stillness and Hospitality: you are invited to come and sit here and wonder about our creative God. It is a place to find peace in the stillness of the garden and an opportunity in the 'busyness' of modern life to lay down your concerns. You can do this any time during daylight hours. Or you may want to share an experience with others by taking part in a Quiet Garden day or evening event. Visit www.totleyrise.co.uk for details. 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (Mark 6:31)

Hear our sermons

If you are unable to come to Totley Rise Methodist Church on a Sunday morning, you can still hear the service as a podcast online. Just visit our website www.totleyrise.co.uk and find a selection of recent services at Podomatic Podcast Page.

For more ongoing events see this issue's Diary, p.34

Walking the Dog....

Not then now then

'That was Totley Hall there, Jack. I was in Red Six, and we were wolf cubs in the cellar on Tuesdays. Only you couldn't have been.'

'Why not?'

'Because you're a dog.'

'A dog's more like a wolf cub than you are?'

'...Yes, but you couldn't have done DYB DYB DYB.'

'Why not?'

'Because dogs can't speak.'

'What am I doing now, then?'

'...Yes, but I'm the only one who understands you when you do do Jack. And anyway you couldn't have done knots. Or this, with two fingers.'

'That's rude.'

'It wasn't in 1947. And anyway, where would you have put your woggle? And -'

'My wiggle?'

'- you couldn't have played British Bulldog either.'

'I'm more like a bulldog than you are.'

'...Yes but you aren't initiated are you? So you can't do British Bulldog or badges, or get told off for thinking it's clever to be clever. Or do Bob a Job. And you certainly can't go on parade at All Saints Church on Sundays.'

'Why not? The Vicar of Dibley let the anim-?'

'Yes but the Vicar of Dibley hadn't quarrelled with Baloo, had they? And 1st Totley never went into All Saints Church ever again after he did, even if it was next door to our jungle.'

'... I can't keep up this month. Who's Baloo?'

'Baloo lived on Laverdene Way, and he meant Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation, and he was in the Jungle Book.'

'Why?'

'...You don't ask why when you're seven.'

'I am seven.'

'Don't ask then. And there was Bagheera and Shere Khan, only we didn't have them in 1st Totley because there'd been a war on, so our Arkela had to be a woman on the Grove. But at HQ we had Lord Rowallan. He was a man. Our real leader was Baden Powell only he was dead. And our real leader now is called Bear Grylls.'

'Dore Grill?'

'Bear Grylls!'

'Bare girls?'

'It's not clever to be clever Jack. And, we started our meetings with a Grand Howl and we sometimes played the Porcupine, but on the night King George died we had to swear at him instead. Baden Powell said we always had to play and not look on. And be prepared.'

'What for?'

'... And we had to learn from the Elsdon Murder.'

'What was the Elsdon Murder?'

'It was a true story, Jack, that Baden Powell told in his book called Scouting For Boys. It-'

'Scouting for Boys is a funny thing to call a book? It sounds like he's - '

'-was about a shepherd who was a cub and he spotted a dirty tramp asleep and deduced he was a gypsy and, by observation and concealment and decision and chivalry and pluck, got him hanged for murder. And two other gypsies got hanged at the same time.'

'...It's silly.'

'Not when you're seven.'

'I am. And I'm glad it's not then now, then... Aren't you?'

Rony Robinson

Vintage Valentine *Dance Night* with All Move

Saturday 13 February 2016

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**8.00pm-12.30am (online advance
ticket booking required)**

What better way to celebrate Valentine's day than to go with your partner to a vintage dance night! All Move invites you to join us for a night of great music and dancing. Help to create a lively, fun and romantic evening together. Dress in 40s and 50s vintage dance wear, or just dress to impress!

We will have music from the 40s right through to current smash hits. There will be fast-paced jive, swing and salsa music; and ballads as well as the best of disco and pop music. All Move will be offering a free 'introduction to jive' workshop. We will also be inviting you to join us in one or two exciting group dances.

To purchase your tickets, please visit our website at: www.all-move.com.



Putting the Moss back on the Moors

A rare type of moss that is in danger of disappearing from the Peak District has been replanted across specific moors in a pioneering project.

