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Totley Hall Lane, date unknown

Saving Totley Trees

Yes, street trees can be a bit of a nuisance for a small part of the year when you have to sweep up leaves or wipe sticky sap from your car windscreen. But have you imagined your streets without mature trees? No robins singing at twilight, no watching the seasons change from bud to green leafy canopy to the reds and golds of autumn to stark winter bones? And believe it or not trees are even believed to aid our mental health, keep us warmer in our houses, help prevent flooding and to soak up pollution as well as being important to all sorts of wildlife. Contrary to general belief, removing them can actually lead to 'heave' disturbing the foundations of our houses.

The Council's policy of removing many mature healthy trees around the city has been not only in the news locally but also nationally, especially around the controversial action to wake residents at 5am on Rustlings Road and to arrest two older women who stood under the trees. These women have now been charged

and are to appear in court.

Though a city-wide campaign has no argument with the removal of genuinely dead, diseased or dangerous trees, it is arguing that the Council, through its contract with the private company Amey, is taking out many mature healthy trees classed as 'damaging' or 'discriminatory' – that is, they are pushing up pavements and roads or causing obstruction to people with disabilities. This removal makes it easier and more profitable to plane the roads prior to resurfacing though there are plenty of ways to save the trees. For example, solutions include 'flexi-paving' for those which are disrupting pavements – standard practice in other cities.

The small replacement saplings have a high degree of failure and will never truly 'replace' the large mature trees, including Lime and London Plane that bring such graciousness to our city streets. In Totley, large Plane, Ash and Alder trees are due to be felled on Aldam Road and

Aldam Way and also ornamental cherry trees elsewhere. There are signs that the Council is very discomfited about the strength of public reaction citywide. It looks as if First World War Memorial trees on Western Road in Crookes may be saved by 'special solutions,' such was the strength of opposition to felling.

Many of our Totley trees are at the beginning of this process and after a Council survey, trees on Aldam Road, Aldam Way, Brinkburn Drive, Greenoak Road and Laverdene Way will be referred to the Independent Tree Panel for their recommendations to the Council. It would be helpful if people on these streets concerned about their trees would get in touch so that we can help you write to the ITP, arguing for retention.

Sadly, other local Dore and Totley trees which are further along in the process are due to be felled soon, including on The Grove, Chatsworth Road, King Egbert Road, Devonshire Drive, an oak tree on Vernon Road (*continued p.3*)

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ACCA

Saving Totley Trees (from p.1)

and most of the cherry trees on Abbeydale Park Rise which bring us so much joy at Christmas - though Dore and Totley people intend to peacefully prevent felling where possible.

Local people in Totley and Bradway have joined with an existing local group in Dore to reverse this felling of mature healthy trees, to argue for a renegotiated contract between the Council and Amey, for genuine public consultation and



Sally Goldsmith writes 'This is the unusual twin stemmed alder tree on Aldam Way. It could possibly predate the road and be a coppiced field edge alder. It has been classified as 'dangerous'. According to some arboriculturalists I consulted, this is probably because one trunk could split from the other. However they both said (only from photo evidence mind) that it could probably be saved by pruning and bracing. It's a great tree, in a lovely position by a little carpark, sort of punctuating the road.'

accountability and to peacefully protect healthy trees at risk of imminent felling. If you would like to join, have any questions or would just like to be kept informed, please contact Sally Goldsmith, goldsally@googlemail.com There is also a Facebook group: Save Dore Totley and Bradway Trees. The next meeting is at Totley Library, 7.30pm on Monday 13th February.



Totley History Group

Programme 2017

22nd February: Harry Brierley and Stainless steel. A talk by Robin Fielder, the well-known local history tutor, formerly of Kelham Island

Museum, illustrated by contemporary pictures, maps and texts. Robin has new evidence about this famous son of Sheffield, showing that Harry should be better known for other parts of his work and life, not just the discovery of stainless steel. Totley Library, 7.30pm.

22nd March: An open meeting. Please come and share your memories of the local shops. How they have changed. Which ones have we lost? Have you any photos? Did you own a local shop? Totley Library, 7.30 pm.



Little Saints Nursery, the School House, Hillfoot Road, Totley Sheffield, S17 4 AP. Tel: 0114 2352148

New opening times!

We recently surveyed local parents and as a result we have decided to modify our opening times. From January we will open from 7.45am until 5.30pm and this will include Breakfast Club and after-school club for KS1 children. Please contact the nursery for more information.

What's Been Going On?

Before Christmas, we joined in the fun of Totley All Saints School's Christmas Fair and opened our doors to welcome visitors during the evening. It was a lovely event and super to meet lots of parents and children. We joined in the Christmas Tree Festival in the church and decorated our very own tree with paper angels, salt dough shapes and baubles decorated with lots of sparkly glitter! The younger children rolled the baubles in glitter and the older ones cut out angel shapes.

We held our Nativity performance in All Saints Church and our Christmas party in the church hall afterwards, with a very Special Visitor! Every child received a present, which was a lovely way to round off the term.

Facebook page goes live!

Our new Facebook page went live just before Christmas. Why not pop over and search for our 'Little Saints Nursery' page and give us a Like, and follow us for most recent updates.

We have a busy term ahead of us and look forward to the exciting challenges that a new year always brings.

We still have some spaces available in Nursery, so please contact us using the information at the top of the page for more details.

Thursday lunch club at Lowedges

Would you or a friend or relative enjoy getting out and socialising once a week?



Greenhill, Totley, Lowedges areas

Our **Thursday Lunch Club** at the Michael Church, Lowedges has been providing hot dinners and a chance to socialise for elderly people in the area for over 30 years
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Walking the Dog....

Mardy blooming February!

Wuff!

Sshs!

What's up, Rony?

Blooming February is what's up, Jack. It makes everyone mardy.

Why's blooming February make everyone mardy?

Well, for a start you can never be sure whether it's got 28 or 29 days, until you've divided by 4. And you can still get it wrong if there's a 0 in the year. And-

There's something else wrong with blooming February?

Yes. Lent starts in it.

It doesn't.

Does.

Not always.

Almost always. And no one can spell it right.

L.E.N.T.

I meant February.

F. E. B. -

And even if you can spell it right, you can't say it right when you say it out loud.

February!

See!

Feb-ru-ary. See!

And even if you can say it right when you can spell it right, when you do say it out loud, you still don't know where it comes from?

No, I don't but -

It comes from the Romans. So October is October because it's the eighth month - like an octopus has eight legs in Latin. So you'd think that February being the second month, feb is Latin for two? But it's not. So -

So no wonder you get mardy. But October isn't the eighth month.

No, but it was before there was a February, because there wasn't a February until 713 BC, and even when there was, it only had 23 days. And February brings the snow that makes your feet and fingers glow.

It doesn't.

Does!

Not since global warning it doesn't but -

And it's warming. Not warning. And you're the one getting mardy now.

Not! And even if I am, it's both. And even if it isn't, January is the one that brings the snow that makes your feet and fingers glow. And it's February that brings the rain that thaws the frozen lake again.

Blooming February again!

But February the 29th is Rare Diseases Day?

We've not got a February 29th this year.

Exactly, so we'll not get any rare diseases this year!

But we will in 2020. And next year's February won't even have a full moon.

True - but Feb 1st was your brother Dave's birthday?

That meant we had to buy him a present.

And your mum and dad got married on Feb 1st? In 1935? But never told you till they were dead because your Geth was born six months early, in May 1935?

Thanks for sharing.

You must have shared first?

Listen. There are two really bad things about February that I was hoping not to have to mention, Jack.

Really bad things?

Really really bad things.

Really really really bad things?

Yes. The first is that you have to do your eleven-plus Scholarship exam in February, and, after, if you get a letter to say you are a sheep, you have to go to King Edwards in a uniform, instead of talking to girls ever again. If you don't get a letter, you are a goat, and you have to stay at All Saints to do gardening with Bert Shirt and Herbert Hodgkiss in The Hut, then leave at fourteen to have a baby. So, Jack, every February, either way, everybody fails, for ever.

What's the other really really bad thing?

February has that one blooming worst mardy Saturday evening of the year, every year, when you work out from the Green Un scores and league tables and home and away goals averages and remaining fixtures, that, whatever they do next and however hopeful it got round Christmas, the Blades have failed to get promotion yet again. What do you say to that?

I say ...Wuff!!!

Rony Robinson and Jack Robinson



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Oops! In the last issue we published a photo from John Morton of the Totley Labour Sports day in 1945. Unfortunately the quality of the picture as reproduced was not as good as we'd have liked. We're sorry about that - so here it is again.

The poor picture quality did not prevent one reader from identifying the following people in the photograph: Bob Rose, Carol Rose, Maxine Rothwell, Betty Hoyland, Anne Biggin, June Smith, Janet Smith, John Biggin, Pat Shaw, Mary Hoole, Marjorie Andrews, Pat Hoyland, Anne Sherry, Josie Eastwood, John Perkinton, John Woofinden, David Holding, Mrs Ward, Mr Smith, Mrs Weston, Dilys Pearson, Mr Woffinden, Mrs Eastwood, Brian Higgott, and June Mather.



Transport 17

Happy New Year – Hope you are having a good one!

Hello everyone, here we are at the start of the new year and we are all shivering from the cold. Let's hope that the small splattering of snow we have had is going to go away all together!! We can only hope.

After the office closed on 20th December, Mike Fynn went in to help the carpet fitter to put the final touches to the office refurb. He then added some new chairs and the whole place looks absolutely fabulous. It is impossible to realise how grubby the office was prior to all the hard work, but power to everyone who contributed in hours and all the contributors during 2016. The last list of donors for the year reads as follows:- Bridge Drive (we are hoping to run this event again this year) £685; Totley Open Gardens £900; Abbeydale and Millhouses PCC £250; Hallamshire Tangent £100; TRA (Totley Show) £250; Dore Village Society £500; Totley Rise Senior Social Teas £70 and St Mark's Church, Broomhill £200. You have all done us proud and we are truly grateful.

Our last fundraising event was the Christmas Fayre, and what a fantastic turnout we had, raising £915. You had to be there to see it all come together, but it was a fantastic morning and of course the Cross Scythes staff excelled

themselves once more with lots of cakes, coffee and teas. Thank you all.

It has been relatively quiet since then and as yet we haven't set a date for our next coffee morning but we will be doing shortly - probably aiming at around Easter time. We will make sure we give you plenty of notice.

We are hoping to recruit some new volunteers during the coming months to be escorts and drivers. If you have a few hours to spare each week we would love to hear from you and welcome you to our merry band.

All that is left for me to say is HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL and may you be blessed with good health and happiness throughout.

Felicity Revill

Councillor Surgeries

Liberal Democrats:

2nd Monday in month 6-7pm, Totley Library, Baslow Road.

2nd Saturday in month, 10.30am to 12 noon, Dore Old School Hall, Savage Lane, Dore.

Contact details:

Colin Ross 235 1948
Email: colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk

Joe Otten 230 3290
Email: joe.otten@sheffield.gov.uk

Martin Smith 0781 205 5346
Email: martin.smith@sheffield.gov.uk

My Wildlife Garden

Before Christmas, there were some pleasant days, but it was mostly damp and dull. As the leaves fell, they became very wet, but I resisted clearing them from the lawn unless it was too thick a layer. They start to decompose and the worms get to work as nature intended. Many garden experts advise us not to walk on lawns when it is wet or frosty. While my lawn is not pristine, nor free from buttercups and daisies etc, I walk on it every morning when feeding the birds, whatever the weather, and yet it is very healthy and rarely needs scarifying ... thanks to the worms again.

The ponds did not get a full maintenance treatment this year. I was too busy planting over 200 plugs (45 varieties) of wild flowers. Also, and not for the first time, digging up bricks kindly buried by the house-builder in a corner by the garage some 65 years ago.

It was then time to trim hedges and prune trees, which was mostly left to Luke, and, in December, I did some maintenance of my willow fence. I love willow structures as they can be very attractive garden features, but they do need attention at the coldest time of year. Brrrrr!!

The compost heaps have been turned and the oldest (one to two years old) is a really good consistency, having been well decomposed by the worms, woodlice and other organisms vital to the decomposition cycle.

Wild flowers do not thrive well on chemically fertilised soil, but my compost will cause no harm to the plants or the essential micro-organisms in the soil. Some of it I sieve as it makes very good potting compost.

Hopefully, 2017 will be a better year for our native wildlife, both flora and fauna, but the lack of good habitats throughout the country does not bode well for any improvement. Human activities are undoubtedly the cause, and inappropriate gardening has to take a lot of responsibility. A visit to the garden centre or any other outlet for plants and a variety of chemicals(!) is not the answer. Locally, I have found only one that sources plants from this country. Most plants are imported, including short-life plants for bedding out in gardens, hanging baskets and window boxes and, of course, indoors. This brings with it considerable risk of introducing unwanted and invasive pests and other organisms. Garden centres are piled high with chemicals and it is a struggle to find organic composts (even the staff might look puzzled when you ask for it). If they do stock it, check the small print, as it may have some chemicals in it too. Similarly, with farmyard manures, which should be produced from certified organic farms. "Environmentally-friendly" products should also be checked.



Alkanet plant

Native wildflowers (plugs or seeds), shrubs and trees can be sourced from British growers who value the integrity of their products rather than making a lot of money out of imported mass-produced goods which are contributing considerably to our carbon footprint and the poor state of our environment.

The Soil Association is an excellent charity which, backed by

good science and evidence in the field, is doing all it can to encourage organic farming for healthier, "living" soil, an improved environment, high animal welfare, and healthier food. The loss of pollinators is one of its greatest concerns.

