

Totley Independent

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Green Oak Park, February 2019 - three colours of crocus on an unseasonably warm morning

Spring at last!

Welcome to the springtime edition of *Totley Independent*! In this issue you will find local news, views and information about events over the next two months. As usual, there are updates from the library, the scouts and the local churches, with news from our two primary schools.

Also featured are -

- an in-depth look at the typical weekly work of Transport 17;
- the story of the incredible lady parachutists of the late 19th century;
- the amazing saga of one local person's involvement with Sheffield City Council, the Local Government Ombudsman and a tree.

You can find out how to protect your shoes whilst supporting very important local causes (see p.3), you can make a date for a film-show at our community cinema (see p.5), or you can choose to get involved in any number of local organisations and activities (see Diary, p. 30).

Gardeners will find gardening tips for the next two months, local historians can find out what's about to be unearthed, and naturalists and environmentalists can discover which birds were spotted in Gillfield Wood earlier in the year, as well as seeing what's coming up soon... and as always there's lots more in your springtime *Independent*!

Dive in and enjoy!

Write for Totley Independent!

Do you have a story to tell about Totley? Is there a local issue which you feel strongly about? Maybe you've written a story or a poem which you want to share with readers?

If so, write to us and send in your item - we're always looking for interesting new material for the *Independent*!

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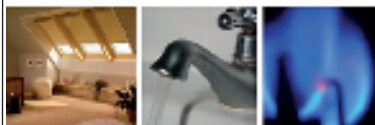
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Protect your shoes for a good cause!

How many times have you bought a pair of shoes and been persuaded by the salesperson to spend another £5 or more on a can of spray-on shoe protector?

Well now, thanks to a new initiative by Carl at Totley Shoe Repairs on Totley Rise, you can have your shoes treated with 'Power Protector' shoe protector spray for only £2 – and of every £2 you spend on this service, £1 goes straight to supporting either St Luke's Hospice or Macmillan Cancer Support – you decide which!

You don't have to have bought your shoes from Carl, and the protector works on virtually any shoes whether they're leather, suede, or fabric. You can take any pair in to get them treated, knowing that at the same time you're supporting very worthwhile local causes!



Recently Spotted.....



Library volunteer Russell Brown recently celebrated his 90th birthday with fellow volunteers at Totley Library. Russell has been a volunteer (a member of the library cleaning team) since 2015 – and is going strong!

Chris Wilder unveils local fundraiser for St Luke's Hospice

Totley Pharmacy's donation station for St Luke's Hospice was recently opened to the public by the Sheffield United boss.

This is the third year running that the pharmacy has supported St Luke's, a hospice specialising in care for terminally ill patients throughout Sheffield. It also marks the continued sponsorship of Sheffield United by Totley Pharmacy.

Chris Wilder, who has led United to promotion and continues to maintain a championship promotion push this season, described it as "very important that we recognise local charities raising money for a good cause like this."

He continued; "Being from Sheffield myself there's obviously a connection. Unfortunately, my father in law passed away a year and a half ago and spent his last days in St Luke's, so I know how special it is and what a fantastic job they do in the

City of Sheffield and the surrounding areas of taking care of people in difficult times."

Many local people attended the opening of the fundraiser, contributing clothes and money, and looking for photo opportunities with their United hero. Patrick Connolly, a veteran Blades fan, thought it was 'fantastic' that Mr Wilder came here in the middle of the season. "I have donated to St Luke's in the past," said Patrick, "but this is another opportunity, and it's great to meet such a fantastic manager from the club I have supported for decades."



St Luke's hospice is heavily reliant on charity, only receiving 25% of its funding from the NHS. Peter Hartland, one of the hospice's chief executives, described events like these as 'integral', and was 'grateful to every single person who contributes.'

Tajinder Singh, the owner of Totley Pharmacy for the past 23 years, is proud of their continued community work with local organisations and schools, including funding a local walking football tournament. "As opposed to just being a business," he said, "we try to make it about caring for the community, caring for people."

Robbie Welch



Can you help us?

To keep the volunteer-run library open, we need to raise funds throughout the year and we are hugely grateful to local people for their ongoing support.



PLANT SALE – Saturday 11TH May, 2019

Last year we raised over £1000 for the library thanks to the wonderful selection of plants that were donated.

Do you have any spare plants at home? Or any plants in your garden that could be divided and donated? If you are able to help by donating any plants, please contact Fiona Smith at

fionaksmith@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the library or via the library Facebook page -



www.facebook.com/pg/TotleyLibrary/posts/



NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The gardening volunteers are doing a fabulous job tidying and replanting areas of the library grounds, and successfully raising a significant amount of money for the library funds by holding an annual plant sale. However our numbers are now fairly depleted.

Can you help us to continue this work? Maintain the improvements already made? And/or fundraise through the plant sale? If you are able to help, or would like to get involved, please contact Fiona Smith at fionaksmith@gmail.com or leave a message at the library.

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What's on at the Library



Totley Library is run entirely by volunteers, and many local people contribute in very wide range of different ways to helping to keep a local library and vibrant community centre alive in the neighbourhood – by volunteering in the library, helping with the garden, cleaning, book purchasing, running events, raising funds, helping with the film club, baking cakes and whole host of other really important jobs. We're always on the look-out for new people, new skills and fresh ideas, so please drop in to the library if you're interested in getting involved and having some fun!

Looking for New Trustees

Many of the Trustees involved in the charity responsible for running the library, Totley CRIC, have been involved in this work from the beginning, which is over six years ago now! Some of our Trustees will be standing down at the AGM in September due to other commitments, and we are now looking for new people interested in supporting Totley Library in the capacity of Trustee of the registered charity, Totley Community Resource and Information Centre (Totley CRIC). You don't need to be an expert in library matters to be a Trustee!

We're looking for people who have management experience gained in business, the public sector or in a charity. In particular we would be interested in talking to people with management skills that would support the charity such as managing volunteers, health and safety, safeguarding or organizing committees.

If you think this may be of interest please contact Natasha Watkinson, our Chair, for a chat, via natashawatkinson@hotmail.co.uk

Plant Sale – Saturday 11th May

I'm sure you will be pleased to hear we'll be holding our highly popular Plant Sale again this year! The Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 11th May (see the display ad on page 3 of this issue), and we're hoping it will be as successful as last year, when we raised over £1000 for library funds!



If you would like to donate any plants or grow seedlings for the Plant Sale, we would be extremely grateful. Please contact Fiona Smith via Totley Library if you are able to help.

Totley Library Lottery Winners

Congratulations to recent Library Lottery winners! In January, Julie Dudson won the first prize of £136.60 and Collette Duke won the second prize which was £34.15. In February, Ann Buttrell won the first prize which was £137.40 and Julie Dudson won the second prize of £34.35. Thanks to all of you who are signed up to our Lottery as this provides very valuable financial support to the library.

Events at the library

Our popular monthly Book Sales continue into the Spring, and we have a number of events over the coming weeks!

Gardening and Nature Book Sale will be held on Saturday morning on 6th April 2019

Totley Yard Sale at Totley on Sunday 28th April - we will be supporting the Library by selling second hand books, second hand jewellery, cakes and tea.

Plant Sale at Totley Library between 10.30am and 1.00pm on Saturday 11th May, to include a book sale and refreshments, including homemade cakes and tea / coffee.

Story Time for Toddlers and Pre-school children. This popular session runs weekly from 10.30am on Wednesday mornings. Each week has a different theme and children can come along with their parents or carers to enjoy a story and related activities.

Totley Library Community Cinema

Films in our spring programme are listed below.

For normal showings, tickets include raffle prize entry and cost £4 for adults and £2.50 for children.

Children's films

Sunday 28th April	2.00pm Peter Rabbit
Sunday 19th May	2.00pm Smallfoot

Films for adults

Friday 12th April	7.30pm The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
Thursday 25th April	3.00pm The Children Act
Thursday 16th May	3.00pm The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
Friday 24th May	7.30pm The Children Act

Isabel Hemmings

Regular events and meetings at Totley 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 the 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
Story Time, 10.30 – 11.30 Craft activities, singing and stories.
Health Walks, 10.30am Wednesday, Totley Library. One longer walk 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 stepoutssheffield@gmail.com www.healthwalksinnsheffield.btck.co.uk/
Totley History Group, usually last Wednesday of the month, 7.30. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters, 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 07929 736966. Beginners welcome.

