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Totley Tunnel East signal box in the 1980s, pictured by Mike Peart. See Mike's commentary, page 3.

Totley Primary School plans approved

Plans for the expansion of Totley Primary School were passed by the Planning Committee in January. The project will involve a two-storey and a single-storey extension, the provision of a multi-use games area, the extension of the existing hard play area, new external steps and ramps, and 21 additional car parking spaces.

Importantly, there will be additional public access points, including pedestrian access points on Baslow Road, and additional emergency and service vehicle access from Baslow Road. These developments are designed to accommodate the increase of pupil capacity by 150 places, which are needed so that

children can attend their local primary school.

Concerns were raised by a number of local residents about the increase in traffic to the school (particularly with regard to potential parking problems caused by parents bringing children to school by car, and issues of road safety), but the school worked with local Councillors Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Joe Otten and neighbours to address these issues.

Two new pedestrian access points are to be created on Baslow Road to encourage walking to school, particularly from the north side of Baslow Road, and to reduce pressure on Sunnysvale Road.

The most important element is that a new controlled pedestrian crossing will be built on Baslow Road. This will be in place before the new extension to the school is occupied.

Local Councillors particularly welcomed the addition of this pedestrian crossing to the plans, because as well as aiding children to get to school on foot, it will have the added benefit of helping to slow down traffic on Baslow Road - a major cause of concern to Totley residents over many years and which local people have frequently raised.

Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher at Totley Primary School, told (*cont. p.3*)

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ACCA

Totley Primary School plans approved (from p.1)

Totley 'Independent' "We are really pleased that the plans have been approved. We have seen first-hand how stressful it can be for local families when there is doubt over whether or not their children will be placed at a school within the Totley community. This pressure has grown markedly in recent years and the extra school places generated through the expansion of Totley Primary should improve the situation greatly. Especially pleasing is the news of the Baslow Road crossing, which will benefit the wider Totley community, as well as offering our own children and families new travel options for the school run which will ultimately encourage more people to leave their cars at home."

Totley Tunnel East Signal Box

Mike Peart writes:

The picture on page 1 of this issue, of Totley Tunnel East signal box was taken in the snow during the mid-1980s, before the signal box was refurbished by Railtrack in the days before Network Rail. The net curtains are a nice homely touch!

For the technically minded it is a Midland Railway type 2B signal box made in 1893 and it has 12 levers. It isn't a listed building, although another similar signal box on the Settle and Carlisle line has been listed. I recently posted this picture on a couple of railway Facebook sites and it got a lot of "likes" and comments. One of the track workers who commented said that he much preferred to have his sandwiches up in the signal box rather than in Totley Tunnel itself. It was a bit draughty in there as the wind blew in from the equipment room below, but there was a stove which kept things warm.

Another comment was that at one time the signalman at Totley Tunnel East married the signalwoman at Grindleford. This made me wonder what the signal bell code was for "Where's me dinner?" Was three miles and 950 yards of tunnel enough to keep them apart if they'd had a row?

Totley Residents Association

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the Constitution of the Totley Residents Association, a public meeting will be held on Monday 12 March 2018 at 7.30pm at Totley Library, at which the following resolution will be proposed:

"It is proposed that Totley Residents Association be dissolved, and that, after the satisfaction of any debts and liabilities of the Association, the Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be applied towards charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Totley as the Committee may decide."

Letters to the Editor

The state of the place!

Dear Editor,

Years ago, when I moved in, Totley was thought of as being 'posh' and it was certainly a nice place to live. However, if you look at it now, it seems to be very shabby. I took my youngest granddaughter out in a pushchair on Christmas Day afternoon and when there is nobody about and no traffic, it looks at its worst.

Dog-muck on the pavements, front gardens unkempt, litter strewn everywhere and below the shops on the Rise, there were wheelie bins galore, some with their lids open and the contents spread all over. Surely they weren't going to be emptied on Boxing Day? The recycling bins at the bottom of the Rise must have been full, as there was paper and card

board all over the place. Why do people dump their rubbish there when they all have blue recycling bins?

Some driveways had skips on them which had been there for months. Other driveways had empty paint tins and builders' or decorators' buckets lying around.

Cars were parked on pavements or on grass verges. Is this not illegal and, if so, why aren't the police doing something about it? The state of the grass verges in many places (for example Mickley Lane) are a disgrace and why aren't the authorities getting the owners to remove their vehicles?

What are our councillors doing about this? Are they spending too much time on other things, such as city-wide or national projects? They were elected by the people of this ward and this is where they should be utilising 100% of their time and effort.

What do other readers think?

Steve, Totley Rise (full name and address supplied)

We felt it was only fair to give our councillors the opportunity to respond, and we also asked Julie Gay, of the Litter-Picking Group, for her views. First, the response from our local councillors:

Dear Editor

In response to the letter complaining about the state of Totley and what are your Councillors doing about it we feel the need to comment.

We do indeed spend part of our time in the Town Hall, representing local residents in a variety of meetings, and raising concerns with Council officers. Most of our time is spent in the Ward on casework, following up specific requests for help from local residents. We get more than a thousand such requests each year. We work with local organisations such as Totley CRIC and the Totley Residents Association. On top of that we hold regular surgeries twice per month that anyone can attend.

In a recent issue of the TI we gave an update on the progress of the bins on Totley Rise. This has been much slower than we wanted, in part due to legal issues, but the problem is being addressed.

If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch. Our contact details are provided in the TI and on the Council website.

Cllrs Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Joe Otten

Julie Gay writes:

Dear Editor,

Litter in Totley is an ongoing nuisance and my fellow litter pickers could go out every day and find rubbish to clear! The bins on the Rise are a nightmare.....wind blows the trash out and onto the pavements and down the road. They smell awful and impede pedestrian access.

People are fly tipping next to the commercial bins...and I'm regularly reporting the overflowing large blue Veolia card recycling bin. It seems that 'outsiders' use it, when it should be for residents and businesses on the Rise. (Continued p.5)



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The state of the place! (continued from p.3)

My group cleans up when skips have been removed....it seems no one has any pride in clearing stuff that has fallen out.

Grass verges have become parking for cars and end up looking like a churned up mud bath.

Now for the good news, I requested some dual litter/recycling bins (bottles and cans) in our area and we've got three! One is situated opposite Tesco Express and the others are opposite sides of the road next to bus stops near Abbeydale Sports and Fitness Club. Hopefully the litter will end up in the correct bin and not dumped in the road or on the pavements.

After watching Blue Planet 2 and in particular the final episode depicting how plastics etc are destroying life I'm hoping people will take some responsibility. It's much easier to turn a blind eye and let people like me and my awesome group of volunteer litter pickers do the hard work.

Julie Gay

Fungi Walk in Gillfield Wood

If you happened to be told that there is a "Disco" in Gillfield Wood you may start thinking that youngsters are having a party in our local wood; or if you hear that there is a "Woolly-foot" in the wood you may be thinking Yeti or some such creature. But don't worry, these are just the unusual names given to two species of fungi that grow in our lovely ancient woodland. In actual fact, to date, nearly three hundred different species of fungi have been recorded in and around the edges of our wood.

One of the best times to see fungi is, as you probably know, in the autumn, so Friends of Gillfield Wood arranged for fungi expert Steve Clements to come along last November and lead another of his Fungi Walks through our wood. On this occasion Steve particularly wanted to demonstrate to the group the variety and numbers of fungi that can actually be found in a very small area of woodland with some close-to-the-ground searching. So, on the floor of the wood, he marked out a circle, ten metres in diameter, and challenged the group to find as many different species of fungi within the area marked.

The first fungi to be recorded was the statuesque Trooping Funnel, twenty in total, standing in a ring. The more mature specimens had that distinctive large funnel shaped cap with strong decurrent gills underneath. An encouraging start and, after these had been studied in detail, great care was taken not to step on any, as the search for more fungi really got underway.



Trooping Funnel (Clitocybe Geotropia)

Within seconds there were cries of excitement as different species were discovered. These varied in colour, shape, size and type. Steve's attention and help in identification were in great demand. Tiny Bonnets and Brittlestems (yes, their stems are brittle) were found poking up through the leaf lit-

ter, together with a special Snowy Waxcap that has the fabulous Latin name *Hygrocybe virginea*. Then on fallen small twigs, Pink Crusts and Brown Crusts caught the eye, plus that "Disco", which was a mass of tiny bright yellow discs, rubbery and saucer-shaped. Known as the Lemon Disco, it is associated, as so many fungi are, with the dead wood of deciduous trees.



Pink Waxcap (Hygrocybe calyptiformis)

A cluster of tiny white Oysterlings were then spotted on a Larch twig and nearby, a jelly fungi with the fantastic name of Crystal Brain was found. These two species were closely inspected through a hand lens to fully appreciate their construction. The Crystal Brain has minute crystals within a jelly surround, quite amazing to see when magnified. Several more species of fungi were identified, and Steve was on hand to answer questions and pass on his wealth of knowledge whilst explaining the life of the fungi and pointing out their differences for identification purposes.

Soon the study of two ten metre circles had been completed and the total number of species found was twenty nine: an impressive return considering that, at any other time, one might have walked past the two areas without a second glance.

Moving through the wood the group then came across a clump of yellow Sulphur Tuft fungi on a mossy stump and, in the same area, Bracket fungi on logs; these included Blushing Bracket, that blushes red when bruised underneath, and Common Mazegill, that has maze-like gills. We all wished they were that easy to identify! Steve pointed out that smelling specimens and sometimes tasting them (not eating them!) may help in identifying some fungi. Photographing them can also help, which was why the walk was advertised as 'Click, Don't Pick'.

Our final stop was just outside the wood; it was here we wanted to look at and identify some grassland species of fungi. Unfortunately the grass had grown a bit too long so only a few good specimens were showing. At least we found examples of Meadow, Scarlet and Pink Waxcaps for the group to study and compare. The Pink Waxcap is unmistakable; rosy-pink in colour with a conical shaped cap and if you see it at the right time the cap, with irregular edges, will have expanded outwards to form a type of skirt which lends to this fungi's other name, the Ballerina Waxcap.

Everyone agreed this was another great session with Steve and in case you are wondering, we came across that "Woolly-foot" during our wanderings. Not huge - just six centimetres high, with dome shaped cap and yellowish gills but it had those distinctive long woolly hairs at the base of its stem. A Wood Woolly-foot - another good find, another species recorded for the wood, and it created a good deal of interest.

If you would like to join the group on the next Fungi Walk please keep an eye on the group's diary and website. A spring event is being arranged for the morning of Saturday March 10th, so please come along - you will be made most welcome!

Chris Measures, Friends of Gillfield Wood

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Christmas is over for another year and a Happy New Year to you all. Another successful Christmas concert has come and gone with effusive feedback which delights us all. Thank you for your support and if you missed it – bad luck – it was a dilly. I don't know how Peter Waring, our concert accompanist, does it. We throw all sorts of music at him and he just magically performs faultlessly. I think he must be our Sorcerer! We would be lost without him.



Peter Waring

We now move on to our annual shows with floor rehearsals underway as of mid-January and the music well under our belts. It promises to be another treat. As I said in previous editions, we are performing two operettas together this time. The first is *The Sorcerer*, a short two act bit of magical nonsense when John Wellington Wells, a 'dealer in magic and spells', indiscriminately distributes a love philtre (potion) amongst the townsfolk resulting in some very strange pairings. This may not be as well-known as some of the other G&S operettas but don't let that put you off. The music is a delight as usual with lovely songs such as when the vicar, Dr Daly, reminisces about his youth when a curate, and later when he encourages everyone to drink the 'tea'. The fun and frolics that ensue are great for both cast and audience with the most unlikely 'couples' getting together.

The second, one of my favourites, is *Trial-by-Jury*, a 35 minute romp poking fun at the judiciary when, in a breach of promise of marriage case, the judge ends up as the only successful party. I guarantee that you'll come out singing 'And a good judge too'. This is the first G&S operetta I took part in. It was 1952 (I think!) when my brother was Angelina, the plaintiff (it was an all boys school) and I was a jurymen.

The shows will be performed from Wednesday April 11th to Saturday April 14th at the Montgomery Theatre, Surrey Street, Sheffield. Tickets (£15 and £7.50) are available now by telephoning 07598 054708 or by booking via our Facebook page (Dore G&S). Treat yourselves to a good night out for less than the price of a pub meal and be magically entertained.

Until then I hope that the winter is not too severe. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Derek Habberjam

Neighbourhood Watch

Burglaries and Car thefts Sadly, there is still crime being reported in Totley, Dore and Bradway, crimes of burglary, including bike thefts, and car theft being common. Modern cars cannot be 'hot-wired' as can older vehicles and so burglars need to get the keys from inside the house, or, in the case of Keyless Entry vehicles, use an electronic device, similar to the ones which credit/debit cards can be swiped with. So the key fob, for keyless entry cars, needs to be kept in a secure pouch, wherever you are. Some people claim that an aluminium foil bag works, but I do not know the validity of this claim. You can obtain a signal blocker, costing just £6, from Amazon.