It is not easy to remove plants which look attractive and fill space in the garden, never mind removing almost all of them, as I have done. It has, however, given me a real "feel-good factor" to see how much more wildlife there is.

The Winter Aconites were starting to come through in December and should flower in January, followed by Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemones and Wood Sorrel, as well as Snowdrops and Daffodils, which are all increasing naturally. Later, spring flowers including Greater Celandine, blue Alkanets and White Deadnettle, which are all very attractive to bees and many other pollinators, will follow, and, whilst I do not want to wish the time away, I am keen to see how the latest planting of summer flowers develops, along with those which are already established, including Red Campion, Red Clover and Betony.

To finish, a quotation from Rachel Carson, an American marine biologist and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement: "Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life"

Marian Tiddy

Abbeydale Park Bowling Club

The Club will be holding Open Mornings on Saturday 1st and Saturday 22nd April 2017 between 10am and 12 noon, for anyone who would like to try their hand at Crown Green Bowling. Previous experience is not necessary as free instruction will be given.

The Club is primarily a social bowling club with informal sessions running each day in the morning, afternoon and evening. Members assemble and groups are made up as people arrive.



Friendly Inter-Club Matches are held throughout the season as well as internal competitions for the many trophies bestowed on the club. Social events are held throughout the year including Dinners, a Garden Party and a Race Evening, as well as regular Coffee Mornings during the close season.

Members of the Bowling Club are automatically enrolled as members of Abbeydale Sports Club and can enjoy the facilities provided by the Pavilion.

The Bowling Green is situated on the right hand side at the top of the Abbeydale Park Sports Complex where ample car parking is available.

Please join us on the Green equipped with suitable footwear (flat with no heels) where you will be warmly welcomed. All other equipment can be provided. We have a large selection of bowls from which you can choose to borrow for play.

Practice sessions for beginners will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm starting at the beginning of May and prospective members are welcome to come to these 3 times before applying for membership.

If you require any further information please contact:
Doreen or Richard Bertram (Membership Secretary)
Telephone: 0114 289 1423
email: richard.bertram@btconnect.com

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

There is a creche available plus Youth/Junior Church at all morning services.

Totley Rise Methodist Church welcomes you.... We extend a warm and friendly welcome to you from the community here at Totley Rise Methodist Church.

Everyone is welcome. You are welcome if you are a lifelong follower of Jesus or if you are a seeker, or just starting to wonder.... or if you have just hopped off the bus outside and you're looking for refreshment for your onward journey.

Come along and meet us at one of our services or group activities.

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.

Come along and give it a try - you won't be disappointed!

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes it messy?

Just think of all the fab things mums and dads would love to do with kids but avoid because of the cleaning up afterwards. We did bubble painting - blue paint everywhere! How the children managed to stay clean was a miracle, so please don't come in your best clothes Messy church can be messy!!!! We painted a huge Goliath cut-out, stuck together and had a great time learning that God is there when things seem too big and too difficult for us in life. We need to ask for courage, believe and follow.

Ah...I thought food would be involved – more mess?

Yes, the idea is that mums, dads, kids and helpers all sit down and eat together. It's a time to sit and share, chat and eat together.

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.

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 are provided. Contact Rachel on 07912 352543 for further information.

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.

Coffee morning 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. They may natter and chatter but 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 provides wool, needles and a chat for those who can't 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 for up to three hours. We offer tea, coffee, biscuits and, most importantly, friendship.

Sheffield Citizens Advice Bureau

Every Tuesday, 10 am-12 noon. No appointment needed. Drop-in free confidential Advice Service. Advice on legal, financial, employment, benefits and any other matters.

Room Hire at Totley Rise Methodist Church: Available Monday to Saturday. We have a variety of rooms for hire, which include the use of kitchen facilities and audio-visual equipment. Please contact the caretaker, Dean Duke, for more information or to make a booking, on 236 0389 or email Deanj on deano1972@sky.com. Or visit our website for a booking form and details of room sizes and charges.

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



Friends of Gillfield Wood

Diary for February and March

February

Saturday 11th: Bird Walk. This is Chris Measures' first Bird Walk of 2017 with an opportunity to look out for overwintering birds. Meet by the Scout Hut, off Aldam Road, at 9 am. No experience necessary! Bring binoculars and cameras. It is

strongly advised to wear strong shoes and appropriate clothing. The walk will last 2-3 hours depending on what we find.

Sunday 19th: 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. Do also check our website at www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com – any late changes of venue will be published there.



March

Sunday 19th: 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 – late changes of venue will be published there.

Monday 20th: 'Wildlife of a City Garden – Part 2' with Penny Philcox. The emphasis for this talk is on insects and pond life and continues the earlier talk on mammals and birds, much enjoyed by those who came to the meeting in October. We will meet in the Totley library, Baslow Road from 7:30pm.

Paul Hancock

On the Beat....

New Year, new start! Unfortunately our burglars have started the year as they left off the last, and are still preying on S17 residents. Whilst there are some variances the main method of entry is still by forcing old style eurolock cylinders, particularly on patio doors. I'd like to ask you to keep one resolution this year and that would be to check your locks and make sure they are up to current standard. I do not claim to be an expert on locks or British Standards but can pass on the tips from my colleagues at West Yorkshire Police who state the following:

1. Seek to upgrade your cylinder locks to ones that have either achieved a 3 star rating under TS 007 and/or the Sold Secure Diamond Standard (SS312). Some cylinders have achieved both.
2. Enhanced security handles achieving a 2 star rating under TS 007 should also be considered
3. Cylinder locks can be changed by yourself. However, it is vital that they are measured properly to ensure the right size for your door. They should NOT be fitted so that they are left protruding from the door unit or handle.

4. If you are going to ask someone to upgrade your locks for you consider using the Master Locksmiths Association (www.locksmiths.co.uk). Always obtain 3 quotes for the fitting of new locks to the standards referenced above and pick the one that best suits your circumstances.

5. You may also be able to fit sash jammers to your doors, which have also proven to prevent burglaries. It's important that you check the warranty for your door first though, in order to ensure that the fitting of additional devices won't negate it.

I am told that the cost of replacing locks is not excessive and considering the amount it could save you it should be a worthwhile investment.

Your local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators may be able to make other recommendations. If you are unsure how to contact them, please drop me an email and I'll put you in touch. If you want to keep an eye on where and what crime is happening on our area and have embraced the delights of social media, you can follow our Facebook page which carries daily updates and other information. Search for "Sheffield South West Local Policing Team" and like or follow us.

As ever you can contact me via email at adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or via my work mobile number 07787 881945 if you have any issues you need to raise or concerns about your neighbourhood. Please leave me your name and contact number of the answerphone kicks in and I'll get back to you when next on duty.

Keep safe!

PCSO 8136 Adrian Tolson
Dore, Totley and Bradway Area Contact
Sheffield SW LPT
Woodseats Police Station
07787 881945



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Totley Scouts

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

Lissy, our Beaver leader, has been working hard with the beavers all year and has awarded four more Chief Scout Bronze Awards before Christmas to Ben Pakenham, Eli Rose, Dylan

Wood and Peter Caroe. This is the highest achievement awarded to beavers and takes a lot of commitment and work to fulfil all the requirements necessary. Well done!

Whilst the winter months can mean

most activities are indoors the Explorers are particularly intrepid, so if you hear some strange noises coming from the woods on a Friday evening it could just be the Explorers using the woods for an 'activity in the dark'! This year the Explorers will be working towards their Chief Scout Platinum award.

We always need more adults to help with fun and exciting programmes for the children. It is a rewarding hobby for the Leaders and regular parent helpers. Being a warranted Leader is also very good for your CV. So let me know if you are interested.

Last year I told you that we are to get a new scout hut. Well, we are progressing our plans and working out building costs etc. We are also starting our fundraising. It is a long process. Our Explorer section has entered a competition for a large prize towards building a new hut. We are keeping our fingers crossed. We should know if we have won by the end of January. We have a target to raise £200,000. It sounds a lot but every donation helps. If you would like to make a donation please look for the 'Totley Scout Group' page on the BT MyDonate charity donation site. All donations will be gratefully received and help Totley get a new Scout Hut. In future articles I will update you how much we have received and been promised. Also, in the next few weeks our website and social media pages will be up and running.



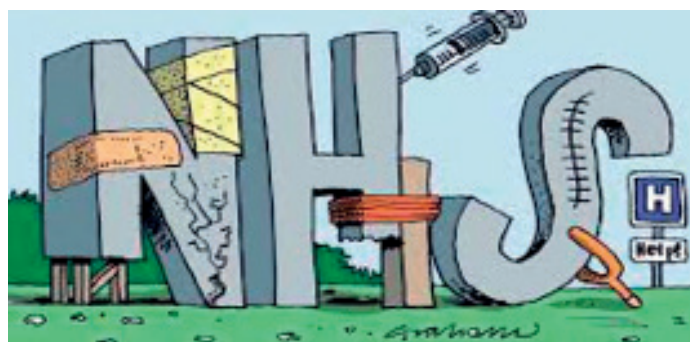
Just as I was writing this article we had a very lucky escape with trees falling on our Scout Hut due to the strong winds. As the picture shows, it wasn't woodland trees but trees from a neighbouring garden. Thankfully the neighbour was very prompt in getting contractors in to chop the trees up. The lucky thing about it was that the hut doesn't seem to have been damaged.

Richard Frost, Chairman, 1st Totley Scouts
TotleyChair@aol.com
0114 236 3603

Ask your Pharmacist

We are all aware of the difficulties the NHS has been facing over the winter period, as once again there have been bed crises throughout the country. 20 hospitals this week declared black alert after becoming so overcrowded they could not cope and guarantee patient safety. Story after story about the ever-dwindling resources has left us all concerned about the future of the health service. As the NHS nears the age of 70 we have to accept that it has become unsustainable without change.

So what can we do about it? To keep healthcare in the UK how it should be - safe, effective and free at the point of delivery - our perceptions need to change. An interesting quote was "The NHS needs to transfer from an illness service to a wellness service". Though prevention is better for patients and usually more cost-effective, it is estimated we only spend 4% of the NHS budget on prevention. Prevention is always better than cure, and managing our own health a little more actively could go a long way to redressing the balance. Regular exercise combined with a healthy diet supplemented with the appropriate vitamins and minerals can keep the doctor away as well as any apple.



We also need to use all branches of the NHS to relieve pressure on the A & E departments. After all, A&E means Accident and Emergency, not Anything and Everything; and there are many conditions that are as well managed by your local pharmacy's minor ailment scheme as by your GP or hospital.

At Totley Pharmacy, we can help you with coughs, colds and sore throats without the need for an appointment. We are an accredited Healthy Living Pharmacy and have staff trained to give you the best advice on keeping healthy including stopping smoking, weight management and a healthy diet.



We stock a range of products and supplements to help you achieve a healthier lifestyle. Many hospitalizations occur due to medication issues: it is as important to take medicines correctly as it is to take the correct medicines. We provide free Medicines Use Reviews to ensure

you are getting the best control possible of your health conditions and maximising the benefits of your treatment, and also a free New Medicine Service to answer any queries you may have about new medicines which may cause problems. We usually have two pharmacists available who are happy to talk to you about and answer any concerns you may have.

So next time you have a question about your medicines or are looking for health advice, why not come to Totley Pharmacy first and let us see if we can help? We would like to help you, and maybe in a small way help the NHS too.

Taj Singh

Update on Back Lane

Totley Independent readers may remember the article that was published in the June/July 2016 issue (No 380) which referred to several issues associated with Back Lane, which is located behind the shops and residential cottages on Totley Rise shopping precinct.

The main issue that was being referred to was the slow response from Sheffield Council officials regarding the widening of the entrance at the lower end of Back Lane, at the bottom of Totley Rise, in order that Veolia refuse vehicles could easily access the whole length of the lane to empty local residents' and shopkeepers' bins. This long-standing service had always been possible prior to the rebuild of properties at 15 – 21 Baslow Road, in 2002, when Metropolitan Homes encroached into the adopted public highway by more than 1.15 metres, thereby restricting access not only to Veolia but also to other important services, notably emergency ambulance and Fire Service vehicles.

Local residents were also becoming extremely concerned about the unsightly cluster rubbish bins of various sizes, and unhygienic waste that was being left alongside the main public footpath close to Baslow Road.

Fifteen years later, the Council's Highways Department officers have finally indicated that they will now attempt to widen the entrance into Back Lane, particularly where any 'pinch points' are likely to restrict access for wider vehicles. In fact, initial work commenced on the morning of Friday 20th January 2017, when a digger was used to scrape soil and debris that had accumulated down the left hand side of the lane, just below its lower entrance.



Photo taken on Tuesday 24 January, after the digger had cleared the road. The width, measured from the angle of the wall, is only 20 cm more than before.

Apparently, once any widening has taken place, arrangements are to be made with Veolia to organise a 'dummy run' to make sure that their vehicles are able to negotiate along the lane and, just as importantly, that they are able to turn the vehicle around when reaching the end.

Prior to the arrival of the Highways Department workforce on the morning of 20th, photographs and measurements of the lane's width had been carefully recorded, the purpose being to eventually identify exactly how much extra width had been gained. Follow-up photos and measurements have now been taken and unfortunately there's every reason to believe that only an extra 20 centimetres has been achieved at the lane's narrowest point, that is to say, opposite the main 'pinch point' associated with the 1.15 metre building encroachment. This means that the width of the lane is still nearly one metre narrower at such a very crucial point, that is, on a bend, when compared with the measurements recorded on ordnance survey plans, prior to the demolition of the four cottages at the lower end of Totley Rise shopping precinct, in 2002.