Sphagnum moss is important for wildlife but also plays a vital role in carbon storage and flood prevention. Atmospheric pollution from Manchester and Sheffield during the industrial revolution, along with overgrazing and wildfires have nearly wiped out sphagnum completely from the Peak District.

Wildscapes, a Community Interest Company affiliated to Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, has been working alongside the RSPB to help re-establish large amounts of sphagnum across Rakes Moss on the Dovestones Nature Reserve.

Kate Hanley at the RSPB said 'We have been working with volunteers to re-establish sphagnum moss across this moorland for a number of years now. This is the first time we have worked with contractors to do this conservation work on such a large scale.'



Wildscapes worked alongside another environmental contractor and the RSPB to translocate well over 12,500 handfuls of specific species of sphagnum moss from a healthy donor site. A local airlifting company, Pennine Helicopters, also supported the operation by flying the moss onto the moors at Dovestones. Once in position on the moors, they were planted by hand by

a team of contractors, chosen for their specialist environmental knowledge.

Alex Davies, Site Supervisor from Wildscapes said; 'The project has been hard work, but very rewarding. The species require specific conditions to establish successfully and need to be treated with the upmost care when they are being translocated. We hope that this project will make a big difference to the surrounding area and really help improve the quality of this moorland'

This pioneering project, alongside a number of other projects involving local partners, will help to re-establish this important moss across the Peak District.

For further information please contact Joseph Glentworth, Operations Assistant, Wildscapes CIC: 0114 279 2667

New partnership set to free up GP time

A local pharmacy is playing a key role in easing the burden on GPs in Sheffield, thanks to the launch of a new partnership.

Totley Pharmacy, on Baslow Road, is supporting Baslow Road Surgery and Totley Rise Medical Centre following the launch of stage two of the Prime Minister's GP Access Fund, formerly known as the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund, in Sheffield.

As part of the partnership, pharmacist Tajinder Singh is working in both surgeries, conducting patient's medication reviews, and conducting asthma reviews in the pharmacy, in a move that aims to free up GP time, allowing for more appointments for local patients.

Tajinder, owner of Totley Pharmacy, which celebrates its 20th anniversary next year, said: "The Prime Minister's GP Access fund aims to trial new ways of delivering GP services and make them more accessible to patients.

"We are delighted to be involved with the Fund by assisting local surgeries and allowing GPs to concentrate on what they do best - seeing and diagnosing patients. This partnership will enable patients to be seen quicker due to our work freeing up some of the GPs' time.

"Working together with the surgeries will ultimately allow us to provide better care for our patients, and although this is an initial one year project we hope that we can build upon this relationship and forge a long-term working pattern."

The fund was first launched in October 2013 when the Prime Minister announced a £50m Challenge Fund to support practices to trial new ways of delivering GP services and making

them more accessible to patients.

Further funding of £100m was announced in September 2014, before applicants were selected to lead the way for phase two which commenced earlier this year.

"The Fund has allowed pharmacies to step in and assist practices and we're delighted to have Totley Pharmacy on board.

Nicola Crouther, Practice Manager at Totley Rise Medical Centre, said: "Before we started working with Totley Pharmacy, our GPs would conduct all medication reviews, which of course can be quite time consuming.



"The early signs are very positive and we're hopeful that this partnership will lead to increased appointment availability for our patients."

Supporting Cavendish Cancer Care

Cavendish Cancer Care is a Sheffield charity which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people living with cancer, their carers and their children. At Dore and Totley United Reformed Church we are supporting this charity and we invite you to come to our next two events to raise money for this cause.



There will be a Table Top Sale in our church hall on Saturday 20th February from 10 am to 12 noon, and refreshments will be served including bacon sandwiches. If you would like to take part in the sale, please phone either 235 0696 or 231 1831 to book a table.

Then on Friday 11th March, the Sheffield Teachers Choir present an Easter Concert, in the sanctuary. For tickets and more information please phone 236 5607. We look forward to welcoming you to this event.



Transport 17

Happy New Year! We hope you all had an excellent festive season and that 2016 will be happy and healthy for us all.