The stealing of keys by entering the property, known as two in one burglaries, is more common, and, unfortunately, the fitting of high security Euro locks results in determined thieves breaking glass windows. In one case, a window cost £1800 to replace and took over three months to arrive. The burglars had 'cased' the joint carefully beforehand, and, despite being disturbed by a dog barking, returned. They stole various things, many of which were recovered, but it is thought that they wanted two sets of car keys. It is pleasing to report that one was caught quickly, then another, then a female who handled the stolen goods, and now a fourth person. Hopefully they will be in Court in the next couple of months - two of them are used to prison.

Burglar alarms have moved on with technology and wireless versions are available, where sensors can be fitted anywhere, even on windows, without wires. Some companies offer the facility to wire them through your router to a control centre who will call you if your alarm is triggered. Independent camera/alarms are available which link to your mobile phone, wherever you are in the world. One of my neighbours called me from Mumbai to tell me his alarm was going off, and asked me to go and check his house. It was an unusual case in that he had left the heating on, and curtains had wafted in the heat, triggering the alarm. He switched the heating off, from Mumbai!

CCTV security cameras are also getting much better in quality, the latest ones being of TV quality, and fitting is simpler and cheaper. They are a good deterrent, and we have had success via our NHW network in getting some arrests from members' CCTV cameras. One even found a 'pool' car in Stannington, again through our network, which was wanted by the Police. If you are considering cameras, consider the back garden as well. Four recent events that I know of have been via back gardens. In one case, the resident was extremely grateful that I had fitted a high security lock for her. Burglars, who struck around 11.30am, had broken the lock, but it jammed, as it was designed to do. Incidentally, you should only lubricate euro locks with graphite – you might invalidate the warranty, and cause the lock to fail, if you use oil.

Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch? Discount off your insurance is usually available; updates on local crimes are sent to you via email; and, in particular, you might stop or reduce crime by passing on information, or 'intel' as the police call it. We will also check your locks for you, at no charge, to advise you on the security level of what you have. Don't be fooled by just having new doors fitted – very expensive doors can be fitted with £6 locks. The best quality are £44 each - do you want burglars in your house whilst you are sleeping?

Fly tipping Where do fly tippers get their rubbish from? Not you, we hope, through leaving goods out for collection, or accepting bargain offers to remove your rubbish. Goods left out for scrappers attracts unwelcome members of our community to visit our houses for other purposes. And if the rubbish can be traced to you, you can be fined! The government intends to introduce a fine of up to £400 for allowing another person to take their goods and they get fly-tipped. Legislation on this already exists, but Environmental Health Departments do not or cannot enforce it due to staff cuts.

Thanks to our members and contacts who keep us updated with information and tip offs. We don't always know how useful it, as the Police do not always advise even our PCSO.

Roger Hart - 07831 305881



New Topics for the New Year at Totley Primary!

Firstly, may I take the opportunity to wish everybody a very Happy New Year on behalf of all the children and staff at Totley Primary School. After a delightfully festive December in school, which saw term going right up to the 22nd of the month, it was lovely to have a week of genuine down-time at the start of January in order to refresh and recharge!

Now we are back, full of beans, and ready to tackle a whole host of new topics as 2018 gets under way. Our Foundation Stage children are going to be looking at Superheroes and people who help us. They have already enjoyed a successful dressing up day to channel their super powers and are looking forward to meeting adults within our school community who do jobs that help others.

Our Y1 children will be learning about Toys, with a history and design focus, which includes an exciting visit to Weston Park Museum in Sheffield. This will involve exploring toys of the past and looking at how they were made. They will also be making comparisons between popular toys of the past and their modern day equivalents, thinking about the impact that changing technology has had made over time. As you might guess, this is always a popular topic and we are always amazed at how many grandparents' wooden toys make an appearance at school. I wonder how many of today's toys and gadgets will have this amount of staying power?



Our FS2 superheroes are ready for action!

Meanwhile, our Y2 are beginning to look at the Great Fire of London and learning about the dramatic events which unfolded through looking at extracts of Samuel Pepys' diary. A trip to a local fire station to learn about how approaches to firefighting have improved over the years is just one of the hooks we have planned for the children during this fascinating topic!

Y3 are also going back in time this term and will be looking at the Anglo-Saxon period, when the settlement we now know

as Totley was called 'Totingelei' (Woodland clearing of the family or followers of a man called Tota!) As well as venturing down to Gillfield Wood to take part in some Saxon style shelter building, the children will also have the opportunity to come to school in role as a Saxon farmer, warrior or villager, taking part in an evening of Saxon-themed activities before experiencing sleepover at school!

Meanwhile, our Y4 children are going to be studying their own city this term, finding out more about the emergence of Sheffield, the 'Steel City' and about significant local people and events of the past and present. As you might expect, this will involve a trip to the city centre, where the children will have the chance to look at a familiar landscape through new eyes.

Our Y5 children kicked off their Victorians topic just before the holiday, with a fantastic 'Victorian Christmas' day in school, in which a range of historic craft activities were explored, alongside Charles Dickens' classic story, 'A Christmas Carol'. An upcoming visit to a Victorian classroom experience in Barnsley will give the children a taste of what life was like for school children in the 19th century. Let's hope that the children behave themselves and the cane is not needed!

Finally, our Y6 children will be reading the novel "Wonder" this term and thinking about the importance of equal opportunities for all, and the difficulties faced by those with disabilities. As part of a "Choose Kind" campaign, the children will be heading into the city centre to share this important message with members of the public.

One of the best ways of keeping up with the goings on in all of our classes is by visiting the 'Class Blogs' section of our school website, www.totley.sheffield.sch.uk You are most welcome to have a look!

Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher

Traffic news

Speed cameras have not been out so frequently recently. On their last visit, on a Sunday, 132 offences were detected during a 6½ hour session. Of those, 27 were above 40mph.

I think that these figures show that many motorists think that the speed limit is 40mph. There is a hope that the SID will return to Baslow Road, at the top of Main Avenue, which might remind drivers to read their Highway Code, but it works on a rotational system and should go to other areas as well. If it moves off Twentywell Lane, it indicates it might be coming to us.

Legally, the Council cannot provide any other signs, but how strongly do residents feel about the excessive speeding? Are we willing to buy some temporary signs and carry them or erect them on a short term basis?

Your views will be welcome.

Roger Hart

La Vie en Rouge...

Cheese and Wine Night

Supporting the Sheffield Children's
Hospital Charity.

Date: 15th March 2018

Time: 18:30 - 21:30

Location: The Waggon & Horses 57
Abbeydale Road South, S7 2QQ



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Chris has coffee with Caroline Waugh

The photograph accompanying this piece really should not be of Caroline in a café at her ease over a coffee, but rather of champion Caroline on her disability tricycle, going into some battle with flags flying. As indeed, you might have caught her recently on BBC's Countryfile when they carried a long feature on the trees issue in Topley and other areas of Sheffield.

This all started some years back when, as a young woman who had just got her first driving licence, she was involved in a dramatic and damaging road accident: damage to her limbs and head, sufficient to put her into a long coma, which she survived but with disabilities. She was (and considerably still is) a determined fighter for several causes.



In recovery, she became a representative for a personal computer company, and it was whilst in their training sessions that she met a handsome young fellow trainee down from Scotland. Romance, his relocation to Sheffield, marriage, and two children followed.

"When my kids had learnt to cycle, I wanted to cycle with them. So I phoned Disability Sheffield and asked if they knew where I could borrow a Tricycle. They gave me Steve Marsden from the national cycling charity CTC. This man has changed my life forever."

She took to the disability tricycle, such that, in time, she has subsequently become an instructor and supporter of others coming to use such machines, working with local and national experts. She regularly helps run training sessions in the parks, giving the newly-disabled some of their recently-lost freedom back.

(I have always felt that riders of such machines must feel themselves especially vulnerable, given their low position on the road; but Caroline demurs: she feels that motorists give them a wider berth than other cyclists).

"I became infamous for my Blog 'Doesn't Sweat Much for a fat lass' - which is a lie, because I sweat buckets!"

In 2012 she carried the Olympic Torch, and was invited to the Paralympics with Steve, by local MP Nick Clegg, to see the cycling, and to meet the gold medalists.

General advocacy work for the disabled has naturally followed: Carolyn is both articulate and determined, and people listen to someone who has 'been there'.

As she has also become in the matter of personal budgets, arguing that if the state determines an appropriate level of benefit, the individual should then be trusted to manage its spend (rather than having it micro-managed for them). The evidence is, she says, that people then take much greater

responsibility for their spending.

Trips to London to advise government and the various agencies on these personal budgets then naturally followed. Again, hers is the authentic voice of experience.

Our comfortable café-chat about all Caroline's advocacy and campaigning had to come to an abrupt end at this point, when her mobile phone alerted her to some more local 'tree-work' about to happen in her immediate neighbourhood, and off she sped on her trusty tricycle to argue in favour of yet another valued tree which was being targeted in the Streets Ahead program - another campaign!

Chris Spencer

(Caroline and Chris took coffee at Rendezvous, Baslow Road)

Ask Your Pharmacist

You may have seen the BBC One programme about Boots recently. It did not paint the company in a good light, the general complaint from staff being that staff levels were too low to provide a safe service. While human error cannot be entirely eliminated, we would like to reassure you that at Topley Pharmacy we never put cost cutting before patient safety. We have actually invested in a second pharmacist over the last few years to maximise safety and service.

Unfortunately, as mentioned in the programme, the government has made clear its intention to close 3000 pharmacies. Since they are using the inappropriate blunt tool of savage financial cuts to bring about these closures, cost-cutting is a logical response from large corporations who have to satisfy shareholders. We will continue to resist this route as long as we can but it is becoming increasingly difficult. Economies of scale and buying power mean that large pharmacy chains such as Boots, Lloyds and Well have a huge financial advantage over independents and can absorb these cuts better so we really do need your support now like never before.

Please use us or risk losing us!

If communities do not rally around their local independent pharmacies we will see many closing in the near future.

Even regular patients tell us they occasionally use Boots or Lloyds as 'they were shopping nearby'. While this may be convenient, it deprives us of valuable income. We also could do with other sources of income so please use us for over the counter medicines, vitamins and toiletries. Sadly, you have a choice of which type of pharmacy service you would like to use in the future - a personal relationship with consistently the same pharmacist and a pharmacy ethos dictated by an independent owner who cares for the local community, or a pharmacy with changing pharmacists and a profit first ethos dictated by a faceless head office who will never visit our community!

It is ironic that it was the greed and insatiable drive for profits of the pharmacy chains and supermarkets that allowed all these extra pharmacies to be created, that the government so desperately now wants to close.

Taj Singh

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Mean Streets

New readers start here: private detective Harry Kerry moved from Chicago, USA, to a quiet English village near here to look for more lucrative work. But life is quiet, and money scarce, until a local lady walks into his office, and asks Harry to track down her spectacles, last seen on the nose of her husband, who also hasn't been seen for a while....



My client Elsie Throttle had told me that her husband Jim was a prominent member of the Community Committee – the outfit that ran the village Flower Show, the Beauty Contest, the Tallest Sunflower competition, the Best Garden Contest, the Music Gala, and everything else which this place did every year. She had no idea

why he would do a vanishing act, but she mentioned a certain Lawrence Crump, another member of the committee, who she reckoned might know more.

So I rang Mr Lawrence Crump's doorbell. A maid opened the door and told me I could wait in the drawing-room. I said, "I'm sorry, ma'am, but I ain't here to do drawing". So she took me into the library. Good, I thought. We might find a body in here.

Lawrence Crump came into the room. I explained about Jim Throttle's apparent disappearance, watching him closely to observe his reactions, which were interesting. When I told him Jim was missing, his eyes narrowed, his brow furrowed, his hair stood on end, he began to twirl bicycle-clips around the fingers of both hands....but his legs just managed to stay in his trousers. "Be careful Meester Kerry", he said (what kind of accent was that?) "Mr Throttle has powerful friends. But he also has powerful enemies."

"Enemas?"

"I'm sorry, I spelled that wrong. Enemies. I meant powerful enemies".

It was now two days later and mid-morning. The letterbox clattered. I found a package lying on the carpet. I tore it open. Inside was a pair of spectacles with a label which read "Dear Elsie – thought you might need these". Elsie had asked me to find her lost glasses. And it looked like I'd found them. Then I noticed another slip of paper in the packaging. I unfolded it and read –



My years of experience in this game told me that this certainly wasn't written on an ordinary typewriter.

I felt I was getting into something deeper than just getting Elsie's glasses back. Where was her husband? He had last been seen wearing the glasses – but they'd turned up and he hadn't.