Friday:

Sporting Chatter (People Keeping Well) Every fortnight, 10-12noon. 12th and 26th April, 10th and 24th May. Enquiries: call 0114 250 2850.



Transport 17

By the time you are reading this article our Spring Coffee Morning with its Mad March As New Stall, Chocolate Bonanza Lucky Dip and Spring Treats Raffle will have been and gone. Hopefully it will have been as successful as the Christmas Fayre.

Since the last article our oldest bus the MX05 failed its MOT test and we were left with a bill of £1800 to get it back on the road which has hit us hard. We are pleased to say it has now passed its test but it reinforces just how important our fundraising events are and how much we appreciate all your support. Recently the aim of our fundraising has been on helping to keep Transport 17 on the road and an unexpected cost such as this makes the need for this focus so important. We have been aiming to replace the MX05 bus by 2020 and the expense of these repairs has highlighted how imperative this is. We have funds of £25,000 already so the pressure is now on to raise the remaining £25,000! Consequently we face quite a challenge for the year to come which is already rattling away. Transport 17 needs you all now more than ever.

It is almost a year since the last new bus launch celebration and with our push to replace MX05 perhaps this is an appropriate opportunity to tell you a little bit more about the role of the Transport 17 buses and Transport 17 as an organisation. Jenny Nuttall and Wendy Trotter's article *Transport 17 Through the Ages* in the November/December edition provided a lot of background information about us which we can expand on here.

Generally every week, Monday to Friday, three buses set off from the office on Baslow Road. With a volunteer driver and passenger assistant they transport older people who cannot use other transport, some of whom have mobility problems to get out to clubs, giving them an opportunity to socialise in the local community and improve their quality of life.

The buses are fitted with tail lifts and wheelchair safety clamps to help with this. All the drivers have to undergo a Midas Test every 3 years to ensure their capability to drive the bus, to keep the passengers safe and to correctly handle aids which enable the passengers to get out and about. The passenger assistants help to get the passengers from their homes onto the bus and then into the venue they attend. Quite often the schedule for a bus covers more than one club so once one group have been delivered it then starts again with another group of passengers and of course the process works in reverse to return them all back home. As each journey involves the same people each week then both drivers and passenger assistants get to know their passengers (and vice versa), understand their needs and establish quite a relationship with them.

Below is the programme of clubs and where the passengers come from for the week.

Monday: Sheffield Live at Home Scheme (Bents Green and Nether Edge areas); Meersbrook Park Lunch Club (Sheffield 8 from Meersbrook up to Norton)

Tuesday: Dore & Totley Lunch Club (Dore, Totley and Millhouses); Dore Open Door (Dore); Lowedges Lunch Club (Bradway, Greenhill, Lowedges)

Wednesday: Dore Lunch Club (Dore and Millhouses); St. William's Lunch Club (Bents Green, Ecclesall, Millhouses and Nether Edge); St. Mark's Lunch Club (Broomhill & Crosspool).

Thursday: St. John's Lunch Club (Dore, Totley, Bradway and Millhouses); Gresley Road Lunch Club (Norton and Lowedges)

Friday: Totley Rise Lunch Club (Totley, Bradway, Dore and Millhouses); St. Oswald's Lunch Club (Nether Edge, Millhouses, Beauchief, Greenhill and Norton); St. Thomas Lunch Club (Totley, Beauchief and Norton Lees).

As you can see, Dore, Totley and Bradway constitute our core

area. The office on Baslow Road is the hub for the organisation. There's someone there each morning, including John Savournin, our admin officer who has been with us for over 20 years. Passengers contact the office if they are unable to attend their club; lists are prepared so the driver knows who they are collecting; invoices are prepared for the clubs; replacement drivers or passenger assistants are found if the regular ones are unavailable for whatever reason and of course there is all the other administration required to operate a charitable organisation within the legal requirements. The office also acts as a meeting place and base for the volunteers and there is always a buzz of conversation at the start of the day.

Through Mike Finn, our General Manager for 30 years, we liaise with other community transport organisations in the city and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to share expertise and ensure we are operating in line with requirements. There is also a national charitable organisation, The Community Transport Association, that represents and supports organisations like Transport 17 providing a range of information on current issues.



Transport 17 in action

Although Mike is the General Manager there is also the Management Committee who work with him. They have a central role in running the organisation and are legally and ethically responsible for all its activities. The committee are all volunteers who bring a wide range of experience to the role. They are passionate about the organisation and want to ensure that Transport 17 continues its important role in the community for many years to come.

Currently we are looking for volunteers to help us in our work. You may feel you have some spare time, you are interested in what we do, that you could use your expertise and experience to help the team to continue the valuable work Transport 17 does and you would like to put something back into the community. If so please consider coming and joining us. If you are at all tempted to get involved, please contact Jenny via transport17@btconnect.com or 0114 2362962.

Finally, back in the 1980s, Help the Aged (now Age UK) match-funded the purchase of our first bus. We are now pleased to report that we will have had an initial meeting with Jo Graves, Steve Chu and Councillor Colin Ross from People Keeping Well in Dore and Totley, the local organisation coordinated through Age UK, to discuss our possible involvement in facilitating the activities of People Keeping Well. We hope that we can contribute to and be involved in this valuable community initiative. The wheels do indeed continue to go round.

*Sandra Longley
(on behalf of the Management Committee)*

It's all happening at TASS!

It's been a very busy term at Totley All Saints – but then, that's just how we like it. From visits and visitors, to residentials and special days - it's all been happening at TASS!

Safer Internet Week

In February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 5th February) with a special Online Safety Week. We marked it with special lessons, and an assembly as well as a workshop for parents. During this week, we concentrated on alerting our children to how great the internet can be, but also to its potential hazards. As part of the week, we focussed on the SMART Rules to staying safe online.

We also asked parents to reinforce these rules at home by referencing information on our website page on Online Safety and invited them to attend our annual 'Right Click: Internet Safety Matters' Parent Workshop. The workshop brought together Unicef UK's Children's Rights expertise with BT's technological know-how to provide the information that parents and children need to navigate the risks and embrace the benefits that technology brings. We had a great week which we know is having an impact in keeping our children safer online.

TASS Science Week

We held our TASS Science Week in February starting off with an introductory assembly with scientist, Mick Rolley, who led workshops for our children as well as providing an introductory assembly with lots of fizz, whizz, pops and bangs! Our children took part in a host of interactive experiments to create curiosity as well as inspire them to pursue science in either a 'Do Physics', Circus, or Wax investigative workshop. At the end of the week, class teachers picked out one Superstar Scientist from each class and they were presented with their prizes as part of a special feedback assembly. Our Superstar Scientists were: Megan Wright (Y6), Eli Rose (Y5), Jessica Rai (Y4), Ruby Lawson (Y3), Joshua Bryant (Y2), James Latimer (Y1) and Millie Rashid-Smith (FS2). Well done to all of our Superstar Scientists!

TASS Aspire Day

Once again, we held our annual TASS Aspire Day in February with the aim of inspiring our children to think about their futures and what they would like to become 'when they grow up'. We had a fantastic variety of parents / carers and members of the community who volunteered their time to come in and talk to classes about the jobs that they do, plus



how and why they chose such a route. They included an airline pilot, an ocean sailor, a social worker, a medical HR consultant, a photographer, a H and S scientist, an engineer, an optician and a bumblebee conservationist. Everyone was asked to bring something in for the children to look at in order to make their 'story' real. This involved something like a PowerPoint with pictures, an object that they use or have produced in their work, awards, certificates or something that represents their learning/life journey. They also told the children about themselves, why they do what they do as well as anecdotes to make things more real and relevant. Each session was 25 minutes long which enabled lots of varied learning journeys to be shared. All in all, it was a great day and our children were all inspired to go on to do amazing things!



World Book Day

We had a fantastic time on World Book Day with the usual dressing up as a favourite book character as well as holding a best book review competition with prizes and certificates for the best from each class. We also held a BIG Buddy Reading session in which we mixed up the age groups to share our favourite books with each other.

Other activities included staff sharing their best reads, making bookmarks and a whole host of reading related activities. Children were also given a £1.00 World Book Day book voucher which could be used in exchange for special edition books or as part payment towards buying any other book. The school was awash with everyone from *Where's Wally?* to *Willy Wonka* — it was great!