At the end of the day, there should be no reason why the lane should not eventually accommodate larger vehicles,

bearing in mind that at least one extra metre of unused land is currently available to widen the lane even further. Whether or not the Highways Department are prepared to return and carry out additional work, remains to be seen. However, we've now been reassured by Councillor Colin Ross that any costs associated with widening the lane will have to be paid for by Mr Flowers (Metropolitan Homes Ltd) and not by local taxpayers - we now have to wait and see if that really does happen.

Councillors Colin Ross and Martin Smith have been made aware of the current 'work in progress' situation associated with Back Lane, as the end of January 2017. With their help, local residents and shopkeepers might regain the services that have for so long been denied.

Jim Webb

John Wade Singers
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Musical Kaleidoscope

Saturday 20 May 2017, 7.30 pm

Millhouses Methodist Church,
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Conductor Jonathan Lazell
Accompanist Kristin Markay

Tickets £9 (Concessions £7, Children free)

Proceeds to Whirlow Hall Farm

Ticket information:

Jenny Parker 0114 2360798
Helen Hancock 0114 2351433

Eastern Moors Partnership



Muck In Days


Looking for volunteering at the weekend?

Our monthly Muck In Days are open to the public on the second Sunday of every month, from 10am – 12.30pm. A great way to get stuck in, learn a new skill and meet like-minded people whether you are single, a couple or a family, everyone is welcome. Youngsters up to 18 years can become Junior Rangers simply by helping out at our Muck In Days. Collect stamps, stickers and even get the T-shirt! Just turn up!


For Eastern Moors (EM) sessions just turn up. For Longshaw sessions visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/longshaw-burbage-and-the-eastern-moors/whats-on for more details.

What's on in 2017:

Sun 12th February: Longshaw
Sun 12th March Tree planting: visit-eastern-moors.org.uk
Sun 9th April: Longshaw



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*Major service includes (where applicable) oil filter, air filter, fuel filter, spark plugs, cabin filter, oil change, computer diagnostic check, service indicator reset, service book stamp, screen wash top up, service check list. All prices include VAT and fitting. Offer limited to 4 cylinder engines up to 2.0 litres, Petrol and Diesel. Available for a limited time only. Terms and Conditions apply. For details call 0114 2446589. Winter check can vary between vehicles depending on specification and factory fitted equipment. The word "Volkswagen" is a registered trade mark of Volkswagen Group UK Ltd and Volkswagen AG. Autohaus Dolby Ltd is an independent Volkswagen group specialist and uses the terms associated with Volkswagen group UK purely as descriptive words and implies no direct association with Volkswagen AG, Volkswagen Group UK Ltd or its subsidiaries.

**Autohaus Dolby, Sheffield's Independent Volkswagen Group Specialist.
Century Street, S9 5DX. 0114 2446589. autohausdolby.co.uk.**

Gardening Tips for February and March

I have just read an article in 'Garden' magazine in which they mention Mat Damon planting potatoes in the space movie 'Martian'. I have not seen the film yet. His character is a botanist and he has lines like "Mars will come to fear my botany powers". Apparently compost making is also featured. That's something to look forward to!

Growing vegetables in space is not just science fiction. Scientists have to work out how to feed 35 people 250 million miles from the super-rich soil of Earth and its plant-friendly climate. They will have to look at gardening with new eyes - apparently it is very tricky to grow things in space due to low gravity, as the roots don't know which way to go.

Astronauts do grow things at the ISS (international space station) - mostly salads and recently cabbages. They have a mini-greenhouse which recreates the conditions on Earth. I imagine it will be a bit awkward trying to cope with even dwarf vegetables, and having to move containers around, and watering would also be quite difficult in a non-gravity environment (water, water everywhere but none in the pot).

Growing plants on Mars is another problem altogether. The soil there, so I'm told, is awful. There's no humus and it's full of heavy metals - lead, mercury etc. - and also the temperatures can drop to -70 degrees.C. The answer is in the soil. Make lots of compost and use poly tunnels, NASA is currently trying out a prototype in the Canadian arctic.

All this goes to show that the ability to grow plants is a lot more important than people give it credit for. In fact it's not overstating it to say that gardening is fundamental to the survival of the human race. So often the skills, experience and deep understanding we gardeners have are dismissed as a hobby by the media and politicians. Well they may not fear our botany powers but they will certainly need them...

Back down to Earth.....I've just had a walk round the garden. There has been a hard frost overnight and everything is white over, even in the sunshine. I have winter lettuce and Chinese leaves and they are covered with frost. I have not grown them before, so we will see whether they survive in the north when the weather turns milder. The broccoli and red cabbage seem to be quite happy: we had some for dinner yesterday - very tasty.

The water pump which moves the water from the water butts near the barn which are in the lower part of the garden works very well and soon fills up the butt at the top of the garden, so we have nice rain water for greenhouse watering which is better than using tap water. The running cost is quite small - it runs for about 5 minutes to fill a butt with approximately 100 litres.

The sweet peas planted in November are looking healthy. I will be planting some more in February just in case the ones I planted earlier don't survive the winter. If they do, I will have more plants for the charity stalls in May.

Just a reminder: as I was in the greenhouse just now, the temperature was 80 degrees. I had to adjust the auto vents to lower the temperature! It is very important at this time to keep an eye on ventilation: plants, especially seedlings and cuttings, do not like big variations, and we don't want to lose those plants that that we have lovingly nurtured to be ready for the Totley Show in September.

Wrap up well, and get outside to make sure that you and your garden are happy and healthy!

February

Flowers: Winter flowering jasmine should be pruned as soon as it has finished flowering. As blooms fade, trim back winter flowering heathers with shears to prevent them getting straggly. Don't forget to look at dahlia tubers in store and dust any mould with flowers of sulphur, don't let the frost nip them - protect them well. Give herbaceous plants a feed of rotted manure or compost, lightly forked in, or a dressing of good general fertilizer. Fill any gaps in your wallflowers now, before they start into active growth. Make sure all plants are firmed in, as some may have been loosened by frost.

Give any roses which have suffered with black spot a spraying with fungicide to help prevent a further occurrence, and clear away any leaves. Clean up rockeries, and top dress with compost and chippings.

Vegetables: Check vegetable plots for lime content, and if needed add lime at least 2 weeks before sowing or planting. Work in a dressing of Growmore or similar. Onions need a



very rich soil to get the really good ones for the show. Before sowing carrots, rake soil pesticide into the ground. Put seed potatoes in a light airy frost-free place to sprout. Watch out for slugs and deal with them quickly. Top dress spring cab-

bage and sprouting broccoli with nitro chalk. Plant out autumn sown onions. Dig trenches for runner beans and celery. Sow herbs (chervil, chives, dill and parsley) in slight warmth. Sow leeks to be ready for the Show, planting the best seeds in individual pots in warmth to start them off well, and moving them to cooler positions later, prior to planting out when the frosts are past, or under cloches. Cauliflower and broccoli benefit from a long growing season. Plant seeds now in deep trays in a cold frost free greenhouse. You will have strong healthy plants in good time for spring planting out.

Trees, Fruit and Shrubs: Prepare the ground for any spring planting. Plant out deciduous shrubs and heathers later in the month. Prune late summer flowering clematis. Cut back hard shrubs like callicarpa trumpet creeper, spirea and tamarisk. Fruit trees growing in grass will need a feed of sulphate of ammonia or nitro chalk to make up nitrogen deficiency - use about half an ounce (30 grams) to a square yard (sq m).

Prune autumn fruiting raspberries, prune gooseberries, and firm in any cuttings of black, red and white currants and gooseberry. This is the perfect month for tree planting. Care now will pay off with rapid sustained growth for the future, so choose the right tree for the site, noting its eventual size. This will avoid drastic pruning later. Bear in mind that pretty blossoms will look lovely for a week or so but how will the tree look in summer and winter? Is it colourful in autumn? Select only the best specimens with even open growth and a good root structure with no obvious defects such as a faulty graft or damage on the trunk -and don't be seduced by size. A small light standard tree will grow just as well as a large heavy tree, will need less staking and will most likely be less expensive. Small mature trees called ships will be even less expensive but of course will take longer to mature. Make the planting hole big enough to spread the roots evenly and make sure they never dry out during the planting process. A little slow release fertiliser blended with well-rotted compost will improve the soil onto the roots. Use your heel to tread it in. Water often in the first season while the tree is becoming established and mulch with bark or compost.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Gradually increase wat-

-ering, and keep African violets, cyclamen and indoor primulas humid by standing them on moist pebble-filled saucers. Plant indoor gladioli corms. Pot up January-sown seedlings of geraniums, fuschias, etc. Plant rooted cuttings of late chrysanthemums and carnations. For a nice summer display sow seeds of plants with bush violet, busy lizzie, carnation, gloxinia and schizanthus, (poor man's orchid). Sow primrose for winter flowers. Cut back last year's shoots of fuschia, passion flower and plumbago. Plants, particularly seedlings, like fresh air but not cold air, so on warm days ventilate freely, especially cold frames but keep a weather eye open for frost forecasts. Pollinate and train early vines, and later in the month sow half hard annuals and greenhouse plants. Start into growth resting plants such as clivias, bird of paradise etc. Freesias which finished flowering some weeks ago can now be laid on their sides in their pots to dry off. Lobelia cardinalis is becoming popular - it can be potted now. Pull away single shoots with a little root attached and pot each separately in a 3½" pots.

Lawns: Rake, spike and top dress with sand, and keep off, especially when frosty.

March

Flowers: Prepare ground for planting and seedbeds, and if possible cover seedbeds with cloches to warm them up. Harden off plants which have been over-wintering in frames or indoors, including seedling herbaceous perennials and rock plants. Work into the soil well-rotted manure or compost, or a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore, or both would give the ground and plants a treat. Keep weeds down! Water newly planted perennials during dry spells. Deadhead flowers as they fade. Keep checking for slug damage, especially around young plants, and lay slug bait or beer traps as necessary. Plant lily bulbs. Plant gladioli corms in trays: start them off in slight warmth for planting out in April. Lift and split up over-crowded snowdrops. Sow hardy annuals like larkspur, clarkia and love-in-a-mist either in the garden or under cloches or indoors to plant out later, take cuttings of early flowering chrysanthemums and dahlias and root them in warmth. Lift and divide overcrowded herbaceous perennials such as Michaelmas daisy, golden rod etc. Sow sweet peas one inch deep (25cm) 2-3 inches apart. Plant out indoor bulbs which have finished flowering - they will give a show next spring. Remove shoots that have no live buds from summer flowering clematis and cut back late flowering varieties hard.

Vegetables: Dig up vacant plots and test soil for Ph (adding lime if necessary). Sow cauliflower, broccoli and other brassicas in a frame. Brussels sprouts need a long steady season of growth. Sow now in boxes and germinate in a heated frame or greenhouse. If you want cabbages in midsummer (butterflies love them) sow an early variety now in same conditions as sprouts. Sow spinach in a sheltered spot, they love a bit of sunshine. Sow broad beans in boxes for planting out later. At the end of the month sow culinary peas outdoors, scoop out a trench the width of a spade, about 9ins (23cm), not more than 3ins (75cm) deep, place the seeds singly in two lines one at each side about 3 ins (75cm) between seeds, cover with an inch of soil - the depression left will provide the tiny seedlings with a bit of protection, and putting a few in every two weeks will give a nice succession. Plant early potatoes, have cloches or plastic ready in case of late frosts. Sow spinach beet, a very useful form of beetroot grown for its leaves, which are used like those of spinach. Sow turnips or swedes, which need rich but not newly-manured ground. Plant onion sets, use a trowel to set them rather than a dibber: they are less likely to push themselves out of the ground as the roots develop.

Trees, Fruit and Shrubs: Prepare ground for new shrubs or trees. Plenty of organic compost and well-rotted manure will give them a good start. A dressing of sterilised bonemeal will give them a real treat and pay dividends by way of healthy plants and trees. Firm in newly planted shrubs and those loosened by frost. Feed established plants with a balanced fertiliser. Apply mulch especially round new additions. Watch out for aphids and caterpillars, and spray as soon as they are seen. Prune autumn flowering shrubs which flower on the tips of new growth i.e. butterfly bush, blue spirea and hardy fuchsias. Prune hybrid teas and floribunda roses. Cut out

any dead or diseased shoots or branches from all trees and shrubs around the garden. Feed cane fruits with balanced fertiliser, and feed black currants with nitro-chalk. Firm in newly planted fruits, mulch and keep well-watered.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Busy time for the greenhouse owners with seedlings and young plants to watch over, and all the dormant plants coming into bud. Watch carefully the ventilation and humidity, young seedlings need plenty of light and air if they are to develop into strong sturdy plants. To avoid the deadly damping off fungus, spray as the plants show through the potting compost with cheshunt compound. Take cuttings as soon as they are large enough and place in propagator, geranium, fuschias etc. will give you added stock for hanging baskets and tubs next year. Plant some schizanthus (poor man's orchid) seeds: they germinate readily and give a lovely colourful show in the early summer months. You need to keep a steady temperature of around 65 - 70F for all seed and cuttings until they are established. Re-pot foliage plants and ferns, use a pot one size larger or on some varieties reduce the root ball size, try not to damage the roots as you do this, do not remove all the soil, just enough to get a reasonable amount of new compost into the new pot. Syringe or spray every morning for at least a week and shade from direct sunlight.