I sighed and looked down the street. A few doors away, next to the butcher's, was the village undertaker's place of business. The undertaker had been ill for a couple of weeks, and I noticed that a queue had formed outside his shop. Funny thing was the queue wasn't moving. It wasn't until I saw that the queue was leaning against the wall that the penny dropped. I sure hope the guy gets better soon, before the weather gets any warmer.

I decided to take a ride. Maybe it would clear my head. I drove the five miles to the nearest town, trying to work out the connections. Who returned the glasses? Where was Jim? What was Crump's warning about? And what did that message mean?

I came to a part of town full of takeaway food shops, carpet stores and furniture warehouses. As I waited at some traffic lights I glanced at the building opposite – a large sign read "Big 'O' Self-Storage". Below that, a smaller sign read 'Student Storage a Speciality'. Hmm, I mused. So that's where they go in the summer.

Then a thought buzzed through my consciousness like a bluebottle on a mission. I put my foot down when the lights changed, turned the car into the Big 'O' Self-Storage carpark, and screeched to a halt. I ran into the reception area, where a middle-aged left-over from hipper days was sat behind a desk with a newspaper, trying to use a dictionary to solve the Sudoku puzzle.

"Excuse me, sir, but does the name Jim Throttle mean anything to you?"

He looked down at a booking-sheet, and shook his head. "Nope". He shot a look at a young lad sitting next to him – maybe someone on an upward career trajectory starting with a zero-hours internship. The boy shook his head.

Obviously I'd drawn a blank. "OK, sorry to have bothered you, it was just a long shot..." I murmured, and began to turn away, when the guy blurted out "Well, it aren't my fault!" The youth next to him responded, "I'm not saying it am!" Again, the bad grammar. Back in the old days Momma the Comma would have eradicated that – she had a vicious way with poor verb conjugation, and never went out on any of these jobs unarmed. But no good harking on the past.

I swung round and looked the hippie straight in the eye. "I think you know more than you're telling me!"

He realised I meant business. He kept taking nervous sidelong glances towards some storage boxes, each one about the size of a garden shed. I walked over to them. Most were padlocked shut. But one seemed to be open. I pulled on the handle and the heavy door creaked open. Cautiously, I peered inside. Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw....

To be continued.



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f Peveril Podiatry Service

Recently Spotted.....

Take a look at these recent photos of just some of Totle's grass verges. Does anyone have any ideas as to what we as a community can do to help prevent this thoughtless and inconsiderate behaviour by drivers?

Some people have suggested that large rocks might be strategically placed, or posts driven into the verge, but the Highways Act 1980, s148, makes it an offence to deposit materials on the highway without lawful authority, and S149 gives the Council powers to serve notice to remove or for them to remove forthwith if considered a danger - so that's probably not the answer.

But as things stand, we're not going to win any 'prettiest village' contests anytime soon.



Above: Mickley Lane



Above: just three examples from Greenoak Road - and there are many more!



The Crescent



Diary for February and March

February

Friends of Gillfield Wood

Saturday 17th: Revealing Gillfield Wood – Hedgerows and Standing Stones. This walk and talk is an opportunity to discover what we know about the standing stones in the brook and the use of hedgerows surveys to

explore an older Ghost Wood on the periphery of the present wood. Much of this arose from the Heritage Lottery Funded Phase 2 research project of 2017. The walk will start at 10am at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane and last about 2 hours covering about 2 miles in and close to the wood. We strongly recommend appropriate footwear and winter clothing.

Sunday 18th: 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 where any late changes of venue will be published.

Monday 26th: Recording Your Patch. We have the opportunity to hear from Paul Richards (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust) about the work of 'Nature Counts: the need to record Sheffield's wildlife'. This work is gearing up to report on the State of Nature for Sheffield, giving conservations and others insight into the current situation with wildlife and their habitats, including otters, hedgehogs, bluebells and some less familiar species. Meet at Totley Library, Baslow Road, 7.30pm. Free to members or £3 contribution from non-members.

March

Saturday 10th: : Spring Fungi: Steve Clements has helped us learn much about the fungi to be found in Gillfield Wood, but until now, has not had the opportunity to take us out in early spring. We will meet at the Bus Terminus, Baslow Road for a 10am start. We plan to walk down toward the Totley Lane entrance along well marked footpaths. Wear strong footwear. Please remember that we do not pick fungi, but we can click, so bring your cameras. Steve will take small appropriate samples if necessary to confirm identification scientifically.

Sunday 18th: 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 where any late changes of venue will be published.

Paul Hancock

Totley Yard Sale

A community Yard Sale will take place on Sunday 29th April, starting at 11.00am.

If you want to sell items from the front of your house, you register your name, and pay £5, and we publicise the Yard Sale all over. Everything you sell at your house is your own takings.

The proceeds of the £5 registration will be for Totley Open Gardens Association, to add to the monies we raise for local voluntary organisations. In 2017 we raised just over £3,000 at TOG, and this has been a big help to Cherry Tree Support Services, Transport 17, Totley Library, Totley Scout Hut, Friends of Gillfield Wood, and Totley History Group.

The more people who take part the better – in previous years we have had 40-50 houses taking part, which not only raises money for TOG, but brings lots of buyers from all over the city.

Booking is now open for the Yard Sale. Please email Jennie Street at jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk with details of your name, address and phone number, and take your £5 registration to her at 16 The Grove, Totley. You can phone her on 236-2302.



The day before the Yard Sale, maps will be emailed to everyone showing where all the participating addresses are. These maps should be sold for 50p each, to people who ask for them, and then please bring the money you make from the sale of maps to Jennie after the event - the income from maps will be added to the income from participating houses, and be added in turn to the takings of Totley Open Gardens in July, for distribution to Totley voluntary organisations.

In total, since Totley Open Gardens began in 2002, over £30,000 has been donated to local community groups. We want to be able to continue this, so please remember that if you participate in the Yard Sale, which we advertise on lots of websites, your contribution of £5 is part of this.

Jennie Street

Email: jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

Tel: 236 2302



Totley History Group

Programme 2018

28th February: An Open Meeting. Are you a member of a local sports group or a local social group? ? Please come along and share your memories, photographs and any in-

formation. It could be groups still existing or groups from the past. Everyone welcome. Totley Library, 7.30.

28th March: A talk based on a walk through Derbyshire, with Stephen Gay. Totley Library, 7.30.

25th April: AGM, followed by a talk by Penny Rea, 'Winco-bank: Hill Fort, Hall and Community'. 7.30, Totley Library.

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

The Poetry Slot

Sally Goldsmith

Each issue, I look closely at a poem by a published poet from South Yorkshire or North Derbyshire.

The Stars

Conor O' Callaghan

The nights midweek are secrets kept.
No soul on site, no signal/bars,
and zilch for company except
a zillion bright disarming stars.

I'll flit through ambers, quicker, higher.
I'll break each hamlet's stop or yield.
I'll fix some noodles, start a fire
and climb up to the topmost field.

The stars at first are sparse, unclear.
They surface in that drag between
the darkened grass and stratosphere,
of powder blue and bottle green.

They blossom, thick and fast, in droves.
They pulse, in clusters, magnify.
The smoke that's my potbelly stove's
frays outward through each needle eye.

I'll head below. I'll char till dawn
some apple logs down to their core.
By pewter light, when stars have gone,
I'll do a bit, a little more.

I have to confess to a connection here. Not only was Conor my MA Creative Writing tutor some years back, but I also have an old caravan on the same small site written about in this poem. Writers find the place conducive to 'doing a bit, a little more.'

The feeling is one of yearning to get back to something simpler – the basic meal of noodles, the wood fire – am I right in detecting a bit of a modern take on the peace of Yeats' famous 'Lake Isle of Innisfree' with his cabin and bean rows? Conor's poem itself 'flits' (like the poet) between the modern – the colloquial of 'zilch', the 'signal/bars' of the mobile phone – to the almost archaic poetic language of 'pewter light'.

The poem surprised me – it's more traditional in form and style than I'd expect from Conor, and it's perhaps more 'romantic' in feel, lighter too. There is a strict 4 beat metre to each line, a strict ABAB rhyming scheme to each stanza.

The first stanza is full of s's and z's – almost like static. I love 'a zillion bright disarming stars' – you can feel the sizzle of them, the way they catch at you, and of course the vowel rhyming of 'disarming' and 'stars', 'zillion' and 'zilch'.

The second stanza has the poet 'flit' – a verb perhaps more associated with birds and indeed the poet does climb higher. There's an impatience, a resolve in beginning three of the lines with "I'll..." and a literal impatience in the cutting through amber traffic lights and signs in order to be away, secret, unreachable.

In the third stanza another lovely vowel rhyme in 'stars' and 'sparse' and more s's. In the fourth the stars are blossoming like flowers, they are alive – 'pulse' and 'cluster'. Lovely precise and vibrant use of verbs here – exactly the right ones. Verbs, in my opinion, are the things which bring dynamics and freshness to a poem, not adjectives. Isn't the verb 'fray' exactly right to describe how smoke unravels like the edge of cloth? The textile metaphor is continued with 'each needle's eye' – the needle eyes being the stars themselves. I'm reminded again of Yeats' – 'heaven's embroidered cloths / enwrought with gold and silver light'.

The last stanza in which the poet decides to 'char till dawn/ some apple logs down to their core' has, perhaps both the poet and the logs getting down to the core of things – again like Yeat's 'Innisfree', that place 'in the deep heart's core.'

Conor O'Callaghan is an acclaimed poet and novelist born in Newry in 1968 but growing up in Dundalk, just south of the Irish border. He has published five collections of poetry and has won many prizes. He currently teaches writing at Sheffield Hallam University.

Dore Art Group

Dore Art Group will be holding their Annual Art Exhibition in the Old School, Dore on:

Friday April 27th, 2pm - 6pm
Saturday April 28th, 9.30am - 5pm

Admission Free

Come and enjoy a wide range of art works including framed and unframed pictures, cards and notelets.

We have a tea room serving refreshments including home-made cakes.

Our groups meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons - there is room in the Tuesday group for a few more people, and if you are interested contact Gerry Doherty on 01142 368418

Totley Scouts

Firstly, a very Happy New Year from everyone at 215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group.

We all enjoyed a nice relaxing Christmas break and have returned to our meetings with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. All the sections have a full and varied programme of activities for the young people who come along every week and we are looking forward to a year of exciting adventures and opportunities.

We are very excited to be opening two new sections in our Group this January. We have a new Beaver Colony and a new Scout Troop, both starting on a Monday evening. We decided to open the new sections as we had quite a long waiting list



for Beavers with some children unable to experience being a Beaver before they were due to become a Cub. With a Scout Troop of 50, our hall was too small to safely and comfortably hold a meeting with that number of young people. The Scout Troop has therefore split so that we can plan and deliver the programme in a much better way. Both the new sections have lots of exciting things planned and can't wait to get going.

Here are some of the things that our young people can look forward to in the coming months:

- A family evening at the Ice Hockey to watch the Sheffield Steelers
- The Cubs will be taking part in a District sleepover at Ice Sheffield complete with a midnight ice skate!
- In June both the Beavers and Cubs will be taking part in Fun Days at Hesley Wood
- District Cub Camp at Walesby
- Summer Beaver Camp
- Summer Scout Camp

This is all on top of the exciting programmes that our amazing leaders have planned each week. There are lots of badge works going on this term and activities such as fencing, torchlight walks, fire lighting and Easter egg hunts. Plenty to keep everyone busy!

We are always grateful for help and extra pairs of hands. If anyone out there is interested in becoming a leader or helper with our lovely group please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you and you would be made very welcome.

*Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader
hallamadccubs@gmail.com*

Totley All Saints School Re-Union

At The Cross Scythes Hotel
Monday 26th March from 2pm
For pupils who left around 1940s
to mid - 1950s
We look forward to meeting you!

Brinkburn Gateposts!

Snow brings a smile to the old gateposts that show where Brinkburn Grange stood 100 years ago.....



....and below is a photo of Brinkburn Grange taken early in the 20th century showing the posts as they originally appeared.



Pauline Burnett, Totley History Group

Letter to the Editor

Totley Memories

I lived on Rowan Tree Dell as a child, and spent much of my time in Gillfield Woods. I remember the trees being felled during the 1940s. Everything was done with large felling axes – no saws and wedges that I remember, and they could drop a tree anywhere, with great accuracy.

Another incident that comes to mind is quite an unpleasant one. There used to be a sort of holiday chalet overlooking the brook, near the bottom of the lane leading up to the Shepleys. One evening I saw the place being trashed by a group of Totley youngsters. Windows were smashed and many household items thrown into the river. Someone had started the rumour that the place was occupied by a German spy. I remember thinking, at the time, that this was highly unlikely, and feeling very sorry for the owner.

The sight of children gathering round Totley war memorial in your last edition, brings back another memory. There was a girl called Elsa Seals in our class, and she had an older brother who had joined the R.A.F. He turned up one day at Totley C. of E. school, in his uniform, and chatted to us in the playground. Shortly after this, I learned that he had been killed. His name is on the war memorial.