Immediately before Christmas Santa paid us a visit, so perhaps we were very good during 2015!!! You may remember that we applied for a free minibus, via a Government initiative and were told that we were one of the lucky chosen few. That was over 9 months ago. As we all know so well, the wheels of power move exceedingly slowly so Mike Finn and John Savournin have been harrasing the department responsible on an almost daily basis. The wonderful news is that the money is going to be transferred into our account in the near future to enable us to order said vehicle to our own individual specification. We're told that the new bus will be on a 16 plate, so let's keep everything crossed. The money left in our coffers will be used to get the next bus fund going - it is a continual merry-go-round to ensure that everyone is safe in vehicles that are kept to our high standards.

We really need some new drivers, and if you have a Midas licence that would be even better. We are prepared to train and usually have people escort initially to get the feel of our varied client group so that they can see what it all involves. Please contact Mike or John on 0114 2362962, Monday to Friday, 9.00 to 12.00 noon.

We are hoping to have our first coffee morning, subject to weather conditions, late in February. This is a little early but we need to throw off the blues from the horrendous weather we have been having. Thank goodness we are not all on flood plains!! Please watch the notice boards in your local area for details.

Thank you for all your help in the past and we look forward to seeing you all in 2016. Take care and stay well,

Felicity Revill



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All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane



All services are at 10am

February

Sun 7th All Ages All Together
Sun 10th Ash Wednesday
Sun 14th Holy Communion
Sun 21st Morning Praise
Sun 28th Holy Communion

March

Sun 6th All Ages All Together
Sun 13th Holy Communion
Sun 20th Palm Sunday - Morning Praise

Fri 25th Good Friday: 10.00am Meet at All Saints Church then walk following the Cross to Totley Rise Methodist Church for the Service at 10.45.

Sun 27th Easter Sunday – All Ages All Together and Holy Communion

Horror

Oh what pain and suffering
That death on the Cross does bring
The one nailed there so very pure
The agony so very raw.

And there as life now ebbs away
There on the ground the soldiers play
His robe is what they gamble for
While darkness steals inexorably o'er

Such grief there is amongst his friends
Their hopes are dashed as His Life ends
They saw Him as God's own Son
Yet this happens to his most precious One.

Such horrors and pain on this Friday
Revolt me so – I look away
This gruesome scene, I cannot cope,
But Easter morning gives me hope.

Some of you may be reading this in early February when it only seems a very few weeks since Christmas, but before we know where we are we will be celebrating Easter which falls particularly early this year. In the last edition of the Totley Independent, I wrote about the wise men who went in search of and found the new born king. Fast forward 30 years and crowds of people were still looking for Jesus and

were amazed at the life changing things he said and did. The crowds carried on following and listening to Jesus right up to a few days before he paid the ultimate price. Jesus' close friends no doubt felt confused and let down – their lives had changed so much over the last three years and now they'd had to stand by and watch him be made a fool of, jeered at by the crowds who only a few days earlier couldn't get enough of him and then suffer an agonising and slow death suspended on a rough piece of wood.

But the amazing truth of Easter is that things didn't end there. Just three days later, Jesus broke the power of death by rising from the dead. In that incredible act of sacrifice he paid the price for all of us and made a way for us to know the love of our Heavenly Father and the promise of an eternal life.

Here at All Saints, we'll be learning more about what happened in the days leading up to the very first Easter during the month of March. We'd be delighted to see you at any of our services over the Easter period, including the special Good Friday service when we join with friends at Totley Rise Methodist church – the details are on this page. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Paul Oakley, Vicar

Totley Residents Association

Monday 14th December was a day for celebration when we hosted a Yuletide Lunch for older residents of Totley. Menus were sent out in November so that everyone could choose their two course meal and preferred wine. Thank you to fellow Committee Member, Julie Mitchell, for organising all of that.



Mike at the Spitfire gave everyone complimentary coffee and mince pies, Sharon cooked everything to perfection and Ollie with Phoebe served us with great attention.

Transport 17 made sure our guests arrived safely and thanks must also go to Ann Capper and Geoff Cooke who collected others.

As usual we had a free Raffle with excellent prizes generously donated by the Cross Scythes, Rendezvous, the Co-op, the Shepley Spitfire, Teatime Vintage, MandMade, the Crown, 195 Hairlines, Claire Calvert and TRA. Thanks to Dom Harris for helping to collect these.