Egg-cellent Easter

We're looking forward to celebrating a fantastic time at Easter and will make our usual visit to All Saints Church. The children will give thanks with a selection of singing, prayers, poems and presentations and then came back to school to take part in our competition to find the best Easter Egg Crafts. Celebrations will then culminate in our PTA

'Fun-d Raisers' Decorated Easter Egg Design Competition plus a special awards assembly. We can't wait and are very egg-cited!

So What Now?

Well, we're in the process of having our sports Day at the EIS, preparing for the Y4, Y5 and Y6 residentials, getting ready for SATs and gearing up for our summer production.

It's all happening at TASS! If you want to find out more of the exciting things that are happening at our school, then please visit our website or email us at enquiries@totleyallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk. We'll be so happy to let you know!

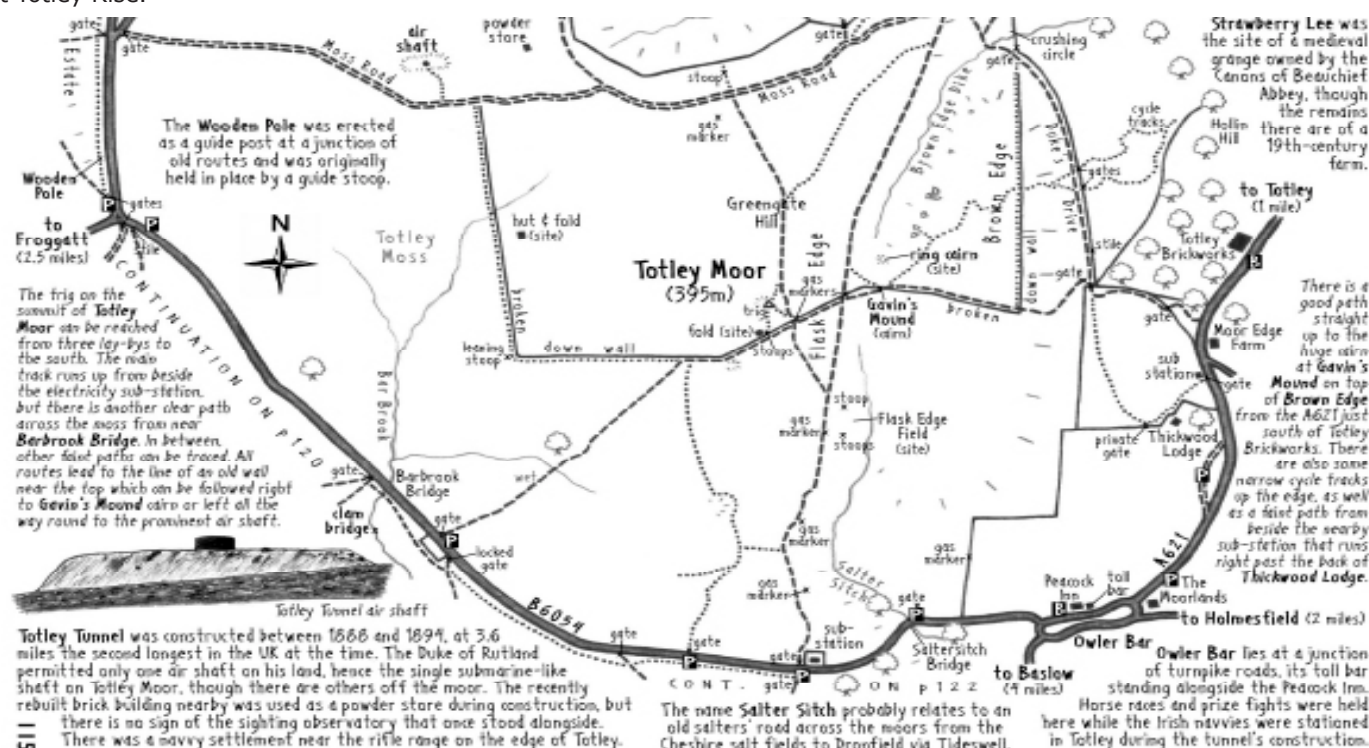
Karole Sargent, (Proud) Head teacher



A new guide to exploring the South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire countryside, *The South Yorkshire Moors* by Sheffield-born author Christopher Goddard, has just been published by Gritstone Publishing.

Christopher Goddard was born in Sheffield and now lives in Hebden Bridge. A compulsive cartographer, he has been drawing maps since a child, when he produced many maps of Wharnciffe and Beeley Woods. In this book, which follows on the success of his previous books *The West Yorkshire Moors* and *The West Yorkshire Woods: Part 1*, he returns to the landscape of his youth.

The book has been published by Gritstone Publishing, the UK's first author cooperative. The book is available at www.christophergoddard.net, as well as various independent outlets around Sheffield and Derbyshire, including Seasons Gallery at Totlev Rise.



A page from "The South Yorkshire Moors"



April

Monday 29th: AGM and Talk: The Otterly Amazing! Project & State of Nature in Sheffield. After our AGM Dr Nicky Rivers (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust) will be here to inform us of two elements of the work of the Trust. As usual the talk will be held in Totley Library, Baslow Road starting at 7.30pm. Members will be asked to pay £1 to support this talk.

Saturday 4th: Bird Walk. Join Chris Measures for his second Bird Walk of 2019. It is the time of year to be looking out for early migrants and improving our recognition of spring bird song. We recommend that you wear good footwear and appropriate clothing. Binoculars and cameras welcome. Meet for an early start of 8am at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane. The walk will last around 2-3 hours. No experience necessary.

Sunday 26th: Friends of Gillfield Wood practical conservation morning. Details as for April 28th, above.

Paul Hancock

Lady Parachutist at Totley!

I was looking at old newspapers for something else relating to Totley and came across the strange tale of the daredevil entertainer and "lady parachutist" Miss Maud Brooks. In September 1890 she made a successful parachute descent from a trapeze under a silk-covered gas balloon at Totley's Victoria Gardens (described on the Totley History Group website). On this occasion thousands paid to enter the gardens to watch the balloon being inflated and released, but many more watched for free from nearby banks overlooking the site. A fortnight later she attempted to repeat the jump at Totley but high winds scuppered her attempt. Parachutes of the time didn't have the type of body harness used today.

At this second attempt she was due to use a 20,000 cubic feet balloon made by "aeronaut" Lieutenant Lemprière of Birmingham, also known as Professor Lemprière. He started the process of inflating the balloon at eleven o'clock in the morning. By the afternoon the wind was catching the balloon which swayed violently. At 5.30 p.m. there was a gale blowing and the ground crew had to get twenty members of the audience to help to hold the balloon in check. The aeronaut started to release some of the bags of ballast helping to keep the balloon stable but then decided that Miss Brooks' attempt should be abandoned. Then the balloon broke away and drifted when it hit a pole and broke two saplings. The fabric was torn in four places and the gas escaped. It was reported that spectators "took their disappointment without much grumbling". As he picked up the pieces, Lieutenant Lemprière told local newshounds that it would cost £12 to repair his balloon. Meanwhile, Miss Brooks gave an exhibition of dancing in the nearby pavilion to appease the disappointed spectators. She returned to Totley for another successful jump in 1892.

When she visited Totley Miss Brooks was 19 years old, described in the press as a bright, vivacious and charming little blond with dark blue eyes, four feet in height and weighing less than seven stones. She had started her profession at the age of 16 at a trapeze show at Cleckheaton. She had been approached by another aeronaut, Captain Wheeler, who had invited her to jump from a trapeze bar on his balloon at an exhibition in Cleckheaton Gardens. She was very willing but insisted that Captain Wheeler first sought her parents' permission. They finally agreed, the jump went ahead and she liked it so much that she decided to make parachuting her profession. Her fame grew and on one occasion she performed before the Prince and Princess of Wales at Rotherham.

The dangers associated with the profession were demonstrated in Dublin in 1893 where Miss Brooks had reached a height of about 900 feet in her balloon. Then the wind suddenly dropped and the balloon began to descend rapidly. At 500 feet Miss Brooks decided to jump but at about 50 feet from the ground her parachute collapsed and Miss Brooks fell to the ground falling with great force and sustaining many injuries. Doctors feared she had injured her head, legs, arms and spine but she lived to jump another day as in 1901 Miss Brooks was due to perform at a fete in Derby. While the balloon had an instrument to tell the parachutist roughly how high the balloon had risen - about 10,000 feet was apparently an ideal height



from which to jump - the balloon had reached a height of 12,000 feet while she was trying to release herself. The release apparatus refused to work and she was forced to hang on to the balloon bar until the balloon finally came to ground almost 40 miles away near Melton Mowbray. She was dragged through a hedge and badly scratched. Some passing cyclists stopped to help and one of them gave her a cloak to wear as she was only clad in a gymnast's costume. At other jumps she

was described as wearing velvet knickerbockers and a sash. As this was the end of the Victorian era one has to wonder if the costumes were as much of an attraction as the jump itself?