Pot up tomato plants. Sow seeds of outdoor tomatoes, they should be ready to plant outside in June. Pot up begonia and gloxinia, which were started in February. Take leaf cuttings of African violets and Cape primrose. Houseplants like maidenhair fern, button fern, and spider plant can be divided and re-potted. Sweet peas which have been raised in the greenhouse should be hardened off. Hydrangeas growing in pots should be fed from now on with a weak mixture of liquid manure every 10 days or so, water the ordinary way in between times.

Lawns: Start a regular cycle of cutting. If you didn't give an autumn feed to your lawn, give a spring one now. Spike, scarify and top dress with old compost with a little balanced fertiliser or lawn food mixed in. You will soon have a green sward. Check over your mower; oil all moving parts ready for the hard work ahead. Don't forget to trim the edges to give the finishing touch and be the envy of your friends.

All the best for 2017....

Regards,

Tom

Holmesfield Parish Church

presents a

JAZZ EVENING

featuring the

NEW ORLEANS STROLLERS

preceded by a

Pie and Pea Supper

Friday 10th March at 6.30 pm

Holmesfield Church Hall

**If you would like to come please
phone Jane and Robin Greetham
on 01246 412767 to
reserve a place.**

Cost £13.50 per person

**Proceeds to Holmesfield Church
Maintenance fund**

What's on at the Library



Council committed to funding Library for another three years

In November Sheffield City Council committed to a package of funding and ongoing support for the volunteer-run libraries for a further three years. Totley Library will receive a grant towards running costs such as lighting/heating/insurance and a package of professional support such as van deliveries to transport books. We are pleased that the council has given this commitment to keep Totley Library open, but the grant is less than in previous years so it is important that we continue fundraising to ensure the long term viability of the library.

In June we launched the Totley Library Lottery to help raise funds for the library. The monthly prize fund is 25% of the ticket income, 20% for first prize and 5% for second prize. The remaining 75% goes into library funds. In November and December the first prize winners were Stephen Willets £84 and Margaret Griffiths £94.40 and second prize winners were Elaine Ferguson £22 and Susan Facer £23.60. If you would like to enter you can pick up a form at Totley Library.

We are delighted that the dedicated volunteers at Totley Library, along with 14 other volunteer libraries across the city, won an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Sheffield Make a Difference Awards. These awards were set up to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Voluntary Action Sheffield and recognise the amazing quality and diversity of local voluntary work and the huge impact that this has for our city. Over 150 charities and local bodies entered the awards and there were only 15 winners so we were very proud that our volunteers were recognised. The awards were presented by Jessica Ennis Hill in a ceremony at Cutlers Hall on Thursday 24th November.



Jessica Ennis-Hill presents the VAS awards at Cutlers Hall

We are looking for new volunteers to help with our film club, cleaning and new trustees to join our management board. In particular we are seeking volunteers who have experience of fundraising or bid writing. If you would like to help support the work of Totley Library please pop into the library or email totleylibrary@gmail.com for more information.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated books to Totley Library. All donated books in good condition are gratefully accepted. Recent bestsellers and popular novels go into our new Totley Library Loans scheme, which all have an orange sticker on the cover. This scheme has now been extended into the children's library, with a new shelf of books

for 8-12 year olds. These books were recommended by Waterstones as their children's books of the month and include popular series such as Horrible Histories and Lemony Snicket. Donated books that are not suitable for our loans scheme are sold to help raise funds for the library.

Cinema Listings for February and March

Friday 17th February 7.30pm - Bridget Jones's Baby
Thursday 23rd February 10.30am - Finding Dory (half term special)

Sunday 19th March 2.0 pm - Trolls

Friday 24th March 7.30pm - The Girl on the Train

Tickets (Entry into raffle draw) Adult:£4.00 Child:£2.50

Free Films for Over 65s:

Thursday 23rd February 3.00pm - The Girl on the Train

Thursday 30th March 3.00pm - The Quartet

Natasha Watkinson

Can you sponsor the provision of accessible toilet facilities at Totley Community Library (serving Totley, Dore and Bradway)?

A major project for 2017 at Totley Library is to provide a toilet for library users that has baby changing facilities, is accessible for wheel chair users and will address the key elements of the Disability Discrimination Act. We are seeking sponsors for this project as there is no financial help forthcoming from Sheffield City Council or other sources. We are doing well to secure funding and have saved a basic budget of £10,000, but the project looks set to have higher costs than anticipated. The library is managed and run by over 125 volunteers. It is a success story for volunteering and for library users, but the toilet facilities are poor and this limits access for some.

If you would like to discuss sponsorship further we can arrange to come and meet you or arrange a visit to the Totley Community Library, where you can see our work first hand. You can write to Sue Hare at Totley Library, 205, Baslow Road, Sheffield, S17 4DT or contact her by phone on 07940 557879 or email suehare42@talktalk.net.

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 Diary on p.34, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com
Councillor Surgery, 2nd Monday of month, 6.00 – 7.00 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. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters in library, the Independent Diary, or www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk
Yoga sessions 7 – 8.30 pm, Wednesdays (except when History Group meets). For more details call Ann Zielonka on 0114 2361585 or 07929736966. Beginners welcome

Thursday:

Friends of Gillfield Wood, occasional Thursdays, 7.30 pm onwards. Talks on local nature and conservation. See posters, the Independent Diary, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com

Totley Residents Association

Following our item on the TRA in the last issue several Totley people have been in touch, most of them saying that they intend to be present at the public meeting on 27th February. Richard Wrigglesworth, a long-serving ex-member of the TRA Committee, however, sent a more substantial response, with his thoughts on the TRA and related matters. Here is Richard's contribution to the debate:

My involvement with the TRA started at the end of its first year in 1978 when the first treasurer handed me a red book listing all the receipts and payments, plus a bag of vouchers and bank statements and I was asked to prepare a financial statement. This was then repeated for over 25 years by a succession of good people on a similar errand, usually between 2 to 5 days before the AGM. It only took a couple of hours once a year and enable me to make a small contribution and also observed the changes from year to year. I later spent a further few years as treasurer when things became more fractious, before handing over to the next innocent.



Your querying of an overarching community association is right. For most of its existence the summary I prepared showed the receipts from the Independent split between sales (15p) and advertisements, and when the printing costs were deducted there was always reliable surplus sufficient to pay both insurance (£300+) and a few overheads such as stationery, and still make donations to worthy causes. It did not matter if it rained and takings were down one year, or interest in the Sports Day in Green Oak Park declined, because there were other events such as the Produce Show or the Open Gardens also contributing. The TRA was intended to provide insurance for the events, a bank account, an audit, an AGM, regular meetings, and a bit of pump priming finance if needed for people who wanted to do something 'for the people of Totley'. All these are difficult for small clubs or societies to obtain, and with them people can get on with contributing what they do best. In this way it did provide an overriding arch or umbrella organisation for the groups to support the community. Over time it built a good reputation.

In my opinion two mistakes were made. One is that the focus moved from Events to Issues. One constant over the last 40 years has been the debate over a community hall and this in part led to the bank account increasing to several thousand pounds. This became a millstone around our necks and should have been donated to the chosen charities of those who had raised the money, whilst at the same time waiting for an opportunity for a building to become available, grants or planning gain. Agendas at meetings became a catalogue of complaints about roads, parking, buses, parks and planning issues, waste and antisocial behaviour, all of which we could do nothing about. We have the police and committed councillors for this, and the council have now delegated their responsibility to such as Amey, Veolia and Kier. It was noticeable to me that a complaint from an individual, the one small voice, was often the most effective. Just get on the phone and politely ask, and they cannot refuse. The council now have no money, half their funding comes from central government, and their priorities lie in North Sheffield, a point which was brutally pointed out to us by the Labour councillor when he came to close the library.

The only time I lifted my head over the parapet was when an official survey was published showing average speeds in the 30 mph limit on Baslow Road of 37 and 39 mph, in and outwards, and at the same time the road became a designated HGV route from Owlbar to Dronfield at the behest of the junior school in Holmesfield, which is fine if it was not increasing the risk downhill on the narrow section into Totley between two large junior schools. Having been told it was the records of statistics on accidents and incidents that mattered I stood up as a Council Meeting and tried to argue that it was on the basis of risk that these things should be assessed. The indifference of the procedure was palpable.

So my first suggestion would be to avoid politics and issues altogether, and leave it to the paid professionals, or possibly combine with Bradway Action Group and Dore Village Society to add more strength. Next, talk to all the sections who have left the TRA about returning to the fold and recreating the structure so carefully built up and concentrate on enjoyable events. The involvement of the Library is essential because this is yet another opportunity to create a community building and meeting place. To me the one thing that is inviolate is the children's section in the library. I would have killed for that 65 years ago and how a Labour Council could even have contemplated closing it is beyond me, but having done so, and the threat then attracting 120 people as volunteers, shows that there is still some community spirit about, and a good base for rebuilding the TRA alongside.

The second mistake is that we do not publicise and celebrate what we have historically inherited. My family background has always pushed me instinctively towards Derbyshire and I have always lived within half a mile of the border. 'Upper Sheaf Dale' is on the divide between northern and southern England. This is where in 829 at Dore the armies of King Ecgbert of Wessex met King Earnred of Northumberland by whose submission King Ecgbert became overlord of All England. When we merged with Sheffield in 1935 we moved from Canterbury to York and from the Shire to the Borough. I was born in Bradway when my first school was the 'Norton Free' and at eight went to the Church School at Totley. Thanks to a year of intensive rote from Mrs Peacock, whose teaching assistant was a half-inch piece of hardwood dowel, I arrived on platform four at Dore and Totley station (Junction) and was told to get off at the first station through the tunnel and walked to a 360-year-old mixed Grammar School in Dronfield. There were only 400 pupils. The no-corridor steam trains were still operating, and with two trains at 8.10 and 8.30 I was never late, and we played our sport as far as Ashbourne, Derby, Bakewell and Matlock.

Later there was the University and Business School down Totley Hall Lane, watching Yorkshire cricket and Sheffield Club FC (the oldest affiliated club in the world) play at Abbeydale Park. There was Totley Sports and Social Club on the Bents, cricket, football and balls in Green Oak Park, all with well-supported local teams. The issue as always is change. All the opportunities I had have now gone. The residential home is now derelict, the Post Office will soon not be viable despite being always full, there are plans to turn Gillfield Wood into Swan Lake and the moving of the bus terminus



and the building of houses on the Dyson site will open up even more building land for the council to sell to developers towards Owlbar, at such a price that nobody will be able to afford them, and the Valley will become a mere dormitory to which people can return and park at night, and open their delivery boxes from Tesco. The council will then be able to fill the gaps around to Tinker's Corner and towards Gosforth

Valley (despite 30% of our valley still being in Derbyshire) and have more money and Council tax in order to redevelop north-east Sheffield and everybody will be happy because by then my generation will have gone and we will have made further progress towards Utopia.

Our memorial for this could be a symbolic pulling of the large grindstones with the holes back to Whirlow Bridge, Bradway Road, and the bridge over the river Ryecroft just below Dore station in order to mark our former existence - 'to finally commemorate the integration of the Upper Sheaf Valley into Sheffield after 900 years in Derbyshire and 90 years in Sheffield'.

If you don't believe me it is only imagination running riot based on experience, but if the chairman who is inclusive and not merely hellbent on imposing their own agenda cannot be found, in the meantime it might be as well to merely suspend the TRA, leaving a few quid in the bank because we might need to buy a banner for the barricades. Having returned to Bradway, land of my birth, I need to rest now after all that change, content that I have had the best out of Totley.

Richard Wrigglesworth

Totley Residents Association PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Meeting to discuss the future of the Totley Residents Association.

The meeting will be held at Totley Library on Monday 27th February 2017, at 7.30 pm.

All are welcome! Please come along to discuss how best the needs and concerns of the people of Totley can be addressed in the future.

Daniel's Rainforest Adventure

In Summer 2018 Daniel Whitley, a young man from Totley, will visit Costa Rica and Nicaragua for a month. He will be rebuilding communities, helping with marine and rainforest conservation and repopulating animals. This will be his day-time work - in the evenings he will be teaching English to local children.

By his own efforts he has already raised £800, and in total he needs to raise £4000 to pay for his travel, accommodation and the materials he will need for this very worthwhile charitable venture. Daniel has created a Facebook page. Daniel's Rainforest Action - [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)



In March (date to be confirmed), there will be a fundraising event at The Shepley Spitfire with entertainment, raffle prizes and a Coffee Morning. Look out for posters.

Daniel and his parents have always supported community events in Totley and now he wishes to give of his time on a larger scale. Please help to support him.

Hetty Moran

Letter to the Editor

Disgusting Glover Road

Following the recent windy weather, litter and bins were blown all over the place. However nobody except myself seems to have made any attempt to clear up the mess. The pavements and gutters are a disgrace, as were a number of gardens. I know it may be not your rubbish but it would only take a couple of minutes to clear your garden and outside your house, though some gardens have now been tidied up.

We could do with a council street cleaner, though it would only be beneficial after 9.00 am, when most of the cars have gone

Steve (No. 42)



Antiques, Vintage & Collectables fair

**Dore Masonic Hall
Sheffield
S17 3LA**

**Sunday
19th March 2017
10.00am - 4.00pm**

Over 20 stalls. All welcome! £1 entry for adults & free entry for children 16 and under.

Light refreshments are available to buy & free valuation slots are available on the day.