We hope to host another event this year

As a postscript I would like to thank Mike and his lovely wife Lisa who are moving to Tamworth on January 18th. You have been so supportive over the last few years. Good Luck for the future.

Happy New Year!

Hetty Moran, Chairman

Flood prevention – Pickering and the Topley Brook

While tucking in and boozing over Christmas and New Year, we've sympathised with those people rescued from water sodden houses and being fed their turkey and pud in school halls. We've worried whether, probably due to climate change, this is the beginning of more of the same and that after the flooding of 2007, Sheffield might be in for it again.

However, among all the reports of flood defences breached and new schemes abandoned, there was an intriguing news item. Pickering, set, like Sheffield below drowned moorland, flooded four times between 1999 and 2007, the last disaster causing over £7 million of damage. Since then, the town has tried something unusual and counter intuitive, working with nature – and it escaped flooding this time.

After 2007, the town was told the solution was to build a £20 million concrete wall through the centre of the town to keep the water in the river. This was considered too expensive and too damaging to the tourist industry. In any case, it would have protected too few people for government support, so the town decided to take matters into their own hands. Aided by academic research and eventually help from the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and DEFRA, they built 170 leaky dams of trees and branches and blocked smaller gullies with heather bales which slowed the flow of water high above the town. They also planted 29 hectares of woodland and built a bund – an earth bank – to store up to 120,000 cubic metres of floodwater, releasing it slowly through a culvert. All this at a tenth of the cost of the concrete wall. Mike Potter, Chair of the Pickering and District Civic Society, said "While there was devastation all over northern England, our newly completed defences worked a treat and our community got on with life as normal."

I pricked up my ears at the success of this scheme. While carrying out an archaeological survey of Gillfield Wood a couple of years ago, we puzzled over the ten or eleven pairs of stone posts situated at intervals along the length of the Topley Brook. Some were



fallen, others left high and dry due to the changing meanders of the brook – but all had iron bolts on them facing upstream as if they had had boards attached to them to provide leaky dams. For a while we thought they were to provide sheep wash pools – but there were too many. Then one of the experts supporting our survey, who knew about the experimental scheme at Pickering, put forward the tentative theory that these were to slow the flow of water at times of flood – and also to prevent the accumulation of silt at mills lower downstream. The jury is still out on this theory but the Friends of Gillfield Wood, funding permitting, hope to carry out further surveying and research later this year. Perhaps the mystery of our stone posts will cast some light on an older and more natural way of preventing flooding rather than dredging rivers and building costly flood defences.

In the meantime, do look at the theory examined on page 25 of our 'Story of Gillfield Wood' to be downloaded at - <http://www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com/gillfield-wood->

[history/](#)

Any Topley residents who can help us to find out more should contact the Editor or the Friends of Gillfield Wood.

Sally Goldsmith

Knitting for Charity!

At the Knit and Natter Group, which meets every Tuesday from 12 noon until 3pm at Topley Rise Methodist Church, nothing gets thrown away. Organiser Maxine Walton, who started the group nearly three years ago, can find a home for anything – wool, fabric – and especially buttons.

The aim of the group is to produce knitted items to sell for charity, and they are astonishingly productive, as our photo below of Maxine (left) and Gail Daniels at their stall at the last Topley Market clearly shows.



Members of the group each pay £1, which goes towards providing the knitters and natterers with coffee and biscuits, and to buy some of the wool, but in the main the



TRMC's Rev. Louise Grosberg in her Xmas jumper!

income for the charities comes from sales of the knitted goods. The products range from Christmas jumpers

(TRMC's Rev. Louise Grosberg told us "I couldn't find a proper Christmas jumper anywhere so they knitted me one! They knitted my husband one as well!") to woollen elephants, which are sold for £5 each to support Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind. "I don't care what they knit as long as they're happy knitting and chatting!" says Maxine.

Jennifer Burns, who manages the financial aspects of the group, told us that so far £200 has been raised for Chernobyl Children; £550 for Amy's House; £550 for Work Ltd, and £200 for Soul Roots. Maxine says of the group's members, "Whatever we knit, it all goes to charity", says Maxine. "People knit whatever they want and I find an outlet for it". Some clothes go straight to people needing them, such as the homeless and, in the future, for refugees.