I remember there being a small patch of wild daffodils by the rhododendron bushes as you enter the woods from Old Hay Lane. I wonder if they are still there?

Jim Whyte

Gardening Tips for February and March

January 9th: It's a miserable day. I have got a head cold so I thought I would cheer myself up by chatting about gardening and looking forward to spring, and warmer sunnier days. The greenhouse is keeping the overwintering plants happy, and the slightly warmer greenhouse is quite colourful with geraniums and lewisia in bloom. The cuttings in the propagator are coming along nicely, and should be ready to put into hanging baskets and tubs in mid April.

February is the time to clear up all those jobs you have not completed yet, so that you will have a clear run when the better weather comes. You don't want to be clearing leaves or relaying slabs during the busy springtime. That reminds me - I have not yet finished renovating the summer house (I'm not practising what I preach!). I must get cracking, otherwise I will be a bit behind, and I don't seem to be able to catch up very easily these days.

We have cut down a lot on propagating from seed. We buy young plants and bring them on in the greenhouse, as this saves quite a lot of time pricking out and potting on etc, and the extra cost of plants is offset slightly by the saving made on heating. I do miss the excitement of seed planting! In the past we used to have as many as 50-odd trays which needed a lot of TLC - when they were ready for hardening off it meant taking them out in the morning, and back in late afternoon, for a period of two or three weeks depending on the weather. That was quite a chore. The only things we grow from seeds now are vegetables - runner beans, broccoli, marrow etc.

Christine has got the holiday bug. We have just come back from a five-day New Year break in Llandudno, where we saw in the new year with gusto! Now Christine has booked another five days in three weeks' time at Bodelyddan Castle in North Wales. I had thought that would be enough but I notice that another holiday is in the offing for next month, so I'm afraid the garden is going to be a bit neglected by the look of things. I expect things will catch up when we give them the necessary boost.

I like to remind everyone that the Topley Show committee is working hard getting things ready for another great show in September. All they need is for lots of people to turn up, so get cracking with all those photos, drawings, paintings, crafts, cakes, jams, etc. Please encourage the children to take part. There's lots of things to have a go at - Lego models, fancy buns, computer pictures, etc. It's lots of fun and you may win a prize or even a cup!! Wow! I look forward to seeing you there.

I'm feeling better now the sun has come out, so I will type up my notes and keep the editor happy.....

PS Happy new year to you all!

February

Flowers: Cut down old perennials and fork round the plants. Work in a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore or well-rotted compost. Clean up rockeries, top dress with compost and horticultural grit. Plant out herbaceous perennials, but don't forget to protect them from slugs, as they love Delphiniums. Start Dahlia Tubers in warmth, (60 degrees is plenty). Later in the month, sow summer bedding plants like Snapdragons,



Snapdragons

Begonias, Busy Lizzy, Marigolds and Petunias, etc. They need to be kept warm. Sow Sweet Peas now under glass and plant them individually in small pots or tubes, (toilet roll centres are ideal). This will avoid root disturbance when planting outside. Take chrysanthemum cuttings using the vigorous new shoots being produced from the base of the stools, (Parent Plant). Root them in pots under glass. Lift and divide Snowdrops if they are a bit overcrowded as soon as they have finished flowering.

Some alpines such as Primula Denticulata, Pulsatilla and

Hardy Geraniums can be propagated from root cuttings. Insert an 1-2 inch portion of roots in boxes of sandy compost and place in a cold frame.

Vegetables: Digging over the plots earmarked for vegetables is a must if the ground is not frozen. Start preparing seedbeds as soon as weather permits and cover the soil with cloches to warm it up. Add lime to the soil at least 2 weeks before sowing or planting and also work in a dressing of balanced fertiliser.

If you have not done so already, put seed potatoes in a light airy frost-free place, to sprout, (chitting). Broad beans can be sown on well-drained soil, but cover with a cloche. Mice like these so be prepared. Sow onions under wider glass if you forgot to plant them on Boxing Day. Sow in individual pots or seed trays and prick out into pots or cells before the thin loop straightens. If you grow a lot of vegetables, it would pay to check your soil condition, particularly after all the wet weather we had earlier. The water will have certainly reduced the nutrients in the soil and this need to be brought up to scratch before planting outside. You can do it yourself with a small kit, or send some soil to a horticultural laboratory. Addresses are in most gardening magazines.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: As usual, firm in any newly planted stock, which has been moved by wind or frost. Give your fruit trees a feed of high potash fertiliser. Apple, pear and plums will really appreciate this. Apply mulch around young trees and cane fruit. Prick out strawberries seedlings indoors and grow for planting outside later. Apple, pear, gooseberry and currants can be primed now, so paint any large cuts with Arbrex or similar. Established autumn fruiting raspberries should be primed now, so reduce them to about 6 inches, (150 cm). Remove the tips from summer fruiting raspberries. Prepare the ground for the spring planting of evergreens, including Azaleas and Rhododendrons etc., and plant out deciduous shrubs and heathers later in the month. Prune late summer flowering Clematis. Check the tree ties are secure and not chafing or cutting into the bark. Tackle any overgrown hedges at the end of the month before new growth starts. Cut them back so that the top is a foot lower than the required height.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Feed plants only if they are flowering and only use a fertiliser specially formulated for pot plants. Keep Cyclamen cool and well watered, and remove all flowers as soon as they go over. This will encourage new buds to form. Increase humidity around houseplants in

centrally heated rooms. Spray them regularly except hairy leafed plants and stand on moist gravel. Forced bulbs need to be kept cool if a long display is required. Plant indoor Gladioli Corms and keep them in the dark until the shoots are about an inch above the compost. Ventilation in the greenhouse is important at this time, so open the top vent on fine mild days. Remember to close them an hour or so before dusk. Prune climbing plants in the greenhouse or conservatory. Cut out weak and unwanted growth and trim the side shoots to within one or two buds from the main stem. Remove faded leaves and flowers from plants and keep benches and floors clean and tidy.

Lawns: Rake and spike the lawn and apply a top dressing of sand and compost. Do not walk on the grass if it is frosted. Order turf for putting down during the next month. Prepare the ground for new seeded lawns, which should be sown in March or April depending on the weather. Last chance to get your mower serviced cheaply, as the winter discounts usually stop at the end of February.

March

Flowers: If you have not sown your Annuals already then do so now. Otherwise, you will be running a bit late. Early March is a good time for potting, particularly summer and autumn flowering ones and also those, which are grown for their foliage. Winter flowering plants are a different matter and are best re-potted as soon as they have finished flowering. Sow herbaceous perennials and rock plants. These are quite easy to grow and include Delphiniums, Lupins, Gypsophilas and many more. Towards the end of the month plant Gladioli



Delphinium

and Monbretias. You should make successional sowings over a month to 6-week period. This will lengthen the flowering time. Work in a balanced fertilizer such as Growmore around herbaceous plants. Weed other beds and start hoeing if weather permits. Dead head daffodils. Lift, split up and replant overcrowded clumps of snowdrops. At the end of the month, sow hardy annuals where they are to flower in borders. Lift and divide herbaceous perennials such as Golden Rod, Michaelmas Daisy and Yarrow when clumps become overcrowded.

Vegetables: Prepare early seed potatoes by exposing them to light in a cool frost-free place, (chitting). This will have them ready for planting out later in the month. Sow cauliflower, broccoli and other Brassicas in a frame. Sow spinach in a sheltered place; make a small sowing now and some more at a later date. Sow lettuce outdoors unless the weather is very bad, and choose a cabbage or another type of Cos. Sow the seeds thinly. Sow broad beans and peas outdoors, choosing an open cultivated plot.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Feed cane and tree fruits with balanced fertilizer, and give blackcurrants a feed of Nitro

Chalk. Make sure newly planted fruits are firm in the ground and apply the mulch well. Towards end of month, prune Roses down to 6 inches or so off the ground. Prune Floribundas 12 inches minimum, depending on the type. Plant new raspberry canes and strawberries, then complete the planting of tree and bush fruit early in the month.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: If your greenhouse is empty, (what a waste!), give it a good clean inside and wash down with disinfectant. If there are plants inside the greenhouse, then wait for a fine day to do this. Clear all of the plants out. Most of them will not tolerate even the smallest amount of disinfectant. The greenhouse should be filling up with seedlings and rooted cuttings. These must have plenty of light and air and temperature should be maintained to around 13 to 16 degrees Celsius, (55 to 60F), for the majority of popular plants. Take cuttings of bedding and greenhouse plants such as Heliotrope, Fuchsias, Pelargoniums, (Geraniums), as soon as they are long enough. This is around 3 inches for Geranium and 3 inches for Fuchsia and Heliotrope. Cucumber and melon could be sown now in a warm greenhouse. I generally wait until the end of the month. Gradually increase the watering of indoor plants, and feed actively growing plants with Potash. Liquid feed tomato fertilizer is ideal. Put a bit of potting compost on plants such as Ferns and Aspidistras. Re-pot Cacti towards the end of the month. Sow Summer Annuals for planting into pots for a late show in the greenhouse, such as Cigar Plant, Busy Lizzie, Stocks, Schianthus etc. Houseplants such as Maidenhair Fern, Button Fern, and Spider Plant can be divided and re-potted.

Lawns: Deal with bare patches by re-applying turf or re-seeding. Aerate and spike compacted areas. Prepare areas for seeding or apply turf next month. Do not forget the Totley Show in September. Now is the time to make plans!

Cheerio for now,

Tom



THE SHINE LADIES CHOIR IS HERE!

- ★ Have you always wanted to sing?
- ★ Do you love music?
- ★ Do you want to feel part of something special?

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On the Beat

Congratulations! You made it through the festive season! Spring is hopefully on the way, although I'm writing this on a typical grey January morning. It's often seen as a time for change, and here at SYP we're undergoing a bit of a re-structure too. New neighbourhood policing teams are being introduced in certain areas, with officers and PCSOs working together to resolve long term issues. The South West team which covers Dore and Topley is still based at Woodseats, but we now come under the Sheffield West district along with our colleagues from the North West team. Our Facebook and Twitter pages have been merged under the name Sheffield West NHP, the Facebook page is updated daily with information on robberies and burglaries from the day before, and if you're not following us yet, please have a look.

We have also launched a new way of keeping in touch with you through a system called SYP Alerts. This replaces the Neighbourhood Watch confirmer telephone system and is extended to all residents to email items of interest to anyone who has signed up. Visit www.sypalerts.co.uk for more information and to add your name to the mailing list. There will also be options added soon to have alerts sent via text message to your mobile.

Our Neighbourhood Watch remains strong and active across S17. If you are interested in learning more about what they do, or have thought about starting or joining a group, please contact me and I will forward your details on to the local coordinators who can let you know what is in place around your street.

For the past few months I have been holding a monthly drop-in, with my colleague who covers the Millhouses and Ecclesall area, at the Tesco store on Abbeydale Drive. This is usually around the third Wednesday in the month - dates are publicised on our Facebook page and I'm trying to find a way to let people not on Facebook know as well. If you see me there do come and say hello!

I have mentioned the Dore and Topley 'People Keeping Well' project before. We held an information event at the Cross Scythes just before Christmas which was very well attended. Activities are now planned and include a Greenoak Park clean up, life skills exchange workshops, a sporting memories group, fitness classes and a community choir. Expression of interest forms are available at Topley Library, or you can contact the coordinator, Joanna Glaves, at Age UK on 0114 2502850 or via email at Joanna.glaves@ageuksheffield.org.uk I will hopefully be popping into activities where possible for a chat and a cuppa. If you know of anyone near you who you think might like to take part in any of these please pass their details on to Joanna.

Crime-wise, we are currently seeing a small spike again across our area in thefts from vehicles and in burglaries. Please take care to ensure alarms are set, doors and windows are securely locked and all crime prevention measures are in place. Contact me if you need any advice regarding your home security.

As usual please contact me if I can be of any assistance either by email at adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or on my work mobile 07787 881945, if it goes to voicemail please leave me your name and telephone number and I'll get back to you when next on duty. Keep safe!

*PCSO 8136 Adrian Tolson
Sheffield West Neighbourhood
Police Community Support Officer
South Yorkshire Police
Woodseats Police Station
699 Chesterfield Road
Sheffield
S8 0SL*

*T: 0114 2963657 (ext.: 713657)
M: 07787 881945
A: 8136*

www.southyorks.police.uk

All Saints Church

Topley Hall Lane



Feedback requests seem to have become a regular feature following a purchase or a visit to a venue or restaurant. Two recent requests for such feedback followed a visit to the doctor's surgery and the garage. I suspect that, like many, my responses were dictated by the reasons for and the outcomes

of these visits. My visit to the doctors was for a routine injection. The garage was for an MOT, with no additional work required. How different might the feedback have been if I had been given an unwelcome diagnosis at the doctor's, or a large repair bill at the garage? It can be tiresome to be constantly asked to appraise the seemingly mundane and it can take a great deal of self-discipline to be fair and objective. Our responses and behaviour in situations depends so often on what else is going on in our lives. Often we are too busy to stop and think about how we respond, and yet how we respond often says much more than the words we use. However, feedback often helps people plan and improve what they do, so it's a valuable thing to do.