The following year Miss Brooks was again in trouble at the Highland Gathering in Dunfermline, Scotland. On her second jump at the event her release equipment failed to work and she was seen to be struggling with it as the balloon continued to rise and almost went out of sight. The balloon then started to descend and hit the ground four miles away leaving a badly cut Miss Brooks hanging on a hedge. She said she had thought her end had come and was fearful of landing in the Firth of Forth. There was precedent for a wet landing. In 1889 Miss Alma Beaumont, working for Thomas's Palace of Varieties, jumped in front of 5,000 people at Jarrow. Her descent was perfect, but for the fact she landed in the River Tyne and had to be rescued by men in a nearby launch.

Sadly, Miss Brooks' sister Edith was killed at the carnival at

Owlerton, Sheffield in 1902. Maud was engaged for a jump in Wales and Edith had been deputising for her sister. She had done one successful jump at Owlerton and the following day she jumped again, but her parachute cords twisted, the canopy failed and she fell 2,500 feet to her death in front of thousands of horror-struck spectators. The inquest heard that the parachute had been successfully tested three times by Mr Percy Chavasse, the manager of the parachute performances: others say it might have been torn. The death toll of lady parachutists seems remarkably high as they risked low cloud, ice, uncertain landings and equipment failure. A Mademoiselle Bassett had been killed at Peterborough in 1895 when her balloon hit a telegraph wire as it rose and she jumped from it. Miss Lily Cove, 21 years old, had been killed on a second attempt at Haworth Gala in 1906. The first attempt failed as the coal gas supplied wasn't good enough according to the dubious military men behind the enterprise. At the second attempt the balloon rose and part of Lily's act was to dramatically tear off her skirt as she ascended to reveal bloomers. The inquest heard she feared she would fall into a nearby reservoir and had jumped from her trapeze over land without a parachute. The coroner had made a point of asking the Home Secretary to make parachute jumping displays illegal - but the Home Secretary clearly didn't. A Miss Spencer had got into difficulties at Ilkeston in 1908 but survived only to be killed two years later falling on buildings in Coventry after over a hundred descents. It's likely that the Great War ended the reign of the "Parachute Queens" and their perilous form of entertainment, but it's not clear what became of the daring Miss Maud Brooks. However, the Professor/Lieutenant carried on ballooning and parachuting and died in Birmingham in 1949 at the age of 94.

Mike Peart

Dore Art Group

Dore Art Group will be holding its Annual Art Exhibition in the Old School, Savage Lane, Dore on:

Friday April 26th, 2pm - 6pm
Saturday April 27th, 9.30am - 5pm

Admission Free

Come and enjoy a wide range of art works in various mediums. There are framed and unframed works, and also greeting cards for sale.

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

If you are interested in joining one of our groups please contact Gerry Doherty on 0114 2368418

Not Walking the Dog

Scene: Our House. A wet Wednesday in March. It's raining cats and dogs.

I hear Tempuss and Jack talking in the front room.

I knew Jack talked of course – I read the Totley Independent – but I've never really heard Tempuss...

Tempuss says, 'I'm only saying that cats are better than dogs, Jack.'

'Cats can't bark.'

'Dogs can't purr...And cats live longer.'

'You are sixteen, so even if you are a cat you won't live much longer.'

'You are nine and you are a dog so you won't live much longer even more.'

'But you won't cost as much at the vet's when you're dying because cats aren't important enough to have insurance.'

'Cats can look at kings.'

'The queen's corgi dogs can wee on her carpets at Buckingham Palace.'

Paws

Tempuss says, 'Cat wee smells worse than dog wee.'

Paws

Tempuss says, 'Rony drinks the hairs of dogs.'

'There are cats' eyes all over the main road by the Co-op.'

'Cats can disappear themselves till there's only their grin left, like in Alice.'

Paws

Jack says, 'Jesus didn't have a cat.'

'He could have had.'

'He couldn't have had, because there aren't any cats in the Bible for him to have. But he could have had a dog because there's a dog called "Greyhound" in Proverbs 30 29-31.'

'Daniel went in the lion's den in Daniel 6 1-28.'

'So?'

'So there must have been lions in the Bible.'

'So?'

'So lions are cats, only bigger.'

'Only if they're tigers.'

Paws

Tempuss says, 'Dick Whittington had a cat.'

'Red Riding Hood had a wolf.'

Paws

Tempuss says, 'Dogs can't have as many kittens as cats can.'

'Dogs can't have any kittens.'

'No but even if dogs could have, they wouldn't have.'

'Anyway, you haven't got any kittens yourself.'

'And you haven't got any puppies!'

'That's because I've been done.'

'And I've been done too.'

Big Paws

'Doggone!'

'Catastrophe!'

Paws

Jack says, 'Suppose you had ever been allowed a kitten, Tempuss? What would you have called him?'

'I would have called him... "Jack", Jack.'

'Good name.'

'And suppose you had ever have been allowed a puppy, Jack? What would you have called her?'

'I would have called her ..."Tempuss", Tempuss.'

'Good name.'

'But I don't know where "Tempuss" comes from?'

'Gleadless.'

'No, but I mean where does your name "Tempuss" come from, Tempuss?'

'Eleanor and Megan found me in Gleadless and named me "Tempuss" because it's Latin and it means "Time", only it only has one sss when it does.'

Paws

'Actually ...I think you are the cat's whiskers, Tempuss.'

'Actually...I think you are the dog's buttocks, Jack.'

'Give us a kiss?'

'Cats can't kiss.'

'They can rub noses?'

'And sniff!'

Paws. They rub and sniff.

Tempuss says, 'We could make a whole TV series about a dog and a cat who quarrel all the time but then rub and sniff at the end of every episode.'

'And we could be famous!'

'And buy a really big house in Dore for Rony and Sally!'

'...I'd rather stay in Totley near the park and the woods.'

'So would I.'

'So woof, then.'

'Purr, then.'

'Purr.'

'Woof.'

'Woof.'

Paws

'The sun's shining again, Jack.'

'Let's stop purring and woofing?'

'And rubbing and sniffing?'

'And go out?'

'But best not go out together? We don't want people to start talking.'

Overheard by Rony Robinson

Holmesfield Church Walking Group

Birchover / Elton Walk

On Wednesday April 24th at 10.00am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from the Red Lion at Birchover. We will go to Robin Hood's Stride, then Elton, and back to Birchover where we will have lunch (optional).

The cost of the walk is £3 and the proceeds will go Holmesfield Church maintenance fund. If you wish to come just turn up on the day.

If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246 412767. The walk is about 5 miles long.

Letter to the Editor

The Beauchief Bus-lane

Dear Editor,

May I, through these pages, draw drivers' attention to the fact that the bus-lane on Abbeydale Road South which runs down to the Beauchief is only operative between 7.30 and 9.30 am (see photo).

Outside these hours, there is therefore NO NEED for city-bound vehicles to move out of the bus-lane on that stretch, only to have to squeeze, nudge or simply bully their way back into the city-bound traffic lane when they reach the traffic lights. It's a miracle there aren't more accidents!

A Totley driver (name and address supplied)





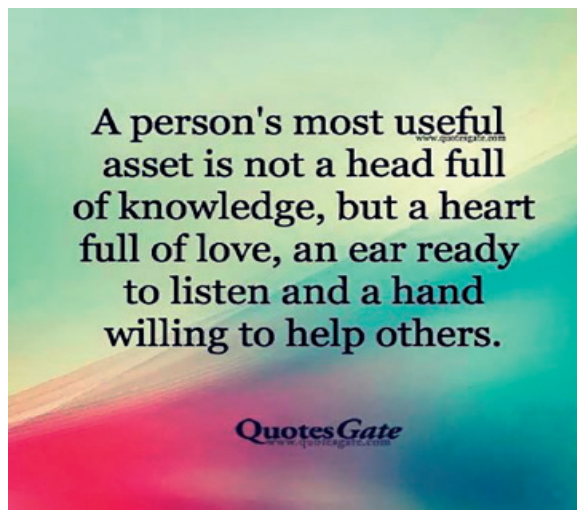
All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

Local Heroes

The recent press coverage about Tony Foulds and the flypast in Endcliffe Park have been a welcome "good news" story. Amidst a seemingly endless stream of gloomy news of political turmoil, corruption, violence, hatred and crime, it has been good to be reminded that there is much to be thankful for. There are many kind, unselfish people who work hard, day after day, to serve others. Often, this goes unnoticed. Sometimes, as in this case, their work only comes to light by chance.