**Car parking available on site (S17 3NA)
Opposite Dore and Totley Train station
Buses: 97 and 98**

**Call Grace for more information:
0771 489 8585**

**Young
at
Heart**

Totley Music Festival

Time to say farewell

The first Totley Music Festival was held from 1st to 11th July 2009. We have organised the Festival each summer since then, but after a lot of thought we have decided to bring it to a close. The hard core of attenders will be sad that TMF will no longer be taking place, but no doubt there will still be musical events held at the library and elsewhere. In its early days, not including the school events, around 600 people attended each festival, but in the last year or so the numbers have reduced - to about 250 in 2016. In 2009, the Festival comprised 12 events, but in light of experience and diminishing numbers attending, the 2016 Festival saw only 7 events. This article will provide a reminder of the wonderful performances we have seen and it gives us an opportunity to thank the musicians and performers from the bottom of our hearts for sharing their time and talent so freely and the organisations which have funded or sponsored the festival over the last eight years.

Back in 2009 our idea was simple. The festival events would mostly be free, to make sure everyone could afford to attend. We would focus on bringing together local musicians and performers from a range of musical genres - something for everyone. We achieved what we set out to do, but over the years the less mainstream events were sparsely attended, which is very dispiriting for performers, some of whom travelled a long way to play to audiences of only a handful. Even so, the musicians truly stepped up and carried on regardless! Other performances however were well attended and audiences were delighted to hear the quality of music in their locality. The roll call of contributors is very long, so here we'll pick out as many as we can from the 8 years of the festival.

For the first Festival in 2009, local poet and musician **Sally Goldsmith** kicked off the very first day of the Festival with a session at Mickley Hall Cheshire Home, working with residents to write A Song for Totley. Dylan fan **Rony Robinson** hosted 'Bring 'n' Sing Bob Dylan' in his attic - now, that was a freewheelin' success! The Totley primary schools also joined in with an annual early evening outdoor School Concert at **Totley Primary School**, and in 2009 and 2010, 'Tea and Tunes' at **All Saints Primary School**.

All That Jazz! Totley's highly talented Walker family **Howard** (vocals), **Chris** (guitar) and **Kevin** (double bass) have given superb concerts at every festival, supported by fellow musicians **Piero Tucci** (piano, sax, accordion) and **Phil Johnson** (drums, guitar). The fabulous **Nicola Farnon** (described by Humphry Lyttleton as 'a class act') gave a stunning performance with the band in 2013. More recently we have heard de-lightful **Myrtle George** on vocals and **John Trier** on keyboards. All fabulous musicians, they have provided local Jazz lovers with an amazing range of entertaining and accessible instrumental and vocal jazz to good audiences.

We have had some fantastic concerts from **Bob Hall**, internationally-renowned blues and boogie pianist, and **Hilary Blythe** adding rock-steady bass and gospel and classic blues vocals. Bob's piano style and song-writing have influenced generations of piano players on both sides of the Atlantic. **Hallmark of Harmony**, Sheffield's own Barbershop chorus, and six-times British Barbershop Chorus Champions, and the women's **Harmony Chorus** entertained us in 2010. A stunning performance from so many perfectly honed voices.



Howard and Chris Walker: at every Festival Jazz evening



2009, Mickley Hall: Sally Goldsmith and the team of Totley people get together to write 'A Song for Totley'

In 2013 the **Beekeepers** and the **Gamebirds**, with **Tim and Julie Cole**, brought traditional folk with stunning harmonies; whilst in the same year **Albert's Skiffle Band** provided songs from 50's and 60's, including Bill Bailey, Leaning on a Lamp, Don't Bring Lulu, Honey Pie, and other skiffle favourites, with **Eric Sinclair's Jazz 'n' Gospel Band** playing mainstream jazz.

The library has been a venue for workshops with toddlers with the intention of engaging them though music making and song as the future generation of musicians.

The **Music Festival Folk Concert** has always been extremely popular. We'd like to thank **Steve and Gaynor Brook** for putting the concerts together each year and **Pete Burnett** for compering with such humour and charm. The quality of performance has been on a par with top folk clubs. There is not enough space to list all

the performers over the years so we'll mention some we have heard over the years. **Spoil the Dance** have always lifted everyone's spirits with **Gaynor Brook's** pure voice and the excellent musicianship of **Steve Brook** (guitar and bouzouki), **Sally Gay** (flute) and **Charlie Smallwood** (mandola and guitar). **John Scaife** (guitar, fiddle and cittern), **Charlie Smallwood** (mandola and guitar) and **Geoff Trend** (mandolin and guitar) are consummate musicians astounding audiences with mandolins beautifully played at speed! **Ken Atkinson** and **Pete Garratt** gave storming performances at several folk events over the years. **Tina McKevitt** (vocals and piano accordion) and **Matt Heggarty** (vocals, guitar, bodhrán); **Gerry Doherty** (guitar, melodious voice and wit); **Hilary Blythe** on guitar and vocals, accompanied by **Bob Hall** on mandolin, all brought unique styles and fascinating range of lyrics. **John Snook** from Chapelton brought a strong Welsh vocal. **Judy Dunlop** with **John Scaife** (guitar, fiddle and cittern) are a headline act holding audiences totally, everyone asking for more. **Hadish Street** was the youngest performer, making an unscheduled vocal appearance to great acclaim. **Lou Marriott** sang of the life of factory girls. Fabulous performances!

The **Variety Cabaret Show** at Mickley Hall was designed for talented performers whose repertoire might not extend to a full concert, but who could entertain for a shorter spot on a variety bill. We found the ideal venue to allow all-comers perform in a friendly environment and to bring the festival and the community to a wider and different audience - Mickley Hall Leonard Cheshire Home. This feature of the Festival became a mixture of music - classical, pop, folk, bell ringing - and a little comedy beautifully compared first by **Tim Hilbert** and later by **Rony Robinson** and **Gerry Doherty**. We'd like to thank **Vincent Simpson** (sadly no longer with us)

who made us all laugh with his unforgettable rendition of *Albert and the Lion*; **Hallmark of Harmony**; **Pat Hunt** and **Ros Hobson** (classical piano); **John Robinson** for his renditions of the *Shadows'* hits; **Sally Goldsmith** and others for the *Song for Totley*; **Reg McNaughton** and **Rod Webster** for their solo vocal performances; **Verlan Musique**; **Lemuel Knights** for whom *The Voice* later beckoned; **Len Capper** with his 'look back with laughter' and music; **Bobby Dennis** for music and comedy; **Gerry Doherty**, consummate folk singer and song writer; **Louise Usher** for songs from the 50s; the **Dronfield Hand Bell Ringers**; **Helen Richardson** and her strong vocals; **Ian Bellamy**, for his acoustic guitar and beautiful voice; the **Dave Miles Band** for accompanying the soloists and arranging audience participation; **Ray De Grussa**, composer; **Tom Macfarlane**, talented clarinetist; **Hadish Street** for powerful modern folk; **Daniel Reed**, **Lewis Newman**, **Marilyn Gregory**, and **Elaine Purkiss** for superb vocals; **Esther Rute-Riaz**, Spanish guitarist; **John Varty**, singer/guitarist and last but not least **Craig Dransfield** for his audience participation and appreciative thanks on behalf of all Mickley Hall residents.

At Totley All Saints Church in 2015, **Dore Male Voice Choir** gave a beautiful concert which was followed in 2016 by the **Sheffield Folk Choral** which performed spine-tingling four-part harmony songs, drawn from and inspired by traditional folk music. Both these concerts were produced as fund-raising events for the Library.



Spoil the Dance: Steve and Gaynor Brook



Len Capper - 'Look back with Laughter'

Venues for Rock Bands are limited especially since the closure of the *Fleur de Lys* pub. Even so, fabulous rock music has been performed by local bands **Redback**, **Sycamore**, the **Hendersons**, and Sheffield band **So What** between them covering rock and roll, beat, soul and blues. Rock Nights with **Redback** were accompanied by a very difficult Pop Quiz with **PopMeister John**. We miss the raised stage in the *Fleur*! Local guitarist/vocalist **Ian Bellamy** has performed acoustic guitar classics from such artists as James Taylor and Don McClean, both solo and in concert with **Cary Bayliss**.

Keith Peters and his Big Band have delighted audiences all over the region for some years, and we were lucky enough to have them play for us. Twenty-one superb musicians in perfect harmony playing the old favourites in a range of big band styles, jazz, swing - modern pieces and classics!

Verlan Musique - an acoustic duo, Kieran Williams (guitar) and Andrew Byrne (tenor saxophone) brought us the distinctive music of the Parisian bars and cafes of the 1930s, 40s and 50s. at *Masterchef Deli* (now *Rendezvous*) - a fabulous musical and gastronomic evening.

We tried to introduce ballroom dancing into the mix but it did not take off as part of the festival. However, the **Barn Dance** at Totley Hall Farm Barn was a great night out. *Liberty Foods* provided Pie and Peas, and music and dance direction was provided by the excellent **Black Sheep Ceilidh**

The **Seven Hills Jazz Quartet** closed the 2016 Totley Music Festival with an enjoyable, relaxing concert with **Dave Miles** on double bass, **Phil Harris** on keyboards, **John Beazer** on drums and **Sue Hare** on vocals with a repertoire based on music and songs by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Van Morrison, Norah Jones and many others. Though we did not know it, this became the last ever event of the Totley Music Festival.



Hallmark of Harmony's Tim Hilbert comperes the Variety Cabaret show

We can't forget to mention **James Singleton**, our sound engineer who has quietly worked away in the background making sure the sound was balanced and good to listen to, and feedback kept under control!

Apologies if we have missed anyone, we have tried hard not to! Oh, there's the "Totley Boot" to thank, into which donations to fund TMF were made and on occasion money was collected to directly support local causes. Any remaining funds whatever the source will now be used to support fund-raising music events at Totley library.



Bob Hall and Hilary Blythe

The Organisers of Totley Music Festival would like to thank: **Totley Residents Association; Totley Open Gardens; Totley Library; John Beazer** (Webmaster); **Hilary Hall** (Publicity); **Liberty Foods**; the **Fleur de Lys**, the **Cross Scythes**, the **Crown** and the **Heatherfield**; **Totley Post Office**; **Duo Hairdressers**; and the **Abbeydale Sports Club** - all have in one way or another over the years supported Totley Music Festival; and of course we are forever grateful to all of the performers for giving their services free of charge. Many thanks! If anyone is interested in one off events particularly linked to fund raising for the library, please let us know. Thanks too to you, the audience, for coming along and supporting Totley Music Festival events - it wouldn't have worked without you!

Phil Harris and Sue Hare

Totley Library Plant Sale

Your library is a charity, managed and run by volunteers. To keep it open we need to raise funds throughout the year and are very grateful to local people for their ongoing support.



Saturday 13th May 2017, at Totley Library

We are looking for people to donate plants. If you can help please contact suehare42@talktalk.net or 0114 2363331 or leave a message at the library

Totley Library serving Totley, Dore and Bradway

Totley Independent Community Donations

We're pleased to announce that at the Annual General Meeting of the Totley Independent Community Interest Company, it was decided that Donations this year will be £750, to be split as follows:

£250 to Totley Community Resource and Information Centre (Totley Library)

£250 to Transport17

and

£250 to Totley Scouts towards the cost of a replacement scout hut.

Enjoy Achieve Learn Succeed Share

Totley All Saints CofE Primary School



Believe Aspire Support Grow Care

The run-up to Christmas this last term was fantastic with loads going on - that's aside from all of our usual lessons, activities, visits and visitors! As ever - It's all happening at TASS!

TASS Christmas

Events started on December 2nd with our Christmas Fair led by our amazing PTA - the Fun-d Raisers, headed up by Kelly Lawton and Sally McCann (Joint Chairs). The team managed to raise an amazing £2086.60 over the Christmas period with this plus their other events, including the junior and infant discos, a raffle, a best bauble competition plus mince pies and mulled wine at our Carols on the Yard event on the last day!

We also enjoyed our Christmas Service at All Saints Church with our new governor and vicar, Rev. Katie Tupling who got us all singing and seasonally excited! Our Christmas Lunch and parties went down a storm with the children and we even had a visitor with a red suit and white beard! The Y3s went on a 'Journey to Bethlehem' at Totley Rise Methodist Church and then our TASS Superstars put on our amazing productions. This year, the infants presented their Nativity with a twist, plus the Juniors had two outings of: 'Gold, Frankincense and Mirth'. They were amazing!



Merit Treats

At Totley All Saints, we like to reward our children for doing the right thing in terms of behaviour and learning, and regularly give out Merit cards. These get added up at the end of the week and 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 Sapphires won and chose to have a 'Movie

Night' wearing pyjamas, drinking hot chocolate and watching a DVD of their choice. Teddy bears were also invited!

Visitors and Extra-Curricular Activities

We like to provide our children with a wide variety of experiences and so have various visitors and extra aspects to get them really engaged. Visitors who inspired our children this last term included John McCorkell for Disability Awareness Day, a band of eight musicians from the Sheffield Music Hub, Mike Warren (a Christian storyteller) and the Saints Alive Puppeteers. Our after school and lunchtime clubs included Adventure Club, Chill Zone, Gardening Club, Choir and Art Club, plus Catch Coaching Dodge Ball, Cricket and football.

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. Our Y6s will be visiting Crucial Crew to learn life skills, the Y3s and Y4s will be spending 'A Night at the Museum' at Weston Park and our Y5s will be having their residential at the Oakes Activity Centre. It's all go!