In recent years many parishes in the Church of England, including Topley All Saints, have adopted the concept of developing a Mission Action Plan or MAP. This is an opportunity for church members to give their thoughts on how they feel about all aspects of church life and the challenges that presents. It is designed to be an opportunity for everyone to give their feedback and to enable parishes to work out where their energies and attention need to be focused. At All Saints everyone was asked to take part, including the children. It's clear that people understand the need to be involved in all aspects of everyday life and that Christian faith should not be just a Sunday morning activity. This doesn't mean to say that the doors will be flung open and hordes of well-meaning people will be released into the community in order to do "good works". Christians certainly can't claim to have the monopoly on that. What it does mean is that Christians need to be part of the world that Jesus came into.

When Jesus went about his ministry, he met with all sorts of people. He didn't just mix with the religious elite behind closed doors and pray for them. He met with the sick, the non-believers and criminals, and treated them with respect even if they didn't share his views. For some of those he met it was a life changing experience, though not so for others. But that wasn't what mattered. Jesus's ministry was to demonstrate the love of God, and to show that it is available to anyone, no matter who they are or what they have been. We are all in need of forgiveness. His message to his followers was to love God and to show love for others. Two thousand years of history haven't changed that.

Services at All Saints are held every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am.

The Wednesday morning service at All Saints is a short (45 minutes) service. If you find the prospect of a busy Sunday service too daunting, this quiet, reflective time might be more suitable. You will be most welcome to attend any Wednesday at 10am.

A huge thank you to all who supported the 'Taste of Christmas' event held on 2nd December in the library. Over £200 was raised for library funds. Special thanks to Colette and the library staff for all their help on the day, and for all they do to keep this valuable community asset running. We are so fortunate to have such a hard-working group of volunteers.

*Liz Hayden
Churchwarden*

Delving into Gillfield Wood's Past - Part 2

Gillfield Wood had been extensively felled for timber during the second world war, but it is still acknowledged as a site of an ancient wood because of its ground flora. This includes wood anemones, greater stitchwort, wood sorrel and, of course, bluebells. Many of these plants prefer the shaded conditions that a wood provides. Some very old trees remain which may date back to 1600 AD and beyond. This date is significant as maps prior to this period cannot be relied upon to confirm the presence of woodland with reasonable accuracy. Artificial planting was also uncommon before this time. With expertise from Paul Ardron and Dr Barry Wright through the South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group (SYBRG), we began our second line of investigation to establish the extent of any lost woodland once part of Gillfield Wood. In the Domesday Book (1086) we read...

In Totingle, Tolf had IV bovates of land hidable, land for one plough. It is waste. Wood pasturable, 1 mile in length and half a mile in breadth.

Today the wood is little more than a hundred yards in breadth. Even bearing in mind the less accurate measurements of the past, the Domesday record still gives us the sense that an area of lost woodland or Ghost Wood must exist. We decided to explore the hedgerows to the north (on the Sheffield City Council side) and, if possible, to the south (within the Holmesfield boundary and owned by private landowners with their permission).

Some of the surrounding land may have been converted to wood pasture. This is a historical European land management system in which open woodland provided shelter and forage for grazing animals, particularly sheep and cattle, as well as woodland products such as timber for construction and fuel, coppiced stems for wattle and charcoal making and pollarded poles. We explored the few unimproved grasslands on the south side of the wood and were rewarded with some significant finds of waxcap fungi confirmed by Paul Ardron (SYBRG); these are strong indicators of the possibility of wood pasture connected to the wood in the past.

Our survey work was again supported by our research team (comprising members of FoGW and the Totley History Group). Information was gathered on land ownership, ancient field names, from old maps (some commissioned by local landowners) and newspapers, local history and living testimonies.

The Hedgerow Survey

This survey involved learning about the plants associated with our local hedgerows. If these were once the boundary to the historical wood, we might expect that some of the plant species present might also be the same shade-tolerant species in the wood today. Our first task was to learn how to identify plants in the hedgerow. We were helped by Dr Barry Wright (through SYBRG) who also gave us a system of evaluating the amount of each species present.

The process was simple. Start at one end of the hedge, take a GPS reading, then mark off 4m sections and describe what we saw in each section. Then move to a new 4m section and repeat. Trees with trunk diameters greater than 300mm found in the hedgerow were recorded as 'Significant Trees' with a GPS point and photograph taken to enable us to calculate the height and spread of the tree. The tree's condition was indicated as maiden, pollard or coppiced (plus number of trunks); was the tree diseased, dead or alive?

It took a good part of the summer months going out each Monday to acquire just the data for the hedgerows on the north side of the wood. We have 23 different hedgerows varying in length from 44m to 212m – and only from fields in close proximity to the wood.

The example spreadsheet shows the recording system used for a small section of hedge. Woody plants were given a score from 1 to 6 to indicate their density within that section of the hedge. Ancient woodland species are marked with a red asterisk or plus sign. Here, Hazel is dominant with 49% coverage, while Hawthorn has 22%.



The hedgerow survey

Herbaceous plants are more difficult to analyse as their abundance is difficult to quantify so we used a presence/absence record (red X).

| 4m Wide Sections | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|
| Significant Trees | | | | | | | | | As | | | |
| Saplings/Bushes | Den | Hedgerow Relative Density | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ash | 4% | | | | | | | | | 4 | | |
| Hazel* | 49% | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Rowan* | 6% | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Willow (Grey)+ | 8% | | | 4 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Blackthorn+ | 4% | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Damson | 4% | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Guelder-Rose | 2% | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorn | 22% | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | | | 2 | | 3 |
| Holly | 2% | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Flora | AWI | Associated Hedgerow Flora | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black Bryony | 2 | | | X | | X | | | | | | |
| Bramble | 4 | | X | | | X | X | | | | | X |
| Downy Birch | 1 | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Fern (Lady's) | 30 | | X | | X | X | | | | X | X | |
| Field Horsetail | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Herb Robert | 1 | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Ivy (on ground) | 5 | X | | X | | | X | X | | X | | |
| Ivy (Shrub) | 1 | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Nipple Wort | 1 | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Rose-Field | 6 | | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Vetch (Bush) | 5 | | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | |

We are still evaluating the data and attempting to use ancient woodland indicator (AWI) species values for the hedges. Above Lady Fern has an AWI score of 30 against only 5 crosses. This is because the fern is given a higher weighting than, say, bramble and ivy, etc. However, further research has shown that our initial weightings may be inappropriate, and I have been busy evaluating the research on ancient woodland species. The significance of plants as ancient woodland indicators is dependent on local geography, soil conditions and even the weather.

Ancient woodland indicator plants often have a restricted means of dispersal and tolerate low light – hence they often flower before the leaf canopy is fully developed. Having started in late spring/ early summer, we need to revisit our hedgerows to record early flowering plants. Should these match the AWI plants found inside Gillfield Wood along with the more significant woody species we will have a strong indication, though not proof, that these hedgerows were at one time part of the wood or at least part of some wood pasture on the periphery of the present wood.

It would also be useful to do similar work with hedgerows on the south side of the wood, but this is part of the Holmesfield parish and the land is owned by individuals rather than a city council. If any landowners wish to know more about their land we would be happy to oblige. Contact details are below. On the north side farming practices may well have resulted in disturbance of ancient woodland indicator species so that the evidence we are seeking is (cont. p. 19)

limited or no longer available.

We now have the capability of showing data on a Google map of the fields around Gillfield Wood and have used these to map our significant trees and the waxcap fungi. The hedgerow data is more complex. With so many species of woody and herbaceous plants found in the hedgerows we are having to cope with large amounts of data. This will be another challenge for 2018.

This has turned out to be a big project. We have had much to learn with still more to learn. If you would like to know more and maybe have a little time on your hands to help please get in touch through our website www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com or contact us at fogwsecretary@gmail.com.

Paul Hancock (Events Coordinator for Friends of Gillfield Wood)

Totley's Social Groups and Clubs in the 20th Century

Wind the clock back 145 years and you would find Totley was a small, self-contained village, situated in the north-east tip of Derbyshire, awaiting changes brought about by the arrival of Dore and Totley railway station in 1872 and the opportunity for incomers to access Sheffield and Chesterfield easily for work and education.

Slowly at first, the population that had hovered around 400-500 during the middle decades of 19th century was approaching 1000 as the 20th century dawned.

The 'original' villagers largely continued to be employed in agricultural work, or provided shops and services for those who seldom journeyed into the towns. The mills that had been a large employer in the district during the late 18th and 19th centuries were all but closed down as the character of this small village was set to change.

During the following 100 years the village grew steadily. The building of its own Parish Church in 1922 marked a pivotal time as Totley detached itself from the parishes of St John's Church and Christ Church, Dore, then in 1933 became a suburb of Sheffield when the city extended its boundaries.

Two wars, the building of houses for all strata of the population, churches and church halls, schools and a college that came and went, encouraged Totley people to create many ways to fill their leisure time or serve a purpose within the community. Like-minded folk would meet, and still meet, to enjoy their chosen hobby, play their favourite sport, raise funds, support one another and make friends.

Some of these groups have survived and thrived for decades, others lasted only a short time, served their purpose and are now largely forgotten. We hope to rediscover some of these and record them at Totley History Group's next meeting.

The following brief account of one such group is illustrated here, thanks to John Reeves who has sent us some memorabilia saved by his wife Pamela (nee Vickers) whose formative years were spent in Totley. In their later years they lived in the Forest of Dean. Following her recent death John was kind enough to contact THG when he found the papers among Pamela's effects.

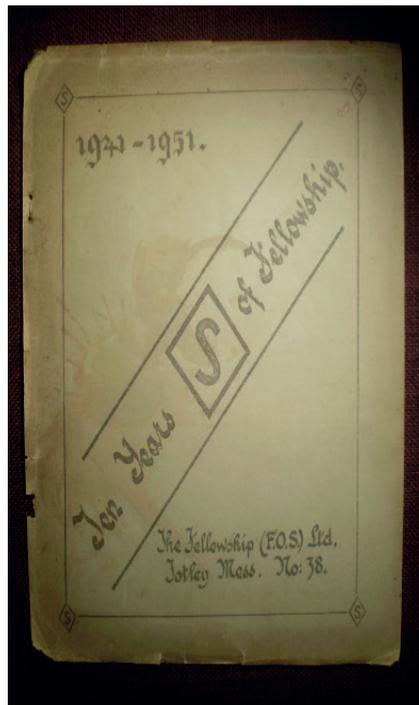
The Fellowship (F.O.S.) Ltd

This was a movement that arose following the 1914-1918 war. Run by ex-servicemen for ex-servicemen, its aim was to provide advice and companionship for those who had been in the Armed Forces and shared a strong bond of brotherhood not experienced by those who had remained in civilian life.

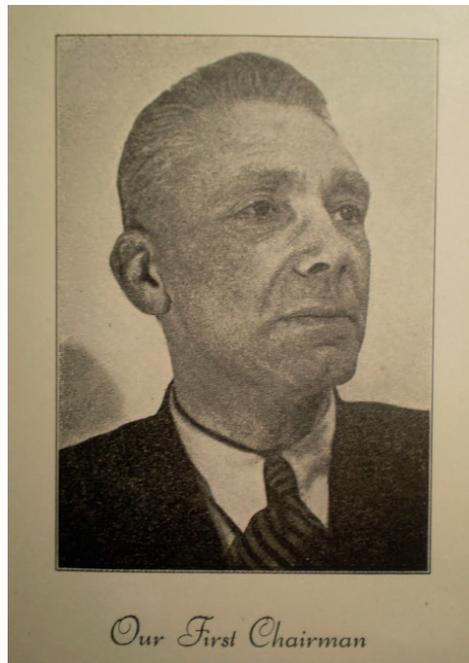
After the inauguration of Totley Mess No.38 in 1941, with just 24 'companions', it grew rapidly in the mid 1940's when conscripts were demobilised, eventually becoming a respected example and important support group for a number of other 'daughter Mess' created at Dore, Abbeydale St John's, Chatsworth and Longshaw.

On the right is a photo of the cover of a booklet produced

when Totley Mess No.38 celebrated 10 years of supporting ex-servicemen in our area. The booklet gives a fascinating account of the people involved and the work they did in those early years, with many familiar Totley names being mentioned.



In time, some original members moved to other Mess to help with their establishment, and thus Joseph Vickers (Pamela's father, pictured below) became the first chairman of Chatsworth Mess No.150. We have the programme for its inaugural meeting in April 1950, as well as the menu card for their first dinner held at The Devonshire Arms, Baslow, in May of the same year.