Communities all over the country benefit from the dedication of individuals, groups, agencies and businesses, who together, work to improve life for all. Totley is no exception. We might not even be aware of some of the things that go on, but we may well begin to notice if they stopped. Would we notice if litter wasn't picked, the library closed, Transport 17 couldn't run, The *Independent* wasn't published, lunch clubs closed, the scouting/ guiding organisations ceased, local shops shut down, the friend who calls for a chat stopped coming, the neighbour who does your shopping didn't come?..... the list is endless. Of course Totley has its problems, just like other places. Life isn't always easy for everyone and we should always keep that in mind. What is encouraging, however, is the willingness of people to offer help and support to others where they can. It is heartwarming to hear of acts of kindness, friendship or simple words of encouragement. Bad news and disaster will always make headlines. The local heroes, those who "love their neighbours as themselves" will carry on, just as they always have done and that really is good news.



You are welcome to come and join in Worship at All Saints. Services are held at 10am every Sunday and on Wednesday. Children's groups are held during the 10am service on Sundays, apart from the first Sunday of the month which is an All Age Service. Our Wednesday service is a said service of Holy Communion. It usually lasts no more than 40 minutes.

Services for Easter

Sunday 14th April Palm Sunday – All Age Worship at 10am
Monday 15th/Tuesday 16th/Wednesday 17th April. 7.30pm.
Meditations for Holy Week at All Saints
Thursday 18th April 11am Maundy Thursday Holy Communion. (NB No Wednesday 10am Communion on 17th)
Friday 19th April Good Friday 10.00 Meet at All Saints for walk of witness to Totley Rise Methodist Church for the service.
Sunday 21st April Easter Sunday- 5.30. - Dawn Service at Dore

10 am Family Holy Communion at All Saints
Sunday April 28th Annual Parish Council Meeting following 10am worship.

During this period of interregnum the responsibility for the day-to-day life of All Saints is shared between the wardens and the PCC. All enquiries relating to baptisms, weddings and funerals should be made to the parish office either by email to totleychurchoffice@gmail.com or phone 0114 236 3335; or to the Churchwardens. All other enquiries may be made to the Churchwardens, Liz Hayden 0114 2364944 or Angela Waite 0114 2364728.

Revd Ali Creasey, Associate Priest, has Pastoral responsibility for the 10am Sunday service. As she is in a paid job during the week her time has careful boundaries. You can contact Ali: totleyassociate@gmail.com

Liz Hayden
Churchwarden, Totley All Saints

Neighbourhood Watch

Despite the football Derby between Wednesday and United, (Policed by South Yorkshire Police and six other forces), the wind and the rain, 47 people attended the Public meeting organised by Neighbourhood Watch on Monday 4th March. It was generously hosted by The Omega at Abbeydale. Two Police Sergeants, Ross Greenwood and Dave Cremin attended, Dave leading with support from Ross. There was a good presentation of South Yorkshire Police structure, and in particular that for the South West Neighbourhood Policing, of which S17 is a small part. The area covers Bents Green round to Gleadless Valley, and Ross covers Sharrow, Highfields and to the end of London Road, all from Woodseats Police Station.

Dave outlined the burglary rates for S17 which were remarkably similar to last year's average. They were obviously pleased that two recent arrests of hardened criminals had been made, but disappointed that some people had criticised them on social media for the amount of resources used, including the helicopter. It is always easy to criticise if one does not know the facts.

For example, one criminal had been located in an area, but four hours later the ground team could not find him, so called the helicopter, which assisted in a final location and arrest. Were the critics people who had been burgled, I wonder? Whilst this operation was ongoing, officers could not cover other areas - an issue which Dave covered honestly, explaining why we in S17 don't see a Police presence as often as we would like.

Pop up Police Stations, usually manned by PCSOs, are requested by residents, but finding locations for some areas is not easy, and the response, (two people and a dog in two hours), is not always encouraging. However, one held by Ross Greenwood, at the bottom of London Road, attracted 40 persons in two hours.

Dave sensitively answered a question which is on many residents' minds, about the culprit of the stabbing on 14th December. He has been arrested, and is on conditional bail, with a curfew attached. Investigations by detectives from the Crime Department are ongoing.

The Officers concluded their presentation by revealing that there is a recruitment drive, for Police Constables, including the retraining of PCSO's if they wish, and pass the entrance requirements.

The Public meeting closed and the regular NHW meeting then started with 17 members present. Les Day, S17 Area coordinator, who is also the coordinator for the same area as SYP, at their request, reported on the number of new Watches which have been set up. The meeting closed early and will reconvene on 25th March, when, it is hoped, a productive business meeting can be held.

Roger Hart
07831 305881

The alder tree, the Ombudsman and me

Sally Goldsmith

This is the story of an unusual alder tree on Aldam Way in Totley, just one of the 17,500 street trees Sheffield is contracted to fell. Recently it's become quite famous, featured not only in the local press and radio, but The Guardian and the Times too.

I love that tree, sitting beautifully with its odd twin stems at the road's curve. In Spring, a blackbird likes to sing from the top and there are violets underneath and also dog mercury – both plants of ancient woodland. Talking of dogs, I often take Jack (the most famous dog in Totley) round that way and into our local ancient wood, Gillfield, behind the flats. There are lots of alders there too along the curly brook and I often wonder if the Aldam Way alder, decorated with its yellow crochet bunting by a concerned resident, is a cousin. Perhaps it was there before the houses, just like the old oak at the entrance to Greenoak Park.

Around two and a half years ago we heard that the alder was listed for felling under the Streets Ahead (Sheffield City Council and Amey) "tree replacement" programme. They categorised the tree as "dangerous." Having then joined Save Dore Totley and Bradway trees, I leafleted all the houses on the street with little posters, asking residents to display them in their windows if they thought the tree should stay. Quite a lot did, and over the next year or so, as I got to know more people on the street, I only found one household, to my knowledge, who said they wanted it to go. Many more, even those who didn't display the poster, wanted it to stay.

One determined resident contacted me to say that he had been able to get Amey managers to come to meet him to discuss the tree. We both met the two managers. They showed us damage to the tree and managed to convince us that there was a real problem, though they said it was "borderline." We asked that perhaps the tree be kept for now, but monitored and that if the tree really was dangerous and needed to go, we would help them by talking to residents about it. They said they would discuss it in the car on their way back to work and that they would get back to us. Weeks went by. Emails came to say the reply would take longer. And longer.

In the meantime, I got two experienced arborists to look at the tree for us. Both said that the tree was strong, new wood having healed the damage and that the tree only needed pruning. Still we waited for a reply from Streets Ahead.



Time went on, and a notice appeared on the tree saying it was to be felled imminently. A resident on look-out from their windows rang me early one morning to say the felling crews had arrived and that his neighbour was under the tree trying to protect it (Health and Safety legislation meant that standing under the tree prevented felling). I ran around the corner, joined the resident, checked with the crew (who had come all the way from Birmingham) that we were legal as they hadn't yet erected their barriers. I told them that I didn't think the felling should take place as we were still in correspondence about the future of the tree with Mr XX from Amey. They said "Who's Mr XX?"

Barriers were erected around us and the tree. The resident's daughter went to make coffee for us and the felling crew and it was all rather friendly. Then, I noticed a man and a woman who had parked, got out of a car and were walking up, videoing us. They were "evidence gatherers" employed by the Council but wouldn't give their names. I remonstrated with them, said that we were there before the barriers were put up and I thought we were doing nothing illegal – and that when asked, the crew had confirmed this. Of course, their film would show us inside the barriers! This was all "evidence" being gathered for the Council's court case to get an injunction against protest. We felt we were being treated like common criminals. I asked if they minded me filming them, which I did. The crew and the evidence gatherers eventually packed up and went, the tree was safe for another day, and other residents joined us to chat. If we hadn't defended that tree, it would be gone by now.