And remember the buttons - although wool and fabric is quite easy to come by, it's much more difficult to obtain buttons for the garments they knit. So if any of our readers have any buttons going spare (for instance, cut from worn-out clothes before throwing them out), please take them down to the Knit and Natter group on Tuesday!

Your results in the 11± Test!

The correct answers to the Quiz on page 6 are:

- 1 (c)
- 2 (b) Ossie Tyler - ex landlord of the Fleur
- 3 (c)
- 4 (b) They were/are all odd, but Dolores wasn't a headteacher like the others
- 5 (a) (b) (c) (d) all correct
- 6 (a) (b) (c) (d) all correct
- 7 (a)
- 8 (a) and (c)
- 9 (d) James Stephenson the goalie, with a last minute pen
- 10 (b) No one ever remembers after 8 of them
- 11±(a)

Sheep or goat? The top 20 per cent of your 11± players are sheep and go to grammar school. The rest are goats and don't.

Introducing your new Police Community Support Officer!

My name is Adrian Tolson and I am a Police Community Support Officer based at Woodseats Police Station as part of the Sheffield South West Local Policing Team. I'm very pleased to say that as from the 4th April I will be moving to your area as your local PCSO. I will also be covering as much as I can during the next couple of months up to that date.

I have worked for South Yorkshire Police for 11 years and been in a variety of postings over that time, starting at Hammerton Road as the local contact for Middlewood and Winn Gardens and then working my way through a number of districts to date. As a Totley lad I am very happy to be returning to home turf and I will involve myself as much as possible in local issues that affect residents of Totley, Dore and Bradway. As an ex pupil of Totley County Primary and King Egberts I am very much looking forward to working with all the schools across the area, getting to know people as well as attending, wherever possible, local residents associations, any neighbourhood watch meetings and other events.

As a PCSO my main aim is to deal with low level anti-social or rowdy behaviour, but I am also available for crime prevention advice, speaking to groups or individuals and trying to answer any specific questions they may have. I will be out on foot for most shifts around the area and am always happy to stop for a chat! There are various ways I can be contacted; my work mobile (which does not go home with me so do not use in emergencies) is [07787 881945](tel:07787881945) and a message can be left on this number at any time. You can also contact me via email at adrian.tolson@southyorkshire.pnn.police.uk. There is also the 101 number for reporting crime and of course 999 in an emergency.



If you are a user of Social Media our Policing Team also have an active Facebook page; search for Sheffield South West LPT to follow this account where we regularly update on crimes and other issues that may affect our communities. I will be hoping to set up local drop ins as soon as possible where I can meet you face to face if you should wish to do so! I also hope to have short articles in this publication every now and then should the editors allow it.... Looking forward to meeting you!"

Adrian Tolson

Wild Play

Easter Holidays

Sheffield & Rotherham

Where: The Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods, Abbey Lane, Sheffield, S7 2QZ

When: 22nd March and 29th March 2016: 10am-12 noon and 1.30pm-3.30pm
23rd and 30th March 2016: 10am-12noon

Come and join us for fun in the woods!

Suitable for families with children of all ages

Booking is essential

£3 per member/£5 non-members under 2's free with a paying sibling. No charge for adults

22nd and 23rd March: Signs of Spring and Easter fun

29th and 30th March: Trees and Seeds

All activities take place outdoors. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing. Parents/carers are required to stay with children for the duration of the activity.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

For more information and to book go to www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on

Or call 0114 2634335

The Wildlife Trusts is the partner organisation and we are pleased to take part in this event for publicly accessible sites. We are not responsible for any injury or damage to property. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that the site is suitable for the intended use. The Wildlife Trusts is not responsible for any injury or damage to property. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that the site is suitable for the intended use.

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Totley All Saints School Re – Union

At the Cross Scythes Hotel

Monday March 21st from 2.0 pm

For pupils who left around the 1940s to 1950s

We look forward to meeting you there

TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

MONDAYS

COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am-noon. Transport usually available on request. Tel 236 0872 before 9.45 am.