The full story will be on our website www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk following the (hopeful) gathering of more information about past clubs and social groups in Totley. Please come with your memories. If you have items or information but are unable to come to the meeting you can contact us on the website or tel. 0114 235 2344

*Pauline Burnett
Totley History Group Open Meeting, 'Totley's History of Sports and Social Groups', February 28th, Totley Library, 7.30pm. Non-members welcome*

Totley Rise Methodist Church

Winter at Totley Rise Methodist Church

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

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

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

6.30pm Reflective Worship most Sundays. A quieter space for worship and listening to God

9.30 – 10am 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 and you're looking for refreshment for your onward journey.

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

Focus Church: Totley Rise Methodist Church. A special church for people with learning disabilities and cognitive difficulties. The service is a time for worship, creativity, fun and fellowship . . . and an opportunity for carers to chill.

The services are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3 – 4.30pm. If you are interested, please come along or if you would like to know more, please contact Sue or John Freeman on 0114 2366819 or email sueandjohn6@talktalk.net

Men's Breakfast, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 9.30am – 11.00am
Would you like to begin your Saturday with a complimentary English breakfast and great conversation?

Men's Breakfast meets on occasional Saturdays during the year at 9.30 am. Our speakers have covered topics ranging from football legends to life as a long-haul airline pilot. All men are welcome - no pressure, an easy environment. For more information see the Church website.

Messy Church at Totley Rise Methodist 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 has 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!

Pushchair Club Every Thursday, 1.30pm-3.00pm. A place for Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers to come and chat whilst the children (0-5years) play in a Christian atmosphere. Contact Rachel on 07912 352543 or racheltrm@yahoo.com



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 0114 2369002.

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, TRMC Centre. They may natter and chatter but they are certainly productive. This busy and friendly group has been a great success. They aim to include more people from the area,

even the housebound. Housebound does not mean isolated. The group will happily provide wool, needles and a chat for those who can't travel to the church. Young people are also welcome as part of our community. 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 (still-born 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: 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 Dean on deano1972@sky.com. Or visit our website for a booking form and details of room sizes and charges.

Community Defibrillator at Totley Rise Methodist Church: the Church has been fitted with a public access defibrillator. It is a portable device that can be used by a member of the public to help restart the heart when someone has a cardiac arrest.

Always call 999 and follow the instructions from your local ambulance service. It is really important that the professionals are called and are on their way.

The defibrillator is in a yellow box, attached to the Community Hall, reached via the church car park. It is easily visible from the main road.

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.30.

Good News for Mountain Bikers!

The gains made by mountain bike groups in the Peak District are becoming shining examples across the UK

"By working together, you can make things happen," said John Horscroft of Ride Sheffield, as he rode along the popular rocky footpath along Froggatt Edge which has now become a concessionary bridleway, thanks to the willingness of land managers the Eastern Moors Partnership to get visitors talking about what they'd like in their local countryside.

"We asked walkers, what are your fears about opening up the path to cyclists?" said Chris Maloney of Peak District MTB. "They said we think mountain bikers will come haring down here and won't care who they'll hit."



Peak District Mountain Bike Advocacy: Chris Maloney of Peak District MTB and John Horscroft of Ride Sheffield on the permissive bridleway on Froggatt Edge

So Chris and his colleagues explained the benefits: if a footpath becomes a concessionary bridleway open to cyclists and horse riders as well as walkers, groups and landowners can exercise some control of usage, and talk about rights and responsibilities.

"We've had one incident on the new concessionary bridleways since 2013, and one complaint," said Danny Udall of the National Trust / RSPB Eastern Moors Partnership. "I think that's pretty spectacular over four years. Mountain bikers are doing their own self-policing, which is just what we want."

New trails negotiated with sympathetic land managers like the Eastern Moors Partnership and the National Trust lead to cyclists observing codes of conduct like the Peak Bike Code, which encourages cyclists to protect trails and the local environment, and to ride with respect for other people.

Peak District MTB and Ride Sheffield have thousands of followers on social media, including influential local professional

riders, and the point is regularly made that irresponsible riding could lose concessionary trails for other mountain bikers.

Trail policing via peer pressure is very effective, said Chris Maloney.

Along with the twitter trail update service Keeper of the Peak, Ride Sheffield and Peak District MTB have recently published 'The Advocacy Files' as guidance for other groups around the world how to work with landowners to develop and maintain trails.



Danny Udall of the Eastern Moors Partnership and son Sam (13) on the Houndkirk Road byway

Danny Udall is delighted with the success of the partnership work on the Eastern Moors: "Years ago people had to fight for access to these places. Nowadays it's more about making decisions about how we look after these special places together, and we think there is plenty of room for everybody. We know that if people are connected to the environment, they're more likely to care for it. Mountain bikers regularly help to maintain the trails they use, for example."

This month a new link with the British Mountaineering Council's 'Mend our Mountains' campaign will lead to significant conservation work on the nationally-famous 'Cut Gate' route between Langsett and Upper Derwent, and the Great Ridge between Mam Tor and Lose Hill.

And the Eastern Moors Partnership are looking at new concessionary bridleways along the 'Cairn Path' between Houndkirk and Burbage, and from Topley across Nell Croft.

"We've reached a tipping point here, with more and more people riding bikes, and land managers keen to work with and listen to us," said Chris Maloney. "Now we'd like to see the successes here mirrored and growing all over the country."

*David Bocking
National Trust*



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Walking the Dog....

Sheep, goats (and ghosts)

Jack asks Rony 10+ questions about the 11+.

1 What and when was the 11+?

It was long ago, on two Tuesdays in Feb and March. It was the scholarship exam, to decide which of all the J4 kids in all Sheffield were sheep and which were goats. And you had a secret number instead of a name. At All Saints, the exams took place in the Horsey hut, which was where the Seniors usually did their gardening and business letters, and got themselves into trouble.

And on the second Tuesday in March, it was the 11+ English and IQ.

2 What's IQ?

It's your intelligence quotient, invented by Professor Burt after he had researched into thousands of identical twins who had been separated at birth. Your IQ scored how clever you were regardless of which end of town you came from. If you passed your English and Arithmetic and then scored 120+ at your IQ you could go to a grammar school - unless you were a girl, because girls had to score more, because they didn't have as many grammar schools, because they weren't as clever as boys.

3 How did your English go?

Amazingly! I finished it with 23 minutes to spare. Then we had our curdly milk and Rod Andrew and Mick Jones and Graham Gregory compared their answers to the comprehension we'd all just done on Sherlock Holmes with ten questions, because comprehensions always have ten questions and the -

....and the trouble was - I didn't remember any comprehension about Sherlock Holmes. Or any ten questions to go with it. So I began to wee myself.

3 What happened next?

I got wet and then we were shouted back in to do the IQ test. And after it, I ran home crying, and I said a prayer to Jesus outside Mr Wesley's if He wasn't too busy (not Mr Wesley but He.) And I ran into 6 Laverdene Drive Totley Sheffield England Europe crying, and weeing, and told dad.

4 What was dad doing at home on a Tuesday dinner instead of being at the Town Hall working?

He was trying to work out how to open a tin of tomato soup because mum was a teacher so she was invigilating the 11+ at Sharrow Lane. I told him I'd missed two pages and would end up in the Horsey huts with the Seniors for ever, and never get a blazer or do Latin at King Edwards or back my books in brown paper or do homework. Dad said don't worry because he'd never passed any 11+, and look at him? So if I would just help him open the soup tin, I could have my dinner? But I heard him on the phone, talking to his masonic friends in Leopold Street, to see if anything could be done to save me from the Seniors. Then mum came home.

5 What did she do?

She asked me my secret 11+ number, then rang up all her teacher friends to find who'd marked me, and by nine o'clock that night learned that I'd got every answer right in the IQ test! And no one ever did!! It was impossible!!! But I had to promise never ever ever to tell anyone ever, even after the results came through, and even 66 years later, I promised.

6 What did Sam Smellor your head teacher say next day?

He said he'd rung up Leopold Street to ask if the two pages on the English exam were stuck together on my paper, and the bad news was that they weren't. But the good news was that when I was in his Seniors I would have as good a chance as anybody else of being chosen to be School Captain on May Queen day.

7 What happened two months later on the day when every 11+ pupil-who-had-passed's parents got a letter from Leopold Street?

We got one! And it said I'd passed to King Edwards! I chased round and round the garden eleven times and thanked Jesus and ran to school to be read out in assembly.

8 What happened to the kids who didn't pass?

They didn't get a letter so they didn't get read out in assembly. But that did not mean they had failed. They had just not

passed. Instead they could be seniors in the Horsey hut with Old Herbert, and do lettuces and business letters and get girls into trouble, unless they were girls, in which case they would have to get themselves into trouble on their own.

9 What happened next?

In September I was put in the bottom class at King Edwards with the poorest teachers, alongside the kids from the other end of town. This was because, even though my IQ exam proved how impossibly intelligent I was, I had not been intelligent enough to turn the pages properly in the English exam. But I got a blazer and did Latin and backed my books in brown paper and did homework and never spoke to a girl for seven years. And learned how not to get caned, and not to mix with any of the kids left behind in Totley in the Horsey hut... And I hated it, and hate it even more now

10 Yet you became a teacher yourself?

In a comprehensive school. Where the kids weren't divided into sheep or goats. Or boys and girls. And where no one believed this 'intelligence quotient' stuff any more because it turned out that Professor Burt's IQ was a fraud. Why did most of King Edwards boys all come from Fulwood and Dore? But anyway, now Professor Burt had died, it turned out that he'd made up all the hundreds of thousands of identical twins he said he'd found who had been separated at birth, to prove that his intelligence is inherited, and why his IQ tests worked...

No one ever explained why our teachers had not been intelligent enough to notice how unlikely it was that thousands of identical twins had been separated at birth. Or even that it was even more unlikely that a Professor would be called Burt.

11 But wasn't there a Bert Shirt who taught at All Saints?

Too late, soz. Only 10 questions, soz.

By Rony and Jack Robinson

What's on at the Library



News from Totley Library!

Totley Library continues to thrive and develop as a vital hub in our community. We are enormously grateful to all our volunteers for all their hard work and enthusiasm. Remember, without our volunteers, our users and the support of our local community we would no longer have a library in Totley – so a very big thank you to you all!

We would also like to thank everyone in the local area who have signed up to our Library Lottery. As the number of people joining our monthly lottery have grown, so have our prizes – with the first prize now being over £120! The lottery makes a real difference to the library and this support helps us to keep the library open. Details on recent winners are given below.

We were delighted that Totley Library was recently voted runner-up in the Children's Library category of the 2017 South Yorkshire For Kids Awards. Thank you for everyone who voted for the library!

As usual, we have a lot going on at the library over the next few months as detailed below.

Building Improvements

Plans for building a small extension at the rear of the library are currently with the Council's Planning Department. We are seeking permission for our plan to build a disabled public toilet and a store room. Plans are currently available in the library or via the Council.

Sheffield City Council will also start work shortly on a number of fire safety improvements to the library, including a new fire alarm system, new fire doors and compartmentalisation and improved fire escape routes.

Books, Books, Books!

Great news! - we have just been given a small grant from the Council to buy new books. Whilst we plan to buy a number of prize-winning books and best sellers, we are keen to make sure we find out what books our users and local people would like to see in the library. So, we have recently asked users for their views on what types of books they would like us to buy. We will also use some donated funds to buy more new books for our Orange sticker scheme for both adults and children. Please let us know what you think and what new books you would like us to buy.

Library Lottery winners

Congratulations to Jane Cosens and Robert Mason, our winners in the November lottery, draw who won £121.20 and £30.30 respectively; and to Claire Howard and Juliet Rowson, our December winners, who won £123.60 and £30.90 respectively.

Children's Activities at Totley Library

Story Time for Toddlers and Pre-school children: Our Story Time for Toddlers and pre-school children which is held weekly from 10.00am on a Wednesday morning continues to be popular. Each week has a different theme and children can come along with their parents or carers to enjoy a story and related activities.

School Holiday Activities at the library: During the school holidays, (other than August), Story Time at the library is extended with a welcome given to primary school aged children, aged 5-11 years. Children are invited to join activities during the holidays. Plans for half term and Easter Story Time sessions include the following:

February Half Term: Wednesday 21st February - we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year, this year is the Year of

the Dog in the Chinese Calendar.

Easter Holidays: Wednesday 4th April – we will have a variety of Easter activities

Wednesday 11th April – our theme will be Insects and Mini-beasts and we will be joined by members of the Gardening Team and also by some Friends of Gillfield Wood. Older children will be invited to join in with a project to build an Insect House which will be sited in the grounds of the library to encourage more insects and mini-beasts to visit the library garden.

Other Events at the Library

Totley All Saints Church 'It's Springtime' event – Saturday 24th March 2 -4pm. Totley All Saints Church will be holding an event to celebrate the arrival of Spring! It will be held in the library on Saturday afternoon, with stalls, refreshments and entertainment.