During daily look-outs, they came again and a campaigner was able again to get under the tree and again prevent its felling. Still no reply from the Amey managers.

Six weeks after our meeting I got a reply from Streets Ahead. It said that the Council had commissioned their own independent surveyor and that his report indeed "confirmed decay". I was suspicious. I put in a Freedom of Information request to the Council to reveal the contents of the report. When I got it, I was shocked. The independent consultant commissioned by the Council had not confirmed decay, but had recommended that the tree be kept and pruned only, "to create a pleasing silhouette." At the bottom of his report he mentioned "minor pavement damage."

The communications with the Council became labyrinthine with contradictory reasons for felling, including now a new reason to fell – "pavement damage." In the meantime, the results of another inspection – by the Council's own Independent Tree Panel this time – was put on the Council website. It was in favour of keeping the tree.

I put together a detailed chronology of my dealings with the Council and those of another resident who had also been complaining about the proposed felling. This was taken to the Chief Executive and also sent to the Councillor then in charge of the contract. I also tried to ask a question about why the tree was still to be felled at the Town Hall at the full Council meeting. Because the case was so complicated I had to explain the background and though I had timed my question to just over a minute, I was stopped from asking it just a few seconds in by the then Lord Mayor. She said that I was making statements, not asking the question. To say I was upset is an understatement and it made the local news the next day.

In continual correspondence with the Council Officers, I was then told more contradictory information – that the tree was to be felled because of its condition and the pavement damage. So confusing. I found a retired Senior Highways Engineer with over 40 years experience to look at the pavement under the tree. He provided me with a detailed illustrated report which found that the roots were at least 6 inches down and

that the damage was indeed "minor."

One of the residents and I both now complained to the Local Government Ombudsman about the way the Council had dealt with our complaints. It's difficult to get these cases taken up, but the case was accepted. It took over a year, with the Ombudsman seeking more information from us and from the Council.

His final decision this year was damning, The Ombudsman was clear that The Council "misrepresented the expert advice it received" so that it said the opposite. Also, that it "deliberately set out not to reveal the true advice it had received". In other words, the Council had lied.

Not only did the Council deceive me, but the Ombudsman also found that it did not brief its own Independent Tree Panel properly, did not put any reports it commissioned in the public domain and that it had sowed confusion over the reasons for felling the tree. The Council have always claimed that "felling is the last resort". The Ombudsman said that in this case "the evidence justifying removal as the 'last resort' open to the Council is far from convincing".



The Ombudsman required the Council to apologise to us within 20 days. This they eventually did, but in the next sentence said that "the responses were given to you during a period of exceptional pressure resulting from the reaction to the street tree replacement programme". I felt this to be an inadequate apology, blaming the protesters for the fact that they had lied! This made the local and national press.

It will not have escaped your notice that things have been much quieter recently. Due to opposition to the fellings over the city, all have been paused for around a year now and in the meantime, mediated talks have taken place between the Council, Amey and the city wide Campaign. Also, a new Councillor has been put in charge of the programme and this has meant that the culture has definitely changed from one of outright hostility and punishment of public protest (arrests, rough handling, draconian fines and threatened prison sentences) to one that aims to work with more listening and greater collaboration.

Some trees previously on the felling list are now to remain, including our alder and the Vernon Road oak in Dore. Others have been jointly investigated by a small team from Amey together with people from the Campaign and experts of their choosing. So far, nearly all of these trees have been saved

by simple, pragmatic and very cheap solutions, often digging out a little (with a marvellous tool called an air spade) and replacing kerb stones and laying new flat tarmac. These were all trees which the Council previously said would need to be felled or would cost thousands to save. The Campaign's longstanding questions and concerns over the Council's reasons to fell appear to be borne out by what is happening now. They refuse however to hold an inquiry into what went wrong.

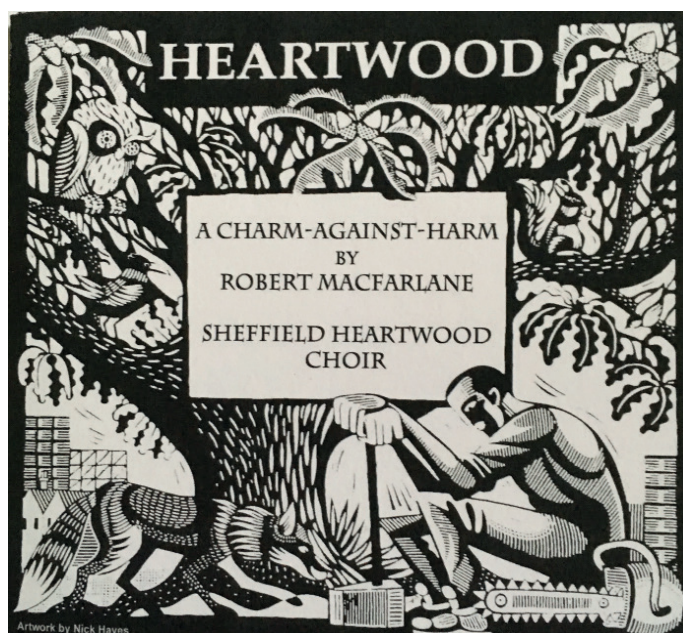
Of concern however, is that the Council still insist on completely straight kerb lines, though Amey seem perhaps to be more relaxed about this. The Department of Transport is too, so no-one can understand this insistence. This means the death knell of many healthy trees that could otherwise be saved. Other local authorities are able to creatively deal with this, saving mature trees which offer us so much in terms of pollution capture, keeping the climate cooler, helping to prevent flooding, supporting wild life and improving our mental health through their beauty.

I should add that currently the Forestry Commission is pursuing a legal case over the Council's felling programme. The Woodland Trust have presented Sheffield Campaigners with a special award for their work.

It took me months and months to forensically put together evidence and to doggedly pursue the case of the alder. This is just one tree, but we believe indicative of what is probably the case with many many more. It has been hard for ordinary people, many of us pensioners, to pursue injustices, lack of transparency and obfuscation.

It looks like the tide may be turning though. We are still set to lose some trees in Dore and Totley and the rest of the city, though we hope, apart from felling those trees which are not healthy, that the more collaborative approach will result in a rethink. Also, the Campaign is to be involved in the formulation of the long awaited official Street Tree Strategy.

As a couple of post scripts, the most famous writer of the natural world Robert Macfarlane (see his book *The Lost Words* in the children's section of Totley Library) recently wrote a "charm against harm" for all Sheffield trees "threatened with unjust felling". A friend and I set it to music, recorded it with



a choir and are selling the resulting CD, beautifully illustrated by artists Nick Hayes and Jackie Morris. All proceeds go to the Campaign. You can order one from sarahdeakin68@gmail.com for £5 plus £1.50 p and p.

Also, do write to the Councillor in charge of the highways contract and "tree replacement" programme about their insistence on straight kerbs and the need for a public inquiry: lewis.dagnall@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

Sally Goldsmith, goldsally@googlemail.com



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Totley Rise Methodist Church

The Church on the Rise!



Good Friday, 19th April Our traditional walk of faith begins at Totley All Saints Church at 10am, followed by a service at Totley Rise Methodist Church, starting at about 10.45

Easter Sunday, 21st April Sunrise Service at 7 am in the Garden, followed by light breakfast. Family service at 10.30 am. Both services offer communion.

Regular Services Information

9.00am Early Services (1st and 3rd Sundays). A quiet, traditional service lasting about 45 minutes.

9.30 am Praise Together (2nd Sunday). A 30 minute service for pre-school children and their parents/carers

10.30am Mid-morning Service every Sunday. An informal and contemporary service with a monthly Communion, usually lasting approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. Prayer ministry is available after every service.

There is a supervised crèche plus Youth/Junior Church at all morning services.

6.30 pm Café worship service. This informal and relaxed service is held with coffee and biscuits on the 4th Sunday of each month.

LEGO: Let's Enjoy Getting Older Together! The LEGO group usually meets at the church at 9.15 am on the second Friday of each month then drives into the local area for walks of about 8 miles. There is always a lunch stop, usually at a conveniently placed local pub (the walks are planned with that in mind). The walks take place rain or shine. If you are interested in joining us give Terry a ring on 2367746.