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 Operatic and Dramatic Society

TOADS announce a World Premier!!

We are very pleased to announce that TOADS' May play this year has been written and will be directed by a member of our society - Alan Wade!

Alan lives locally and is well-known in the community as a regular actor in TOADS productions, is associated with The Company, and is very active within the Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

We are delighted to be performing the world premier of Alan's play - "That Week in August". Don't miss it!

The dates for your diary are Wednesday 10th May to Friday 12th May at 7.30pm and Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm. The venue is as usual St John's Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Please call 0114 2351206 to reserve your ticket, or contact any TOADS member.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Anne Bettridge

Sheffield Rugby Union Football Club Fixtures

Home games are played at Abbeydale Park. For the following Winter games the kick off is 2.15pm

11th February: Old Halesonians v Sheffield
18th February: Sheffield v Peterborough Lions
4th March : Sandbach v Sheffield
11th March: Towcestrians v Sheffield
25th March: Sheffield v Syston

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Happy New Year everyone. Thanks to all who supported us at the Christmas Concert. If you weren't there you missed a treat. It was 2 hours of a variety of wonderful music and more laughs than a hyena.

The older you get the faster the time flies by. It seems like only yesterday that we were working on *Orpheus In The Underworld*, and here we are starting the floor rehearsals for *The Mikado* (or *The Town of Titipu*), one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most well known and loved operettas. If you know it then you'll enjoy hearing all that fantastic music and Gilbert's clever gags again. If you don't know it, here's your chance to find out what all the fuss is about.



Although set in Japan it is Gilbert's way of disguising his lampooning of the British Establishment. It tells the story of Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado, who has fled court to escape the clutches of Katisha, an elderly and not very pretty lady at court. He travels under the guise of an itinerant musician and falls for Yum-Yum, a ward of Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor who has fallen foul of the law by flirting with Yum-Yum; he was due to be beheaded but reprieved at the last moment and was made Lord High Executioner (don't ask!). To cut a long story short, *The Mikado* is due to visit Titipu and the

and the town grandes think it is because no executions have happened. Pooh-Bah (Lord High just about everything) and Ko-Ko collude with others to choose a victim. Unfortunately he just happens to be Nanki-Poo - not a good idea!

The shenanigans all work well in the end but there are lots of laughs and excellent music on the way. Some songs are very well known; *A Wandering Minstrel I*, *Three Little Maids From School*, *I've Got A Little List*, *The Sun Whose Rays* and *Tit Willow* to name but a few.

The chorus sounds better than ever and the principals are a delight with Alan Wade as *The Mikado*, Mike Spriggs as *Pooh-Bar*, Ian Stewart as *Ko-Ko*, Davron Hicks as *Nanki-Poo*, Christine Subbs as *Katisha*, Gwen Nimmo playing *Yum-Yum* and Jo Hutchesson as *Pitti-Sing*, ably backed by Dick Bell and Kathryn Parkin.

The Mikado will be performed at the Montgomery Theatre in Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 2LG on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 5th, 6th and 7th April at 7.30pm and a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday 8th April 2017. For tickets (£13 adults



A scene from last year's production of 'Orpheus'

and £6 children) and/or further information contact Judith Bettridge on 0114 2507155, please provide a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets are also available at Sheffield Theatres Box Office (subject to a 10% booking fee).

Go on, grab some light-hearted culture, we look forward to seeing you there.

The Society has been asked to perform a Concert Version of *The Mikado* at Ridgeway Parish Church on Saturday 4th March at 7:30pm. It may be an option for those who cannot manage the stairs at The Montgomery Theatre to hear it. It will be to piano accompaniment whereas the show will have a full and excellent orchestra.

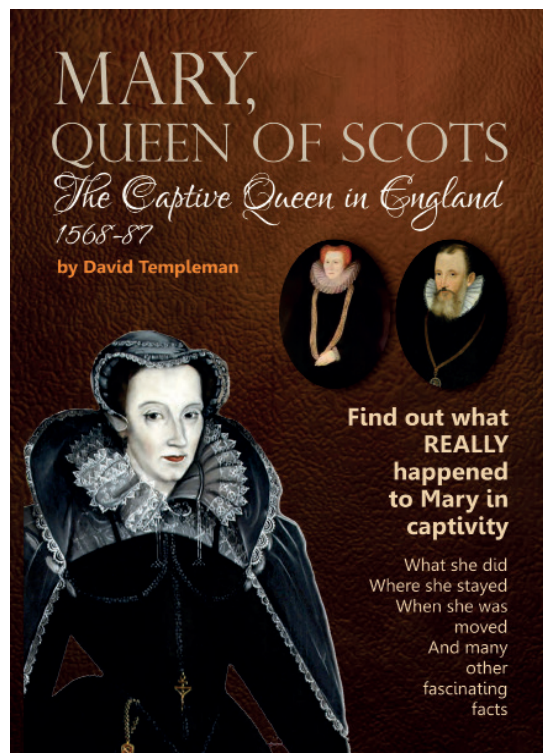
For more information contact Richard or Jenny on 01246 431914.

Derek Habberjam

Mary, Queen of Scots, the Captive Queen in England: 1568-87

by David Templeman

After years of painstaking research by David, this book updates and creates a detailed account of Mary's nineteen years in confinement in England (14 years in Sheffield) culminating in the tragedy at Fotheringhay. Find out exactly what did happen to Mary in captivity and the answers to the three relevant questions arising which are why, where, and when.



The eagerly awaited biography by David Templeman on the English captivity of Mary, Queen of Scots was released on November 5th 2016 to critical acclaim. Peter Machan, respected author and speaker on Sheffield's history, has reviewed it: "I've had a chance to go through your book now and I'm very impressed with the content. It is clear that you have spent years working on collecting together all the material for this story and the book will make a significant contribution to this bit of Sheffield's history as well as it having national significance. Looks excellent and you should be rightly proud of it."

All proceeds from the book go to the Friends of Sheffield Manor Lodge, a registered charity to support the Manor Lodge site.

For anyone wishing to purchase it in the Totley area, David will personally deliver copies of the book and people can pay on delivery. David Templeman's contact details are 01246 415497 or email: templeman3@tiscali.co.uk

Come Bowling at Millhouses!

Spring is a time eagerly awaited by the members of Millhouses Park Bowling Club, as the start of the new bowling season begins in April. Bowls from the previous season have been carefully stored, and like many plants and wildlife, their hibernation will soon end. Bowls will be carefully polished in the hope they will speed the greens even better than they did in the previous season.

Millhouses Park is carefully maintained by a dedicated team of council employees together with Friends of Millhouses Park, and is home to two splendid bowling greens. The bowling greens are set in a beautiful location, nestling in the Sheaf Valley with the river flowing alongside and framed by the steep green banks of Hutcliffe Wood. The occasional glimpse of an inter-city rumbling along the tracks only enhances the peace and tranquillity of the setting.

At this time of year the parks are at their best. New buds are on the trees, flowers begin to blossom and the freshly cut bowling greens give off their distinctive aroma.



This season Millhouses Park Bowling Club is aiming to encourage more people to be aware of the game and to come and have a go. To that end an Open Day is being held on Sunday 23rd April from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Bowling is suitable for all ages. Currently children from eight years old to veterans in their nineties enjoy the sport.

Bowling is a skilled sport and at the open day you will be introduced to the game by trained coaches. There will also be an opportunity to take part in some family-friendly fun games.

All the equipment will be provided, and should you be interested in pursuing the sport a number of follow-up sessions will be available, free of charge. **But please remember you must bring flat shoes to wear on the green.**

MPBC (Millhouses Park Bowling Club) was formed over 90 years ago. In the 1960s it incorporated Abbeydale Bowling Club which used to meet at the Beauchief Hotel. More recently we were delighted to welcome members of Greenoak Bowling club who joined us following the closure of their green in Totley.

Many readers will know local personalities who are members of MPBC. These include John Greensmith, a member for over 50 years who attained 100 caps for the county, and the Rev Graham Wassell, recently retired minister at Millhouses Methodist Church, who regularly makes an appearance playing in one of the county or league matches hosted by the club.

And also Robert Jackson, sports presenter at Radio Sheffield in the 1980s and 90s and inventor of praise and grumble. Robert has played for over 50 years and is also club President.

In fact you never know who you might meet on the bowling greens of Millhouses Park. Not long ago Jessica Ennis-Hill (now Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill) made her bowling debut here

while being filmed as a mystery guest on the BBC 'Question of Sport' programme.

Bowling is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. It provides you with gentle exercise, lots of fresh air and a chance to make new friends. So if giving it a go is beginning to make you feel **green** with envy, why not **roll up** to our open day on Sunday 16th April 10am to 5pm.

Remember there is no age limit and the sessions are free! The greens can be accessed by turning right upon entry to the park via the Dobcroft Road entrance. In the event of postponement due to bad weather or for further information telephone Peter England 2351496 or email peter.england@blueyonder.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you around the greens!

John Perkinson

Fancy being a Press Photographer?

The front page of nearly every issue of the Totley Independent has featured a photograph or drawing of a local Totley scene or event. The majority of photographs featured have been historical photos of Totley as it used to be, and readers of a certain age with an eye for detail will probably know that several of these photos have done front-page duty several times over the years.

In order to bring more up-to-date items of local interest to our front pages, here's something new!

Could you produce an image (photo or other artwork) of a Totley (or local area) scene suitable for the Independent's front page? If so, please send your entry to the Editor at either the email or postal address on the back page. For each issue, one of the four directors of Totley Independent CIC will choose the next front-page picture! This could be a way to build a pictorial record of modern-day Totley for future generations! No prizes, and our decision is final - but you could get your picture in the paper! Good luck!



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Re-naturalising weirs in the Peak District

Alex Swann would be happier standing in a river with a fishing rod rather than a pick axe, but this year he and his colleagues have swapped tools to help increase wild fish on the River Dove.

"When you see a tattoo on a fish you've caught it's a disappointment, because you've tricked a farmed fish that's fat and stupid," said Alex.

Hence the pick axes. Alex and fellow anglers set about two weirs in Dovedale this year in the early stages of a project to return many parts of the river to its natural, free running state as it was before wealthy Victorians began adding farmed fish to the Dove, after anglers had depleted the numbers of wild trout. From 1880 to the 1940s 177 weirs were installed on the Dove, to recreate the 'stew ponds' favoured by trout farmers.

Rewilding projects on the River Wye around Bakewell have improved river quality on another famous Derbyshire fishing river, said National Trust ecologist Chris Wood, who described 'impounded' water above many Peak District weirs as like a "wet desert, with no food and no variety for wildlife."

'Compleat Angler' author Izaak Walton would not recognise many stretches of the Peak District rivers he popularised in his books of the seventeenth century, where, said Tim Jacklin of the Wild Trout Trust, the waters now flow "like a canal."

The 'Letting the Dove Flow' project is checking all the River Dove's weirs and from now on aims to select at least six a year to remove, along with naturalising stretches of the river by adding trees and branches into the flow and reducing some built features on the bank.

Naturalising rivers is good for birds, fish, insects and visitors said Tim Jacklin. "It's kind of returning the river to how it was before the Victorians interfered with it."



Alex Swann and Tim Jacklin by one of the breached weirs in the River Dove

The partnership project on the Dove includes fishing clubs, farmers, Natural England, the National Trust (who own Dovedale), the Peak District National Park and the Trent Rivers Trust. The project will retain historical weirs, and other Peak District rivers like the Derwent feature many old industrial weirs which cannot be removed, although adding trees and wood and fish passes can still help improve the rivers for wildlife.

The weir builders of 100 years ago didn't realise they'd be reducing wildlife and wild fish for future generations. "To me, the weirs are like lots of kids going a bit mad when they try to dam a river," said Julie Wozniczka of the Trent Rivers Trust. "But the old pictures show that a lot of the weirs were actually built on existing waterfalls, so what we're doing now is restoring those waterfalls."



Theia Swann (6) looking at fish and larvae with Julie Wozniczka of the Trent Rivers Trust

A natural trout river has many habitats, with variations in flow and depth caused naturally by rocks, trees and branches, with clearer water and a gravelly river bed where insect food for fish and birds can thrive.

"Dovedale is a National Nature Reserve, and the Dove is one of the best limestone rivers in the country in terms of wildlife", said National Trust lead ranger for Dovedale, Luke Barley. "But many species haven't been doing as well as they should have been, and we need to improve it."

"The idea the old weir builders had of changing a river to make it easier to catch fish just seems wrong to me," said Tim Jacklin. "If they were struggling to score goals in the Premier League, they wouldn't just make the goals bigger."

*David Bocking
National Trust*

The Poetry Slot

Sally Goldsmith

In each issue, Sally looks at a poem by a published poet from South Yorkshire or North Derbyshire.

THE GIFT

My father chalked a line across the yard.
Walk this, he said. I did – then showing off
I turned a cart-wheel straight along it.
Next it was a rope, strung tight four feet
above the rows of cabbages and sprouts,
me, in my bare feet, sliding my easy weight.
On washing day I'd step between the pegs,
Mother warning me to *mind the whites*.

Don't look down, he said, and passed
the yard broom up to balance by.
When he confessed he'd never learned the art,
had fallen off the chalk, I took another step
and leapt into the garden's only tree,
up to the roof, over the town, free.

by Ann Atkinson

Ann was a friend of mine who died five years ago at her home in Grindleford. Her poems have an assured grace and elegance and I think this was one of her favourites. I can't read it without thinking of her performing it in a pair of perky red heels at the Lantern Theatre, where I wouldn't have been surprised if she really had floated off, over the town.