Family History Events - we are planning to hold two events in April and May to help people interested in researching their family histories. Talks will be given by members of the Sheffield Family History Society to provide advice to help people interested in researching their family histories. Details will be available via the library or the Totley Library website in the near future.

Totley Library Community Cinema

We have a programme of films for both children and adults planned for the Winter as shown below. Tickets include prize entry and cost £4 for adults and £2.50 for children.

Children's films

Half-Term holiday film:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thursday 22 February | 10.30am Kubo and the Two Strings |
| Sunday 18th March | 2.00pm Ferdinand |
| Sunday 15th April | 2.00pm Sing |

Films for adults

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Friday 23rd March | 7.30pm Victoria and Abdul |
| Thursday 29th March | 3.00pm My Cousin Rachel |
| Thursday 20th April | 3.00pm My Cousin Rachel |

Isabel Hemmings

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 FoGW Diary on p.10, 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.

Baby Time 1-2 pm. Fun music session with songs, rhymes and musical instruments for babies aged 0 - 18 months.

Craft Group, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Poetry Group, last Tuesday in month, 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

Please note that this group cannot accept new members at present.

Wednesday:

Coffee Morning, 10.30 – 12 noon

Toddler Story Time, 10.30 – 11.30 Craft activities, singing and stories.

Health Walks, 10.30am Wednesday, Totley Library. One longer of up to one hour duration and one shorter walk, followed by refreshments from Totley CRIC. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email stepoutsheffield@gmail.com www.healthwalksinffield.btck.co.uk/

Totley History Group, usually last Wednesday of the month, 7.30. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters in library, the Independent Diary, or www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

Yoga sessions 7.00 – 8.30 pm, Wednesdays (except the last Wednesday of the month). For more details call Ann Zielonka on 0114 2361585 or 07929736966. Beginners welcome.

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Emer on: 07792 422909

Rachel on: 07956 908454



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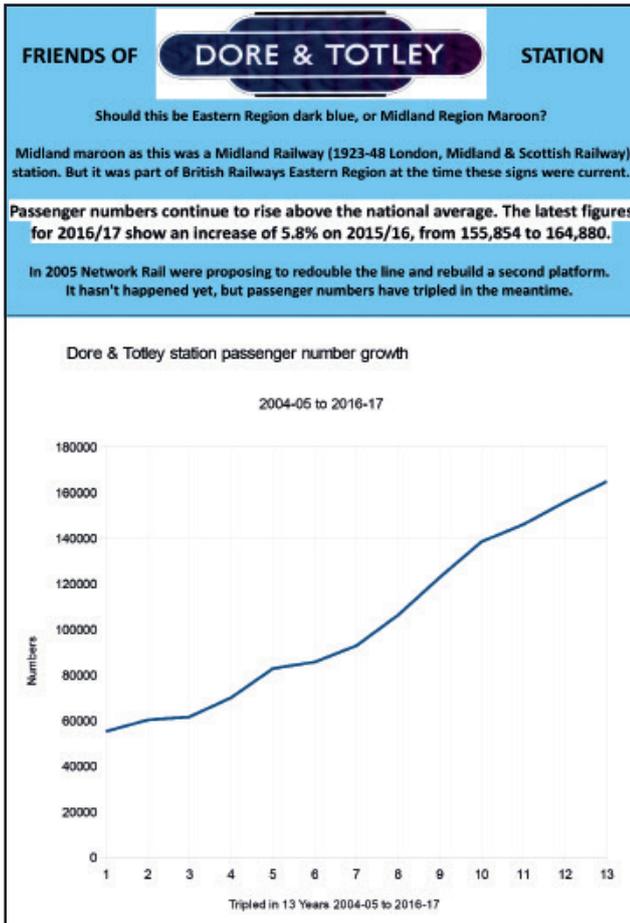
Email: PAUL.SOUTH1@TESCO.NET

Friends of Dore and Totley Station – FoDaTS

Passenger numbers were up almost 6% on last year

Statistics released by the Office of Rail and Road show the numbers of passengers using our station increased by 5.8% from 155,854 to 164,880 between 2015/16 and 2016/17. That's higher than the national average (in some parts of the South-East numbers are now going down). Given the infrequency of the service, particularly into Sheffield at commuting times, this continued steady growth indicates there's need for both more services and better facilities at Dore and Totley.

Numbers have doubled in the last seven years. They've trebled since the first documented public mention was made in 2005 of plans to redouble the track and platform. Numbers have quadrupled over the last 20 years!



Extra TransPennine Express stop at 6.15 towards Manchester

Some scoffed at the need for such an early train. On 11th December, the first day it stopped, 16 passengers boarded. Not bad considering the only advertising of the stop was by FoDaTS. The following East Midlands 6.26 slower service also picked up 16 that day. 70-100 passengers regularly board the next TPE service at 7.14.

Northern now run hourly services on Saturdays and Sundays all year round.

This reflects the growth in leisure travel for outdoor pursuits in the Hope Valley, and for shopping and longer distance travel via Manchester, though due to engineering work there was an hourly bus substitute service in operation on 14th January! Roll on hourly services Monday to Friday!

Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy Consultation

Consultations come in their droves. This one is far reaching, although a lot is about road traffic. However, we note much is made of improving rail connections with both Leeds and Manchester. We'd agree with that, but improving connections between Dore and Totley and Sheffield would be a good idea first. We're aware that about three years ago SYPTe and the City Region commissioned a feasibility study into reinstating

all four platforms at our station, and that a case could be made to do so. The imminent arrival of HS2 down the Sheaf Valley kills any chance of that. But a case might possibly be made to consider a third bay platform to allow an hourly service to run through from, say, Doncaster or Leeds, supplementing the current almost hourly slow service. Wishful thinking?



There really were 16 people at 6.14 on a cold 11th December morning to board that first train.

Whatever, in the next edition of Totley Independent we'll be looking at our latest parking survey. Yes, we need at least another 100 spaces now, but where can we put them? Who'll pay? What would they look like? Watch this space!

If you use the trains, or just have an interest in developments at our station, please join us by sending an email with your contact details to our Secretary; nj-barnes@outlook.com

You can also join us on Facebook - just search for FoDaTS. Look in from time to time to see the latest news - and to post constructive comments, please!

Chris Morgan, Chairman, FoDaTS. See www.fodats.net

Millthorpe Nursery

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Organic Gardening

If, like me, you have some knowledge about soil, you will still have been fascinated if you watched the TV programme 'Deep Down and Dirty' on BBC4 recently. It explained how soil is formed (it is an extremely slow process) and how it became able to support plant-life. It provides the nutrients plants need and the organisms that have developed in it re-cycle the plants when they die back. These organisms include fungi and their mycelia and a huge variety of microscopic organisms, insects and three species of worms which each play a different role in the breakdown of plants. Some organisms break down leaves and others wood. They maintain a healthy balance of nutrients, and also the texture and moisture-retaining properties of the soil. They also predate on each other, but soil has more life in it than all the life above it.

The first plants to develop were lichens and, before there was any human activity, trees, shrubs and flowers developed along with insects and other wildlife, all of which depend on the plant-life directly or indirectly.

However, this balanced state is easily damaged and, while early farmers would have had some effect, over the last ten centuries or so, land has been cleared or drained, trees have been cut down and intensive farming (with its use of chemicals and loss of hedgerows) have done much damage to the soil and caused huge loss of wildlife habitats.

Then invaders and travellers brought in exotic plants which can be more impressive than our natives, but can be very invasive and difficult to remove, displacing our native flora. We also plant lots of cultivated plants which can have the same effect and do not support our wildlife in an ecologically natural way.

Just as plastic waste in the oceans is killing precious wildlife, the use of chemicals on farmland and in gardens is killing life in the soil. Like plastic, chemicals are everywhere. Most plants bought from local shops, garden centres and DIY stores will be grown in compost to which chemicals have been added.

I have been browsing through some old issues of Dore to Door. In the early 1990s, "Jack Daw" wrote articles about this problem (perhaps I should use a pseudonym but no suggestions, thank you!). That was over twenty-five years ago and the situation is now worse - we need to learn lessons and start acting much more quickly - a very good reason to go organic both in the garden and in the kitchen. Most people are put off going organic because of the cost, but the true costs and the long-term costs of not going organic don't bear thinking about. Start with little steps so that it just gradually becomes a way of life.

Jack Daw also explained that bees and other pollinators have evolved with the scent and form of our native flowers, while the scent and form of introduced flowers is not always so attractive to them or the nectar and pollen as accessible. He also pointed out that evolution (of flowers) is not for man's pleasure, but to attract butterflies and moths.

My brother, who lives in Australia, has sent me an article from a newspaper. It is headed "Swap a weed for a native". Like here, people have introduced exotic plants and some are very invasive. At least they are referred to as weeds, whilst here most people refer to our own wildflowers as 'weeds'. The writer points out that these changes threaten the very survival of our ecosystems and that 'weeds' out-compete native flora for sunlight, nutrients and space. Ironically, over the page is their regular 'advice for gardeners' article, advising which foreign or cultivated plant looks most wonderful or lasts longest!! Similarly, the RHS, garden centres, flower shows and most garden programmes and magazines show no real concern for the state of the soil or the loss of native flowers and wildlife.

The Australian article also mentions gardeners' jobs which they should be doing each month. I had always failed to achieve those, but don't have to now, as native plants are very resilient and are mostly easily transplanted if necessary or if you choose to do so.

In my experience, people who involve themselves in organic and sustainable gardening, farming or conservation efforts,

whilst frustrated with the lack of concern generally for the state of the environment, get much satisfaction from what they do either on their own or with like-minded people, and make many friends.

We need to act now to try and save our ecosystems or it will be too late, and our children and grandchildren will not thank us for the legacy we leave for them to deal with. During a recent programme with Judi Dench ('My Passion for Trees'), one expert said that the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago! Failing that, do it today!!

Just to finish, E. B. White, author of 'Charlotte's Web', said "I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man, if he spent less time proving that he can outwit nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her sincerity".

Marian Tiddy

Holmesfield Church Walking Group

Baslow Chatsworth Walk



On Wednesday 28th February at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from the Wheatsheaf Public House in Baslow. We will walk to the Stables at Chatsworth House, where we will have coffee, then up the hill to the Hunting Tower and back through the park where we will visit the Jubilee Stone, then back to the Wheatsheaf where we will have lunch (optional).

The cost of the walk is £3 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church maintenance fund. If you would like to come, just turn up on the day. The walk is approximately 5 miles long, with a few easy stiles. If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246412767.

Abbeydale Park Bowling Club

The Club will be holding OPEN MORNINGS on Saturday 7th and Saturday 14th April 2018 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 and practice sessions organised.

Crown green bowling is an outdoor activity which provides an opportunity to meet people and forge new friendships.

Our Bowls Club is primarily a social bowling club with informal sessions running each day in the morning, afternoon and evening. Playing groups are made up by members as they 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 regularly 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 come and join us at our Open Days, equipped with suitable footwear (flat with no heels), where you will be warmly welcomed. All other equipment can be provided. We have a selection of bowls from which you can choose, to borrow for play.

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

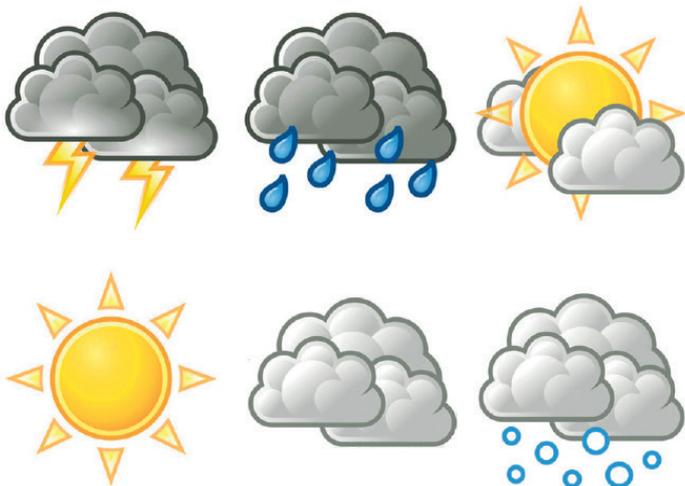
Totley Weather Report 2017

Long term records were broken, taken from Weston Park weather report -

- Driest January since 2006
- Highest March Minimum on record
- Warmest May (mean month) since 1992
- Highest June Maximum since 1995
- Warmest June (mean month) since 2005
- Most September Rain Days since 2001
- Warmest October (mean month) since 2005

January was slightly warmer than average, followed by February, March and April being decidedly warmer with April having the longest dry spell (11 days in Totley (T) and 12 days in Weston Park (WP)). May also had 10 days dry in both T and WP which was promptly followed by 10 days of rain producing 53.1mm out of 66mm for the month in T and 46.4mm out of 56.3mm WP.