Friday Lunch Club The Lunch Club meets every Friday. It provides morning coffee, a 2-course lunch and entertainment for up to 24 elderly, housebound or lonely residents of the S17 area. Transport to and from the club is provided by Transport 17. For more information, call Phyl on 0114 235 1897.

Senior Teas: Totley Rise Methodists provide lovely tea and cakes for elderly people in the community, on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm. You can join us either as a participant or a helper! For more information call Anne on 0114 236 6558.

Focus Church: April 14th and May 12th will be the next two services of the unique and inspiring Focus Church. Focus Church is particularly geared for people with learning disabilities and cognitive difficulties and their carers. The service is a time for worship, creativity, fun and fellowship . . . and an opportunity for carers to chill. For further information, please contact Sue or John Freeman on 236 6819 or email sueandjohn6@talktalk.net

Tuesdays at TRM

Every Tuesday there is a lot happening at TRMC:

Prayer meeting 9.30-10am in the church. We focus on prayers for the community, for the world and any situations needing healing and the touch of God's hand.

Coffee morning in the church Lounge from 10-11.30 offers folks an opportunity to get to know others better, discover common interests and catch up on the many happenings in our church and Totley communities.

Citizens Advice Bureau 10 – 12 noon in the TRM Centre, No appointment needed. Drop-in free confidential advice service. Advice on legal, financial, employment, benefits and any other matters of concern.



Tuesday Ladies meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8pm in the 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 236 9002.

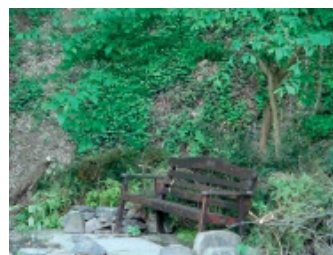
Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter in the TRM Centre runs from 12 noon – 3 pm. This busy and friendly group has grown a lot, demonstrating great appeal in our local community. Young and old, men and women are all welcome. The group offer tea, coffee, biscuits and most importantly, friendship for up to three hours. Contact Maxine on 348 5220 or 07761 829824 for more information.



Room Hire We make our facilities in the TRM Centre available for a variety of purposes, from community groups such as Probus, to Brownies, Rainbow Guides, language classes and birthday parties.

There is the large church hall with a stage, and room hire also includes the use of kitchen facilities and audio-visual equipment if required.

For information please visit our website for a booking form and details of room charges, send an email to enquires@totleyrise.co.uk or contact the caretaker, Dean Duke, on 236 0389 for more information.



Quiet Garden: Our garden is sprouting those wonderful signs of spring and displays of new growth. It is place that shows what can be created by the commitment and hard work of many volunteers, and is an encouraging place to come, sit and wonder about our creative God. All are welcome to visit the garden for renewal, contemplation and prayer... and are also welcome to ask about joining the gardening volunteers for a very rewarding time this spring and summer!

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.

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.

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.

Find us on Facebook! Our Facebook page gets daily updates of events and is also a way to send a query or ask for further non-urgent information. Our page also contains a link to our website, www.totleyrise.co.uk which publishes our Sunday notices and offers a link to a recent recorded sermon.

For more ongoing events see this issue's Totley & District Diary, p30.

Bird Walk

Friends of Gillfield Wood

9 February 2019: what a relief, it wasn't raining. A dry morning, but it was certainly very windy. A quick chat at the start where a few brave souls gathered: decision made, our Bird Walk would go ahead on this cold bright Saturday morning. Minutes before, a bright rainbow was seen arched across the sky above the houses of Totley, a magnificent sight to start the morning for those lucky enough to catch a glimpse.

As we waited for one or two more people to join us the question was raised "What birds are we likely to see today?". Not an easy question to answer on such a day when it was clear the weather conditions would play such an important part in which birds would put in an appearance. The strong wind was making the birds stay low. "They are hunkered down today!" was one person's take on the situation.

As we moved slowly along the footpath leaving the Scout Hut behind, brief views of Blue Tit and Robin were secured. Unmistakeable Magpies were then heard calling out as they flew from trees to roof tops. You can always rely on Magpies to make their presence known and be chattering away loudly as they move around in small groups. A Parliament of Magpies - how appropriate!

Within a few hundred metres we had stopped in a clearing where it was a little more sheltered and we were immediately rewarded with Nuthatch calling. This bird has a variety of rich loud calls and is particularly vocal at this time of the year.



The Bird Walk group

Although it proved difficult to see the bird high up in the back of some scrub, it suddenly flew over our heads and then another one did the same for those of the group that missed the first one. Blue-grey above, pale underneath, Nuthatches appear small and dumpy in flight, with their short wings and tail. Whilst discussing the fact that Nuthatches have a slightly undulating flight, a male Bullfinch was suddenly spotted in flight and then a Jay. Both colourful in their own right, these birds have that distinctive white rump which shows so well when they are flying away from you.

Two tripods were quickly erected at this point so that good views through telescopes could be had of any birds showing, including two Carrion Crows and three Wood Pigeons that were perched in different nearby trees. The sun was behind us and was shining perfectly on these birds. Although looking at them with the naked eye or through binoculars was good, it was so nice to just spend a bit of time looking at the plumage of each through the telescopes and admiring the markings of the Pigeons and the glossy and subtle tones of the Crows. And you could even see the eye of the Crow glinting in the sun as it turned its head. It is so easy to take such species for granted at times.

And there was more activity in this area. Long-tailed Tits were heard trilling as they moved through an area of dense Blackthorn and then a flock of Goldfinches and a couple of

Greenfinches flew over the area and landed in a large Oak tree. These latter two species were watched again a few minutes later when we stood quietly in another spot trying to locate the elusive Tree Sparrows. It is always good to see our local wintering population of Tree Sparrows, albeit a tiny population. Nest boxes have been erected on this site in the hope the Tree Sparrows will stay and breed because it would be nice to know we are helping this particular species to reverse years of decline. Although one or possibly two birds were seen in the depth of the Hawthorn bushes near to us, not everyone was able to "get on them" so we made the most of the Goldfinches and Greenfinches that were perched out in the open. But it was too cold to stand around for long so we decided to move on to the shelter of Gillfield Wood as a Black-headed Gull slowly flew by against the wind.

Once in the wood we had only walked a short distance when a Jay flew low over our heads carrying a morsel of food. And then a Great-spotted Woodpecker was heard calling. Things again were looking up, so to speak. This Woodpecker was quickly found for all of the group to have good views. It was seen in flight briefly as it moved through the trees to land in the sun at the top of a tall Larch. Perfect! We were able to get the telescopes focused onto the bird so we could all see the black wings with thick white shoulder patches and the distinctive deep red vent under the tail. In addition we could see it was a female as, unlike a male, it did not have the red patch on the back of the head. And in case you were wondering the juveniles have different degrees of red on top of the head.

Our walk then took us over the bridge that crosses Totley Brook to the fields on the south side. Keeping to the footpath we made our way up Shep's Hill to go alongside the grounds of Woodthorpe Hall. The views from here were lovely on such a clear day, but it was not a day to be hanging around as the wind was really blowing and had that chill factor. No Buzzards were soaring today and there were no other birds of prey putting in an appearance. We stopped and admired the work of a Great-spotted Woodpecker that had pecked out nesting holes in an Oak tree over recent years and we managed to see Chaffinch, Bullfinch and Nuthatch before arriving by the



Male Bullfinch

side of Fanshawe Gate Hall for our descent to the wood again. The big disappointment was that we did not hear or see any Redwings or Fieldfares, our winter thrushes. They seem to have been thin on the ground again this year in our area, apart from the initial westerly movement in the autumn; we did so hope that we might see one or two small flocks feeding in the fields.

Our walk back through the wood gave us the opportunity to watch a flock of Long-tailed Tits calling and feeding as they moved together through the trees and some of the group managed to see a Mistle Thrush as well. Then for the second time that day we were able to watch Grey Wagtail feeding at the water's edge of Totley Brook. It was constantly on the move with its long tail pumping up and down as the name suggests, but not just the tail, the whole rear end of the bird seemed to go with the movement. It is pleasing that one or more of these delightful birds are being seen along the brook

this winter. We had one in a different part of the wood when we did our January Bird Walk and they have been seen recently in gardens near to the wood as well.

After this we hoped for a Brambling, another bird with a distinctive white rump. This Chaffinch-like bird has come across from the continent in very large numbers this autumn.