Ann grew up in a working class home and this poem, full of domestic detail about their back yard – the broom, the pegs, 'the rows of cabbages and sprouts' nevertheless shows a young girl, already somewhat cocky, about to magically take off from the constraints of family life. The garden has only one tree, a mother confined herself by domesticity, an encouraging father who seems never really to have made it himself, but a daughter with the confidence and skill to take off 'up to the roof, over the town, free.'

The poem has a confidence in its sense of balance and form too. It has a pentameter rhythm – that's to say it has five stresses in each line, like Shakespeare's sonnets. This, allied with the single syllable words at the end of each line, gives a sense of assured stepping, just like the girl in the poem. Most of it doesn't rhyme, though the last two lines, as in a Shakespearean couplet, do, and this is where the magic happens. We don't know where the girl leaps off to, but she certainly goes off into that white space, the freedom, beyond the poem.

Ann Atkinson grew up on Teesside but for over thirty-five years made her home in the Derbyshire Peak District. Not only a warm and generous teacher of writing, she was also an editor of poetry and was Derbyshire Poet Laureate. She was also an accomplished pianist and worked as a writer in collaboration with several musicians including the Brodsky Quartet. This poem comes from The Singing and Dancing, her book of collected poems published by Smith/Doorstop.

'Poetry for Ann was a currency, like conversation, its nature being to capture and clarify elusive ideas that might otherwise remain unformed: so her characteristic style was natural and conversational, often with a crackle of verbal play, an alertness to the possibilities of language that enabled her to achieve an effect of sensuous exuberance without becoming incoherent or merely fancy.' Roy Fisher



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THE 31st TOTLEY SHOW RESULTS September 2016

Overall Best in Show: Ray Sables

HANDICRAFTS: Best of Class: Hannah Corbey

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
1. Knitted or crochet garment	Susan Ashmore	Judith Barton	-
2. Decorative cushion	Susan Ashmore	Pamela Challis	Barbara Cassidy
3. Soft Toy	Hannah Corbey	Tessa Meaker	Susan Ashmore
4. Tapestry	Pamela Challis	-	-
5. Cross Stitch	Claire Rose	Pamela Challis	Hannah Corbey
6. Quilting/Patchwork	Barbara Cassidy	Pamela Challis	Barbara Cassidy
7. Greetings Card	Pamela Challis	Marilyn Hounsett	Jo Collie
8. Open handicraft any medium	Paula McGrail	Hannah Corbey	Claire Rose

DOMESTIC SECTION: Best of Class: Ingrid Fernehough

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
9. Victoria Sandwich	Lynne Thompson	Eileen Ogley	Pamela Challis
10. Dundee Cake	Pamela Challis	Tom Steel	Judith Barton
11. Carrot Cake	Ingrid Fernehough	Liz Hayden	Lynne Thompson
12. 5 Biscuits.	Barbara O'Connor	Sandra Doyle	Lynne Thompson
13. 3 Fruit Scones	Denise Johnson	Dorothy Firth	Eileen Ogley
14. Loaf of Bread	Chris Scott	-	-
15. Jam	Duncan Froggatt	K Deakin	Sharron Goldie
16. Lemon Curd	Liz Hayden	Sharron Goldie	Eileen Ogley
17. Marmalade	Vivien Filleul	Liz Hayden	Christine Steel
18. Chutney	Connie Froggatt	Liz Hayden	Chris Scott

FLORAL SECTION: Best of Class: Pam Challis

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
19. Floral arrangement- 18"x 10" x 10"	Pam Challis	Pam Challis	-
20. 3 cut Flowers – home grown	Sharron Goldie	Liz Walkden	Sharron Goldie
21. Flowering plant in a pot	Pam Challis	Pam Challis	Eileen Ogley

FRESH PRODUCE: Best of Class: Tom Steel

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
22. 4 Eating Apples	Tom Steel	Danny O'Connor	Martin Challis
23. 4 Cooking Apples	K Deakin	Danny O'Connor	Tom Steel
24. 8 Blackberries	Lynda Liddle	Jessica Camateras	K Deakin
25. 4 Matching Potatoes	-	-	-
26. 3 Matching Leeks	-	-	-
27. 3 Matching Onions	-	-	-
28. 5 Matching Runner Beans	Chris Caroe	Eileen Copley	Patrick Cassidy
29. 5 Tomatoes	John Perkinson	Tom Steel	Tom Steel
30. 1 Cucumber	Patrick Cassidy	Tom Steel	Danny O'Connor
31. Heaviest Marrow	Patrick Cassidy	Tom Steel	-
32. Longest Runner Bean	Catherine Wigglesworth	Eileen Ogley	Tom Steel
33. 3 Eggs from own hens	-	-	-

ART AND SCULPTURE: Best of Class: Valerie Wrigglesworth

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
34. Oil or Acrylic Painting	Valerie Wrigglesworth	Dorothy Scotton	John Wells
35. Water Colour	Kate Caroe	Dorothy Scotton	Andy Meaker
36. Sketch in ink or pencil	Valerie Wrigglesworth	Andy Meaker	Maeliss Justin
37. Upcycled art or sculpture	Ray Sables	Anne Hart	James Caroe
38. Open art any medium	Hannah Corbey	Anne Hart	Andy Meaker
39. Open sculpture any medium	Ray Sables	Andy Meaker	-

PHOTOGRAPHY: Best of Class: Dorothy Firth

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
40. Black and White	Tom Steel	H McGrath	H McGrath
41. Creative	Robert Edwards	Mel Camateras	Tom Steel
42. Wildlife	Dorothy Firth	Tom Steel	Barbara O'Connor
43. Landscape	Robert Edwards	Duncan Froggatt	Trevor Thompson

WOODWORK Best of Class: Stuart Barton

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
44. Wood Turning	Stuart Barton	Andrew Rose	Andrew Rose
45. Wood Sculpture	Martin Challis	-	-

CHILDRENS SECTION. Best in Class: Up to 8 William Challis; 9 to 14 Chloe Challis

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
46. Vegetable animal (up to 8)	William Challis	Jemimah Deakin	Lottie Glover
47. Vegetable animal (9-14)	Maeliss Justin	Chloe Challis	George Camateras
48. 3 Decorative Buns (up to 8)	Jessica Camateras	William Challis	-
49. 3 Decorative Buns (9 to 14)	Chloe Challis	Oliver Scott	Keira Scott
50. 3 Biscuits (up to 8)	William Challis	-	-
51. 3 Biscuits (9-14)	Chloe Challis	Oliver Scott	-
52. Egg Cup Flower Arrangement	Chloe Challis	William Challis	-
53. Painting or drawing (up to 5)	William Challis	Naomi Fernehaugh	Isla Glover
54. Painting or drawing (6 – 8)	Peter Caroe	Peter Caroe	Lottie Glover
55. Painting or drawing (9 to 11)	Grace Kirk	James Caroe	-
56. Painting or drawing (12 to 14)	Emma Caroe	Maeliss Justin	Maeliss Justin
57. Lego Model <25 cm sq (5-8)	Stanley Coe	Stanley Coe	-
58. Lego Model <25 cm sq (9 – 14)	-	-	-
59. Colour Photo up to 14	Jessica Camateras	George Camateras	-
60. Open any Medium up to 14	Chloe Challis	Max Wrigglesworth	Maeliss Justin
61. Handwriting (6-8)	Peter Caroe	Lottie Glover	-
62. Handwriting (9-11)	Chloe Challis	James Caroe	-
63. Handwriting (12-14)	Emma Caroe	Maeliss Justin	-

All the children who came first in their class received a Medal and a Certificate thanking them for taking part in the Show.

Many thanks to our Class Sponsors: Haybrook, Totley All Saints Church, Totley Rise Methodist Church, the Grouse Longshaw, Hamnett Wealth Management, Activ Physiotherapy, the Cross Scythes, the Crown Inn, Teatime Vintage, the Shepley Spitfire, Jennifer Burns and Mick Warwick.

Thanks also to our local shops for their generous raffle prizes: Mand Made DIY, Baslow Road Pharmacy, 195 Hairlines, Scrivens Fruiterama, Totley Rise Post Office, Luxury Gap, the Shepley Spitfire, Rendezvous, Totley Deli, Totley Tails and Whiskers, Co-op Baslow Road, the Ironing Parlour, Liberty Foods, the Waggon and Horses, Millhouses, Loobylou's and Teatime Vintage

All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane



Just a few weeks ago, in one of our Sunday services, we were looking at the passage in the book of Matthew that tells us about the wise men (or "magi") who travelled to find the new born king and presented him with expensive and highly valued gifts. It might seem a bit strange to be writing about something we associate with the Christmas story at a time when our thoughts are turning to spring, but there are some great things in this passage for us, which are relevant at any time of year, not just the Christmas period.

Matthew writes that the magi followed "His star" until it rested over the place where Jesus was. Many things have been written to try to explain what the star was all about, but regardless of how we try to understand it, the Bible is clear that the star did indeed direct the magi to the new born King. In other words, God had indeed sent that star to guide the travelers where He wanted them to go to. This speaks to us of a God who is the architect of the world in all its splendour, its mechanics and minutia. With spring just around the corner, we will witness once again that architect at work as His creation bursts back into life.

The story of the magi can also show us things about us as people, about our identity in God. The insignificant town of Bethlehem became world famous because of its identification with Christ – it's through this that Bethlehem found its identity. So maybe there's a question here for us – where and how do we identify ourselves? Where do we look for admiration, for attention, for validation? It's so easy to get immersed in the needful and worthwhile things in life – family, friends, jobs, studies, church work, sporting achievements. These are of course all great things and very often become the things by which we define ourselves, the things we measure our achievements and the way we identify ourselves. In one of John's letters in the New Testament, he writes that we are children of God. The apostle Paul writes that together we form the body of God on earth. These are both powerful pictures of an inseparable relationship with our Heavenly Father. So our identity is found in Him – yes we stumble and falter and fall, we can achieve and succeed and sometimes even surpass who we are today – but all that, with and because of our relationship with God in Christ – that is who we are, that is our true identity.

Services in February and March

We meet every Sunday morning at 10am. The first Sunday of every month is our All Ages All Together service to which families are especially welcome. Every Wednesday there is a Communion Service which also starts at 10am.

During February and March we'll be looking again at the things Jesus teaches us as recorded in the parts of the Bible known as the gospels of Matthew and John. Well known passages like The Sermon on The Mount are full of teaching that is just as relevant today as it was in Bible times. There is a great range of children's activities running alongside the morning services.

Our All Age Services on 5th February and 5th March will be looking at some specific (and perhaps well known) things Jesus said. These services are especially family friendly.

You are welcome to join us at any or all of our services – we look forward to seeing you.

As winter starts to draw to a close and spring (eventually!) appears, you might like to use the following prayer as a way of spending a few moments alone with God...

Heavenly Father – thank you for the changing seasons. Thank you that through all the times of the year we can trust you as creator God. Thank you that the Bible tells me I am your child and that you have a purpose and a plan for my life. Please help me to trust in you and to be the person you have made me to be. Help me to listen to you and to move a little closer to joining you in your adventure. Amen.



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Our cultural exchange experiences!

Hello! I'm Emma Caroe, and I live on The Grove in Totley. I'd like to tell you about my two six month exchanges to Germany and France. My brother David is in Berlin at the moment, he's been there since September and is coming back in February.

We did our exchanges through a charity called ALLEF, which stands for Association for Learning Languages En Famille. The exchanges are aimed at children aged 8-12 years. It is run by volunteers whose children have also done six months exchanges in the past. You have to fill in a detailed dossier all about you, your parents, your house etc. which is what ALLEF uses to match children. Because of all the information you give, they're able to match you with someone that you will really get on with – vital as you will live together for a whole year.

The most frequent response I get when I tell people about my exchanges is along the lines of 'Isn't that an awfully long time?' or 'Wasn't it hard away from your parents?' It's true, six months does seem a bit daunting at first but I can tell you that it goes incredibly quickly. It also seems to be very young to go away, but this is the age when you learn languages best and have fewer commitments than in the teenage years. Being so young means you adapt easily and make friends quickly. I found that I got very close to my exchange families so that I hardly missed my parents back in England. In fact, the parents often find the separation harder than the children! So no, my parents are not horribly cruel for sending me away so much! I really enjoyed my time abroad, because apart from learning a new language, you experience a different culture and try things you wouldn't otherwise. It's a fantastic opportunity.



Emma Caroe and Maëliiss Justin.

My first exchange was to Berlin, Germany age 10. My exchange partner was called Paula Hutfless, and we got on really well together. The first time I met her, neither of us spoke each other's language so we went up to my room and silently played with dolls together, communicating using signs. In a few months she was speaking a lot and we were trying to stop her from doing the Yorkshire 'u'! By the time her mum came to pick her up you really couldn't tell she wasn't English. A few weeks later I went over to Germany. After talking in English for the first few weeks, we soon settled into German and I became increasingly understandable. After six months I was completely comfortable, with a few struggles with the complicated German grammar.

This year I have done another exchange, this time to France with Maëliiss. I was at hers in the spring/summer. I found that being 2 or 3 years older meant I didn't pick the language up as fast, however, I've still found it great to experience another

culture. She is here at the moment, with one more month to go, and her English has improved dramatically. Here she is now:

Hello, Bonjour, Guten Tag! My name is Maëliiss Justin and I'm fourteen. Like Emma I did two exchanges, a first one in 2012 in Bonn, Germany when I was nine years old. It was great! My exchange partner, Annika Rabsch, came to my house in Normandy, France, first. After six months I went to her house as well. There I met a lot of friends who I am still in contact with now.