TAI-CHI, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 11.30am-12.30pm

RAINBOWS and GUIDES, All Saints' Church Hall, 5.45pm-9pm

SLIMMING WORLD, Abbeydale Sports Club, 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm, Jo Else: 262 0523 or 07590 545253

TUESDAYS

PILATES, The Old School, Dore, 9.15-10.15am. Phone Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372

COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am-noon

KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT & CHATTER Totley Rise Methodist Church, 12 noon - 3.00pm

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU. Drop in, free, impartial, and confidential. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am-noon

CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm

JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON, 2-4 pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom. A weekly afternoon of all forms of recorded jazz, plus discussion. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

WEDNESDAYS

PILATES CLASSES, Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 9.00-10.00 and 10.15-11.15. Contact Caroline - Tel: 0781 722 0324, email Carolinenorth1@me.com, www.pilatescarolinenorth.co.uk

COFFEE in the Library, 10am-11.30am

STORY TIME in the Library 10.30-11.30am. Craft activities, songs and a story for pre-school children. Call in at the Library for more information.

TODDLER GROUP, 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Andy Holmes 0114 236 2088

HEALTH WALKS, 10.30am, Totley Library foyer. Phone Tina, the Health Walk Ranger: 0114 203 9335

MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm

CHILDREN'S FITNESS CLASSES for pre-school girls and boys aged 2-5. New class on Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 10.10, Abbeydale Sports Club. Free taster sessions. See www.minimovez.com or call Steph on 07838 818743.

THURSDAYS

BELROBICS, United Reformed Church, 9.15-10am, email: jenny@belrobics.co.uk or tel 07816 850132.

NCT COFFEE GROUP FOR DORE TOTLEY & BRADWAY, 10am-noon, for mums & babies/toddlers, various locations. Phone Lucy Street 07837 000405 or email: lucy@streetr.plus.com for further details

ROCKCHOIR, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd, 11.30 - 1.00pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276

PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1.30pm-3pm. Tel. 07912 352543 for details

PILATES CLASS, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 6.15pm-7.30pm **also new class 1.30pm to 2.30pm**, Phone Emer Coffey 07792 422909

FEBRUARY

SAT 6th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: Bird Walk with Chris Measures. For details see page 9 of this issue.

MON 15th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: Talk by Allan Parker, "Nature's Year". Totley Library, 7.30. For more details see page 9 of this issue.

WED 10th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church Talk by John Doornkamp, "Global Warming - The Debate and the Evidence". Visitors Welcome.

TUES 16th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: 'Sideline by History: Women Inventors' - talk by Janine Derrick. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10 am.

SAT 20th TABLE TOP SALE, 10 am-12 noon. Dore and Totley United Reformed Church. Proceeds in aid of Cavendish Cancer Care.

SUN 21st FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: practical conservation morning run with the help of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. For details see page 9 of this issue.

WED 24th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church Talk by Stephen Gay. "Railways in the Yorkshire Landscape", Visitors welcome.

WED 24th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: 'A-Z of Sheffield', by Mike Spick. An exploration of the history and geography of the city in 26 parts. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

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6.30pm. to 9.00pm (drinks - open all day)

Sundays 12.00 to 9.00pm

Phone 01433 630 423

MARCH

WED 9th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk: Dr Murray Wilson, "Are You Sitting Comfortably?" Visitors welcome.

FRI 11th SHEFFIELD TEACHERS CHOIR: Easter Concert at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church. Proceeds in aid of Cavendish Cancer Care. For tickets and more information tel. 236 5607.

SAT 12th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: Searching for Fungal Crusts with Steve Clements. For details see page 9 of this issue.

TUES 15th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: Annual General Meeting. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10 am.

SUN 20th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: practical conservation morning run with the help of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. For details see page 9 of this issue.

WED 23rd TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church Talk: Suzanne Bingham, "Sheffielders on Holiday". Visitors welcome.

WED 23rd TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: Open Meeting: a chance to talk about recent research. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.



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TOTLEY INDEPENDENT for April/May

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

SATURDAY 2nd April
COPY CLOSE DATE for this issue
will be
SATURDAY 12th March

Proof readers: Chris & Margaret Spencer

Items for publication may be left at or sent to:
2, Main Avenue, Totley, Sheffield, S17 4FG

www.totleyindependent.co.uk

Printed by PREMIER PRINT DIRECT

www.premierprintgroup.co.uk

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