June was the wettest month with about equal days of being dry or wet, followed by September which had 23 days T and 25 days WP wet. Totley exceeded WP average for rain in 7 months and WP 3 months.



Total rain was 934.5mm in T and 694.3mm in WP. The wettest day was 8th August with 32.7mm in T and 25.6mm in WP; and August also was the only month not to equal or break the WP long term average for temperature.

May finished up with high temperatures in both T and WP making it the warmest since 1992 according to the WP summary.

The hottest day of the year was 18th June with 28.8C in T and 29C in WP. The coldest night recorded was 27th January with -5C in T and -3.4C in WP. Snow was recorded in T, either falling or lying, on 10 days, though snow falling at WP did not settle long enough for their records.

Only one thunderstorm was recorded in Totley.

The monthly sunshine hours recorded in WP broke the long-term average on eight occasions. The total for the year was 827 hours.

Statistics at a glance -

Rain for the year:

| | Totley | Weston Park |
|------|----------|-------------|
| 2017 | 934.5mm | 694.3mm |
| 2016 | 1114.5mm | 797.1mm |
| 2015 | 1074.1mm | 750.8mm |

Wettest Day

| | Totley | Weston Park |
|------|---------|-------------|
| 2017 | 32.7mm | 25.6 mm |
| 2016 | 60 mm | 37.7 mm |
| 2015 | 33.2 mm | 23.3 mm |

Coldest Night:

| | Totley | Weston Park |
|------|--------|-------------|
| 2017 | -5C | -3.4C |
| 2016 | -5C | -2.6C |
| 2015 | -5C | -1.6C |

Hottest Day:

| | Totley | Weston Park |
|------|--------|-------------|
| 2017 | 28.8C | 29.0C |
| 2016 | 26.0C | 30.5C |
| 2015 | 28.0C | 32.7C |

Vivien Filleul



Transport 17

Thank you so much for all your support at the Christmas Fayre! We raised over £800 which has helped to boost the coffers quite substantially. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, the demand on the cake stall was very good and people particularly enjoyed winning a 'prize every time' on our bottle bonanza stall!

Our next Coffee Morning will be on 10th March where the new mini bus will be officially launched. It has been in use for several months and has been very popular with our service users.

We have lost some of our volunteers due to natural causes (though not the grim reaper, thankfully) and could really do with some more. If there is anyone who can give us a few hours a week on a regular basis to escort and/or train to be a driver they would be more than welcome. Please contact John or Mike in the office on 2362962, Monday to Friday between 9am and 12 noon. Thank you.

We have had several donations recently (totalling £3,620) from Totley Open Gardens, Stella Jockel, Derbyshire Masonic Lodges, Dore Village Society, J Cotterill and Totley All Saints Church, as well as a donation in memory of Sheila Biggins. May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of everything for 2018.

Felicity Revill

Planning Applications

One of the most common reasons for contacting a local Councillor is for help or advice with planning applications. The City Council receives around 5,000 applications a year and in 2017 only 6% were refused. When that happens the applicant can appeal but in roughly 80% of cases the Council's decisions are upheld.

Across Totley, Bradway, Dore and Whirlow there were 258 planning applications in 2017, most of which were simple extensions to family homes. There were a few complex cases that generated a lot of public comments and requests for help from Councillors.

It is our job to advise local residents how the planning process works and how they can make their views known. We also submit our own comments to the planning department when appropriate.

If you need any help or advice with a planning issue please feel free to contact us or visit one of our monthly surgeries.

Councillor Martin Smith
email: martin.smith@sheffield.gov.uk

Running boom in Sheffield!

"You only have to walk out your door to the shops now to see people of all ages and abilities running up and down," said runner Dot Kesterton, "and usually these days they're wearing appropriate clothing rather than Eric Morecambe pants."

Sheffield's running boom is leading to new business for the Outdoor City, with Stuart Hale's Accelerate running shop in Attercliffe seeing a particular growth in women runners over the last year, thanks to new women's clubs and activity campaigns like Sheffield's MoveMore, along with an increased understanding that regular activity is good for both physical and mental health, said Margo Duncan, a GP, triathlete and run leader.

"We can now say to people you can get off your pills if you take up some exercise," said Margo. "I can advocate exercise as a GP and say it will help you lose weight, improve your blood sugar levels and improve your mood."



Runners on the Running Route at Burbage and Houndkirk

"The evidence is that our sedentary lifestyle where you're sat in your office, sat in your car, and sat in front of your TV, is incredibly bad for us and incredibly dangerous," said fellow running doctor Simon McCormick. "Just getting up and moving is what we want people to start doing. People talk about saving for their financial pension, but I want to enjoy my retirement, so running is my physical pension."

With help from England Athletics, Sheffield Council have launched 30 new Outdoor City run routes in parks and open spaces, with carefully marked trails usually between 1 and 5km long. Now there are two new longer routes from city to countryside: the first two 'challenging routes' run from Ecclesall Woods along a 14km climb sponsored by Accelerate to Ringinglow and back, or a monster 24km route over Redmires, Stanage and Burbage sponsored by the Inov8 running equipment company.

"These signed trails are not confined to spaces people traditionally associate with walking or running. We've tried to

incorporate these new routes into communities across Sheffield, to ensure that everyone, regardless of where they live, can join in," said Councillor Mary Lea, Sheffield Council's cabinet member for culture, parks and leisure.

On Thursdays a small team of volunteer coaches give tips and workouts to everyone from veterans to beginners at the Ecclesall Woods 'Wood Run' (another Wood Run is at Shire Brook on Wednesdays, both subject to a nominal fee to cover costs).



Wood Run in Ecclesall Woods

People take up running mainly for health or social reasons these days, said Stuart Hale, rather than being driven by competition. Sheffield is a unique city for running, he said, with the hills and valleys, the parks and woods and the Peak District countryside within easy reach for the more intrepid runner.

"When you first come to Sheffield and say: 'What about the hills?' the locals say: "Hills? Yes, and? Hills aren't a barrier here, they're normal," said Stuart.

David Bocking, National Trust

FREE DIGITAL DROP-IN ADVICE



Do you need a little help using the computer or getting online? Got an e-mail issue? Or would you like to learn to Skype your family?

Come and ask our friendly volunteers at our regular INTERNET DROP-IN SESSIONS

Google Digital Garage, Barker's Pool, Sheffield City Centre
Third Thursday of each month, 1.00-3.00pm
21st Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Feb, 15th March, 19th April

Sheffield Central Library, fortnightly on Fridays, 9.30-11.30
26 Jan, 9 and 23 Feb, 9 and 23 Mar, 6 and 20 Apr

Dore & Totley Library, fortnightly on Wednesdays, 2.00-4.00
17 and 31 Jan, 14 and 28 Feb, 14 and 28 Mar, 11 and 25 Apr

Forgotten history: Sheffield Castle

Archaeologists at the University of Sheffield have recently undertaken the most in-depth study to date of the Castle archives in the vaults of Sheffield museum. Some fantastic new information, drawings, plans and artefacts from the forgotten castle have now been seen and assessed.

Built in Sheffield in the late 11th or early 12th century, the castle played an important role in English history. Mary Queen of Scots, who was regarded by many as the rightful Queen of England, was held prisoner there for more than 10 years, between 1570 and 1584, before she was executed in 1587.



It was home to some of the great families of the time, the Furnivals, Nevils, Shrewsburys and Howards, and Cardinal Wolsey (Archbishop of York, Lord Chancellor and chief adviser to Henry VIII), is likely to have stayed there in 1530.

The castle was a Royalist stronghold during the English Civil War until it fell to Parliamentary forces on 11 August 1644. Its strength and importance were such that Parliament felt the need to eliminate the threat it posed, and, in 1646, ordered its demolition.

Earlier excavations on the site of the castle, particularly those carried out in the 1920s and 1950s, remain largely unpublished. University researchers together with local archaeological specialists have for the first time studied in detail the finds from those excavations – and are gaining important new insights into life in Sheffield, and in the castle, in the middle ages.

The University of Sheffield-led research team now believes that the creation of the castle was accompanied by the development of a planned town, whose streets still form the core of Sheffield city centre.

The earliest finds from the 20th-century excavations date from the 11th or 12th centuries, and consist of pottery from kilns in Lincolnshire. By the later middle ages some of the castle's pottery was made in kilns in Sheffield itself, though some was being imported from the Low Countries.

Some of the finds bring us very close to the people of Sheffield – a cobbler dumped waste leather and old shoes into the castle's moat where they survived to provide us with unique insights into Sheffield fashions in footwear from the 15th to the 17th century.

Sheffield is known for steel production and its rich industrial heritage, but its roots lie in the middle ages. If it wasn't for its demolition following the Civil War, Sheffield's skyline might still be dominated by its castle. Hopefully the new excavations due to commence this Spring, will put Sheffield Castle firmly back on the map.

As well as helping to highlight Sheffield's medieval heritage, academics from the University are working closely with Sheffield City Council and the Friends of Sheffield Castle – a voluntary group who work to protect and promote the castle site – to use that heritage to help the regeneration of Castle-gate, the city's historic but run-down former heart.

See <http://friendsofsheffieldcastle.org.uk/>

Recently Spotted.....

You couldn't make it up!

The men turned up to do those yellow lines on Sunnyvale Road.



They didn't notify the residents which day they would be doing the work. No worries! They just worked around any vehicles parked!



Needless to say the work replacing kerb stones and filling those holes had not been finished. No worries! They just worked around those pesky holes:



But They did come back and fill in those holes in the gutter and they did join up the lines.

"So" I said "See you in a few months then."
"What?" he responded.

"You know, when they come and do the kerbs and resurface the roads you will be back to do the lines again."

"No mate, not us!" he replied.....

"Whoever does the resurfacing has to replace the lines, it's in the contract!"

But when we get the roads resurfaced is anyone's guess now. Why should we worry anyway? After all,

Main Avenue, Sunnyvale Avenue and Sunnyvale Road are only the main access roads to Totley Primary School, taking buses, coaches, lorries and all kinds of traffic.....

A Totley resident (name and address supplied)

TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

- MONDAYS** **COFFEE MORNING**, All Saints Church Hall, 10am-12noon. 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, 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Tel. Ang Ibbottson on 07772 241711.
PILATES, The Old School, Dore, 9.15-10.15am. Phone Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372.
BABY TIME, Totley Library, 1-2pm. A fun music session with songs, rhymes and simple musical instruments for babies aged 0-18months
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, 9.00-10.00am and 10.15-11.15am. 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. Katy Maclean 07790 411893.
HEALTH WALKS, 10.30am, Totley Library. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email stepoutshel field@gmail.com www.healthwalksinnsheffield.btck.co.uk. For more information see Totley Library item in this issue.
MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm.
CHILDREN'S FITNESS CLASSES for pre-school girls and boys aged 2-5. Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 10.10am, 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 - 1pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276
PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1.30-3pm. Tel. 07912 352543 for details.
PILATES CLASS run by a qualified Pilates Instructor and Physio-therapist for all abilities and ages. 1.30 - 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Emer on 07792 422909.

FEBRUARY

- SAT 17th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** 'Revealing Gillfield Wood - Hedgerows and Standing Stones'. 10 am, bottom of Totley Hall Lane. A walk and talk to discover what we know about the standing stones in the brook and the use of hedgerows surveys to explore an older Ghost Wood on the periphery of the present wood. For more details see page 11.
- WED 14th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB** 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Dr Andrew Rafferty, 'Theater to Theater'. Visitors Welcome.
- SUN 18th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 11.
- TUES 20th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**, Laura Leverton, 'Treetops'. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.
- MON 26th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** 'Recording Your Patch'. Paul Richards (Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust) on the work of 'Nature Counts: the need to record Sheffield's wildlife'. Totley Library, 7.30. For more details see p. 11.
- WED 28th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB** 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Mike Ogden, 'A Place by the River'. Visitors Welcome.
- WED 28th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Open Meeting** on the theme of Sports, Social and Community Groups. Everyone is invited to bring along their memories and photographs of local clubs, societies, social and community groups. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

MARCH

- WED 14th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB** 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Bryan Longbone, 'A Look at Scunthorpe Iron and Steel'. Visitors Welcome.
- SAT 10th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Spring Fungi Walk, with Steve Clements. 10 am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 11.
- TUES 20th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD Annual General Meeting**. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.
- SUN 18th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 11.
- SUN 25th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES** Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/
- WED 28th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB** 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Stephen Gay, 'Through Kirton Tunnel - Sheffield to Cleethorpes'. Visitors Welcome.
- WED 28th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP** 'Off the Track in Derbyshire'. What hides out of sight alongside the Dore to Chinley railway line. An illustrated talk by Stephen Gay. Totley Library, 7.30pm.

If your organisation wants to publicise its events, or if you know about any local event, such as community markets or concerts, which you'd like to let Totley people know about, please send details to Totley Independent (copydates are provided on the back page or on our website at www.totleyindependent.co.uk) and we'll do our best to include the information on this Diary page!

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