My second exchange is this Autumn-Winter 2016 in Totley (some of you might know me, I'm at King Egbert School in Dore). To communicate first with Emma when she came to my house in France we were talking German! It was the only language we had in common! After three weeks of German we eventually swapped to French - my parents were relieved! My brother Elio also did an exchange with Paula's brother in Berlin, where David is now. Now our three families know each other very well. I am enjoying living in Totley: I have walked in the Peak district, I've been to Sheffield City Centre. I started a lot of new activities like entering the Totley Show, lace-making, Scouts and Guides, guitar lessons and Soul-roots Youth club. It is nice to start a lot of different things.

These exchanges are not just about learning a new language, they are a lot more! It is discovering different cultures, different landscapes, different type of food and dinner times, starting new activities and games, but it is mostly finding a French, German or English friend for a very, very, very long time! If you have questions, please come and talk to one of us whenever we see you. The ALLEF website is: www.allef.org.uk if you want to find out more.

Emma Caroe

Letter to the Editor

Army camp picture

Dear editor,

I looked up Totley independent on my tablet and saw the army camp site at Bank View farm opposite the rifle range. The farm was rented by my grandparents and passed down to mum. As children we used to play in the 'wigwams'. The owners decided to sell the farm (now with mum and stepdad) and we had to move out selling of animals, except my horses, a sad time in 1967. After that it went to rack and ruin until the new owners took it over. My father's name on the Cenotaph. He was killed in October 1945, a pilot in the RAF, seven weeks before I arrived in December. I have a sister born in 1940 so she knew her father.

'It was an October day in 45
When the plane came down
A young pilot of 26
Lost his life that day
Along with three other pilots.
A father of a daughter and
Another yet to be born
Will never come home.
A saddened young wife
Then had a change of life
Forever to remember the husband she once had
Her memories of that day left her sad
A handsome man who had
Many plans to fulfil his life
With his children and his wife
If he had lived.
My life might have had a different path
One day 'though not too soon' I shall meet
The man who I never knew, my father.'

Sue Renner (née Garnett)

Letter to the Editor

The building site on Lemont Road

The building-site at the top of Lemont Road - a long-standing eyesore - is deteriorating dangerously. The security fences have blown down again.

And apart from the loose and dangerous concrete blocks on the tops of the walls, there is considerable danger from a large stack of bricks leaning and looking as if it may collapse. In addition, part of one inner upstairs wall of the partially-built structure has already come down. Anyone, including children, currently has open access to the site, which is very worrying indeed.

*Totley resident
(name and address supplied)*

Editor's note: the state of the Lemont Road building site, which has been deteriorating for years, has been the subject of frequent correspondence between residents and our local councillors. Apart from the fact that none of the residences which overlook the site has anything resembling a delightful view, the frequency with which high winds blow down the the flimsy 'security fence' has led to concerns about the safety of people - in particular children - who might be tempted to enter the site to investigate or play.

Attempts by our local councillors to persuade the City Council to intervene and take action have so far been unsuccessful.

The basic problem is that the Council has stated that they have no legal power to compel a property developer to complete work on a site, so it seems that the owner can leave the development unfinished indefinitely if he chooses.

The Council's Planning Enforcement officers have looked into this development several times over recent years from the point of view of visual blight. Building Control have also been in contact with the owner with regards to site security.

It appears that the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 215, allows the Council to take action against sites that have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area. We believe that City Council issues about six such notices in a year.

The issue for the Lemont Road site is that the threshold for intervention by the Council is set very high. Planning Enforcement have provided us with photographs which show the kind of sites where action has been taken - and the desperate state which premises have to be in before the Council acts. The photograph here (bottom right) gives some idea of how bad things have to get.

Unfortunately, unless and until the site owner decides to continue with and complete the building work (and from the look of it that in itself would now require a fair amount of remedial work on the work done so far) the best we can hope for is that the site continues to deteriorate to such an extent that the level of dangerousness satisfies the threshold for Council intervention. Let's hope no-one gets hurt - or worse - first.



The blown-down security fence - open access to the site for anyone!



Bricks precariously hanging over a ledge - an accident waiting to happen?



Another site in Sheffield - this is how bad things have to get before the City Council intervenes

Countryside Rangers Conference News

Countryside rangers from Australia, Germany and around the UK met at the 50th anniversary conference of the Countryside Management Association in Castleton recently to address a decline in wildlife around the world.

"Here in the Peak District I've learned that the meaning of nature protection should be in the service of the people," said Frank Grütz, European representative of the International Rangers Federation. "I think the key is for people to become sensitive again to the nature around them and think: 'If I do something for nature protection, I do it for my health, for my wellbeing. I'm not separate, I'm part of the whole thing.'"

The role of rangers has changed since the Peak District employed a single 'warden' after becoming the UK's first national park in 1951, said National Trust ranger Chris Lockyer. "There are now eight rangers in the High Peak alone, enabling us to engage and educate people more about what the Peak District provides and the challenges it faces.

A challenge for Frank Grütz is the arrival of wolves in his wildlife reserves in south Germany, following successful reintroductions elsewhere in the country.

"We don't have to fear wolves, we just have to show respect and awareness of their special qualities," he said. Frank tells families the facts about the animals, and how such top predators help restore a natural balance. "If you make a little more noise than usual, wolves hear you coming and get out of your way. Stray dogs are actually much more likely to injure you than a wolf."

Wolves would not be a good idea on Sheffield's moors or in the Peak District, he said, due to the high levels of sheep farming and settlements. "But lynx would not be such a big problem in local forests if there are plenty of deer about." There are no plans for wolves or lynx in this area, stressed Ted Talbot, National Trust Countryside Manager for the Peak District.



Rangers and supporters from the Countryside Management Association walking on the Great Ridge near Castleton

Although the roles of local rangers have expanded since the 1950s, Ted said: "It hasn't changed that a ranger's job is to enable the public to enjoy the National Park while making sure farmers and local businesses can still live prosperously." Europe-wide issues for Ted, Frank and their fellow rangers as they walked along the Great Ridge above Castleton included sheep farming, paragliding licenses, flood management and soil erosion.

"I think we should ask what are the most valuable assets of our upland landscapes," said Ted. "Is it farming and forestry or is it wildlife or recreation and all the benefits that brings for people's health and wellbeing, or are these landscapes more valuable for storing water and carbon? I think the balance has shifted dramatically due to the impacts of climate change and loss of wild places. People often say that farmers

are the custodians of the countryside, but I think all of us need to be countryside custodians now."

Chris Lockyer gave an example: "If you're connecting and educating people you're reducing the need for enforcement used by 'wardens' in the past. For instance, we hope local people will now be saying on a hot summers day: 'I'm not going to have a barbecue where I could set fire to some moorland, I'm going to have it somewhere more responsible instead.'"

It's a period of change for the British landscape, said Ted Talbot, with Brexit affecting farm subsidies, and financial cuts to services carried out in the past by public servants. "All of these things will impact on the green spaces residents and visitors to the Peak District know and love, so we're saying if you use and value your countryside, why not learn about it and get involved? Just please don't take it for granted."

David Bocking, National Trust

Earth Hour 2017

WWF's Earth Hour is an annual global celebration where people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about the future of our planet.

Turn out the lights, take some time out to contemplate our amazing planet, and help make a difference by supporting action on climate change.

Join in on 25 March, 8.30pm to 9pm and make your Earth Hour matter.

A record breaking 178 countries and territories took part in last year's event, making it the biggest Earth Hour yet!



Millions of people and over 400 landmarks from around the world joined in to show they care about the future of our planet, including the Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, and the Burj Khalifa.

Earth Hour 2017 will be on 25 March, but until then, there are plenty of other ways you can support WWF (the World Wildlife Fund) and do your bit for the planet.

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Power to the People!

Here at Totley Primary, we value greatly the contribution of our School Council. Democratically elected on an annual basis by their classmates, the chosen children from each class meet every 3 weeks to discuss ways in which school life can be improved. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Holmes, both experienced HLTAs at the school, chair the meetings and support the children in debating all manner of issues, from proposed changes to the school dinner menu to redesigning the school playground. The councillors do a great job of canvassing the opinions of their classmates and always come to meeting fully informed and ready to speak out on behalf of others. This year, the school council have tackled the increasingly pressing issue of parking problems and road safety in the streets around the school, initially, by arranging a petition to gather views of local people and parents, as well as children and staff at the school.

The children of the school council were so passionate about their right to improved parking and road safety arrangements around their school that they contacted a professional Sheffield councillor – Councillor Colin Ross – to come and witness

The children also received a further personal visit from Councillor Ross who came out of his way to say how impressed he was with the children and just what an impact their presentation had on the local council. He came to personally reassure the children that something had been done about the issue and assured us that we should hear back from the Highways Agency soon.



The promised response from the Highways Agency was indeed swift and there are now plans in place to go ahead with a traffic regulation order, which includes a variety of improvements to markings and signage in the area around the bottom of the school drive, subject to local approval. We are so proud of our school council for standing up for their views, raising awareness of the issue so effectively and, ultimately, getting something done about it!

Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher



the situation for himself at the end of a busy school day. He shared the children's concerns and invited the Y6 representatives to present their argument for real – at Sheffield Town Hall! Even though the children had practiced and prepared everything at school but nothing could have prepared them for the experience they received.

Standing in one of the city's grandest buildings before 150 people, all sat round in their individual booths with the speaker chairing the meeting, the children presented their 3 minute case to the council. They were fantastic and spoke clearly and loudly, presenting their case succinctly and backed up with evidence so that they got their powerful message across. The response to their presentation was amazing! Twitter lit up with messages such as '@Iqbal_mazher praises children from @totleyprimary for best presentation I've ever heard at a council—a credit to you and your school' and 'a meeting has been held to address the issues raised yesterday from @totleyprimary.'

Totley All Saints School Reunion!

At The Cross Scythes Hotel

Monday April 10th from 2 pm

For pupils who left around the 1940s to 1950s

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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
- TUESDAYS** **SLIMMING WORLD**, Abbeydale Sports Club, 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm, Jo Else: 262 0523 or 07590 545253
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. 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. Pilates classes run by a qualified Pilates Instructor and Physiotherapist for all abilities and ages. Class is held on Thursday 1.30pm - 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road. If interested call Emer on 07792422909.

FEBRUARY

- WED 8th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB** 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Peter Bradshaw, 'Egypt and the Great Pyramid'. Visitors Welcome
- SAT 11th: FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD**: First Bird Walk of 2017 with Chris Measures. Meet by Scout Hut, Aldam Road, 9 am. For more details see page 9.
- SUN 19th: FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD**: Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10 am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 9.
- TUES 21st TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**: Stephen Gay, 'Railway Rambles - the Hope Valley Line'. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.
- WED 14th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: From Spital Street Slum to Stainless Steel and Beyond: The Life and Work of Harry Brearley**, by Robin Fielder
A talk by the well-known local history tutor, formerly of Kelham Island Museum, illustrated by contemporary pictures, maps and texts. Robin has new evidence about this famous son of Sheffield, showing that Harry should be better known for other parts of his work and life, not just the discovery of stainless steel. Totley Library, 7.30 pm
- WED 22nd TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB** 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Michael Thacker, "That's a good idea - Let's Patent it". Visitors Welcome
- THURS 23rd WHIRLOW HALL FARM**: February Farm Fun: an exciting day of animal encounters. Join us here on the Farm and if we are lucky meet the first new-born lambs of the season. Children can meet farm animals and we will give talks and answer questions. Our animal handling barn will be open. Free children's craft activities, plus face painting (small extra charge) and lots more to enjoy. Many attractions inside or undercover!! Farm Shop, Butchery and Cafe bar with its play area will be open. Adults £2.50, Children (under 14) £3.00 (under 2's are free!), Family Ticket £10.00.

MARCH

- WED 8th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB** 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Dr. Murray Wilson 'It isn't like that any more'. Visitors Welcome
- SUN 19th: FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD**: Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10 am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 9.
- MON 20th: FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD**: 'Wildlife of a City Garden - Part 2' with Penny Philcox. The emphasis will be on insects and pond life. Totley Library,, Baslow Road, 7.30 pm. For more details see page 9.
- TUES 21st TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**: Annual General Meeting. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.
- WED 22nd TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB** 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Mrs. Suzanne Bingham, "Pox, Puss & Privies in Victorian Sheffield". Visitors Welcome
- WED 22nd TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: Open Meeting**. The meeting will be based around the theme of Totley Shops. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

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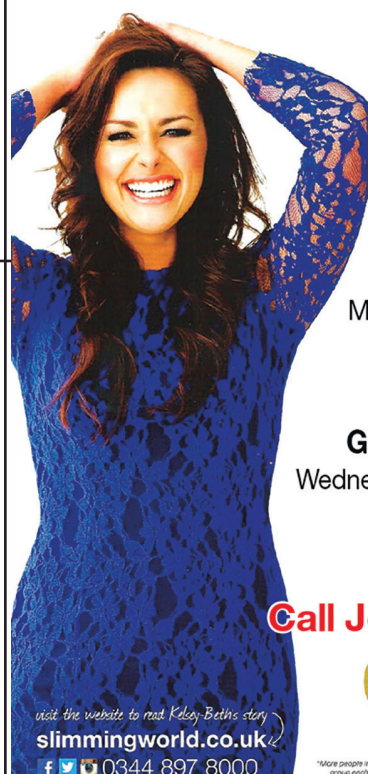


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