Brambling

They can often be seen feeding under Beech trees, as they feed on the Beech mast. Locally, a few have been seen in gardens and at the edge of Totley Hall Park associating with Goldfinches and Chaffinches. A beautifully marked bird but easily overlooked, it has an orange tinged breast, a back of varied buffs and browns and a lovely marked head. Unfortunately we were not lucky enough to find one on this walk but we did finish with a fleeting glimpse of our first Wren of the morning - plus we were serenaded off site by a Hedge Sparrow that flew in and, as if to claim territory, sang its heart out on a branch low to the ground. At least he was putting in an appearance despite the wind, as if trying to tell us that Spring is nearly here.

Chris Measures

PS: As I write this a Red Kite has just been seen flying over Gillfield Wood and on our January Bird Walk we had a skein of Pink-footed Geese fly over. So who knows what might turn up on our next Bird and Butterfly Walk on Saturday May 4th. You do not have to be a member to come along to any of the events run by The Friends of Gillfield Wood and no experience is necessary. The events are advertised on the FoGW website and within the diary in this publication. Hope to see you - you will be made very welcome.

Spirit of Kinder Day

Looking back – and forward

This year's annual Spirit of Kinder Day will attempt to recreate the atmosphere of the mass access demonstrations of the 1920s and 30s, which were attended by up to 10,000 people. And it will be held in the same spectacular setting of The Winnats Pass, Castleton, on Saturday, April 27, between 2-4pm.

The event will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 – the legislation which set up our National Parks (of which the Peak District was the first) – and is linked with the National Trust's 'People's Landscapes' art project, celebrating people coming together in historic protests.

Organised jointly by the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Committee and the National Trust, the event is supported by the Ramblers, BMC and SCAM.

Andrew McCloy, chair of the Peak District National Park Authority, will chair the event and introduce the speakers, who include-

- Lord David Blunkett, former Home Secretary and president of the South Yorkshire & North East Derbyshire Ramblers
- Hilary McGrady, Director General of the National Trust

- Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Environment Minister
- Lynn Robinson, President of the British Mountaineering Council
- Ruth George, MP for High Peak
- Izzy Stewart, a member of the Woodcraft Folk.

Music will be provided by the Clarion Band, led by Mike Rimmington. Admission to the Spirit of Kinder Day is free and open to all, but we are advising people to arrive early and either walk to the event or use public transport, as parking is limited. Castleton is served by regular buses from Sheffield.

In the event of bad weather, the event will be held indoors at the Peveril Conference Centre in Buxton Road, Castleton. There will be free guided walks open to the public starting at a variety of locations, which will lead people into the Winnats Pass in time for the rally. These will be led by National Trust and National Park volunteers. To find out more, see their event websites: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinder-edale-and-the-dark-peak/whats-on>, <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/events-and-activities>

Young people from local schools, colleges and Edale Junior Rangers will be sharing their 'voices of protest' and pledging to become the next generation of guardians of the trespass story with an exchange of creative badges, designed as part of the People's Landscapes project.

South Sheffield Tuneless Choir's successful launch

On 4 March the first Tuneless Choir in Sheffield had its launch at Totley Rise Methodist Church. Over 50 people were there to "sing like no-one is listening". Just prior to the launch some of the Choir were at Totley library to give a "unique" rendition of *Dancing Queen* for ITV's *Calendar* (with some help from members of the Chesterfield Tuneless Choir).

Tuneless Choirs are for those who LOVE singing but lack the ability, practice or confidence to do so. Research tells us that singing in groups brings physical, emotional and social benefits and so we believe everyone has a right to sing whatever their voice! The Choir sings purely for the pleasure of it – with no pressure to improve – and just aims for everyone to leave their Tuneless Choir session feeling uplifted. They say to come along and they provide a songbook. Then you just sing along, no auditions and no-one is turned away.



The South Sheffield Tuneless Choir burst into song on the evening of Monday 4th March 2019. Like all Tuneless Choirs, singers from different backgrounds and all ages came together to enjoy the release of endorphins as they sang popular songs in their own unique ways. No pressure, no judgment, just confidence-boosting fun and a great atmosphere under the direction of Karen Cook and David Goater. Karen already runs Derbyshire's first Tuneless Choir in Chesterfield and together with her partner David they are ready to enable the people of Sheffield who don't believe they can sing become part of a singing group!

Sessions will be held fortnightly on Monday's from 7.45pm to 9.15pm with a break for tea, coffee and biscuits. The choir meets at Totley Rise Methodist Church, 1 Grove Road, Sheffield S17 4DJ. There is some parking available on site and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

Tickets for anyone's first time at South Sheffield Tuneless Choir are £10, which includes registration and your first singing session. After that, it's £7 if you 'pay as you go', or you'll be able to sign up in advance for the equivalent of £5 per session. If you have questions contact Karen by emailing southsheffield@tunelesschoir.com or calling 07759 375312.

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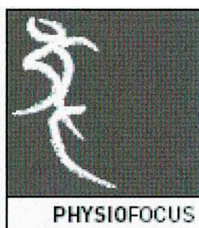
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Dore Probus Club

Nearly a Full House!

At our first two meetings of 2019 we had all the chairs out to accommodate the 50+ members, who had come to meet socially and to listen to talks on criminal investigation and the Boer War. Since numbers were swollen by former members of the defunct Abbeydale Probus Club, this nearly full house has become the welcome scenario at our meetings - we now have a membership of 72!

Throughout 2018 we had the usual enjoyable mornings and stimulating talks, whether the subject was a local historical site, a Yorkshire railway, amateur astronomy, or a journey to Iran with a fleet of lorries. We are looking forward to the new season, which includes talks on light subjects such as Laurel and Hardy, and more serious stuff such as Belgium 1914.

Our visits last year (when we were joined by wives and friends) included lunch at the Silver Plate Restaurant, the Yorkshire Air Museum, Whitby, via the Pickering railway, and Jaguar's factory at Castle Bromwich. A few years ago, our visit to the JCB factory occurred one day before the press announced an order worth several million pounds, but unfortunately, we were unable to work the same magic when we went to Jaguar last autumn within days of their bad news. We are hoping to avoid the headlines when we go on our cruise to Liverpool on the Mersey Ferry this summer.

If you are a retired man living within reach of Dore and would like to join our Probus Club, or perhaps simply make a visit (without commitment), contact either Nigel Reeves (nigelkreeves@hotmail.co.uk) or George Beeley (tel. 2552098). Dore Probus Club meets in the hall of Dore Methodist Church, 3 Savage Lane, Dore, on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 10.15 am. You will find details of our talks and visits on our website at <https://doreprobus.wordpress.com>

Peter Beardsell, Press Officer, Dore Probus Club

Councillors' Surgeries

Liberal Democrats:

2nd Monday in month, 6 to 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

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Holmesfield Flower Club



Wednesday 17 April, 7.30 pm: Flower arranging workshop entitled "Easter Designs with Spring Flowers and Textures" with tutor Glenda Bream.

Wednesday 15 May, 7.30 pm: Flower arranging workshop entitled "Traditional to Contemporary - New innovations" with tutor Kathryn Wrath (NAFAS National Teacher).

For both events, the venue is Holmesfield Village Hall, Vicarage Road (Off Woodside Avenue), Holmesfield, S18 7WZ - ample parking. Non-members are most welcome to join in or just come and watch - visitors £5, includes refreshments.

Contact Sandra 01709 541187 for further details and a list of materials to bring.

Diana Holland

Letter to the Editor

It is really comforting to know that the speed camera vans are "operating in the dark and wet". Really? I've never seen a van there in the dark, more likely to see them on a Sunday when the occupants are on double-time. I think we can all sleep more soundly in our beds knowing that they are there ready to put some poor old lady through a formal legal process for doing 34 mph on the dual carriageway.

What would be more satisfying would be to hear that dangerous criminals and sneak thieves, like the ones responsible for breaking into cars at Abbeydale Sports Centre recently, are being apprehended promptly.

Terry Smith

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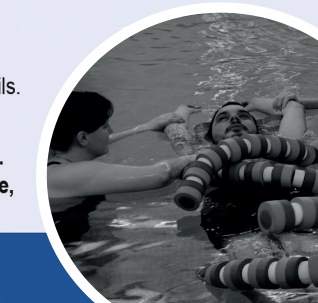
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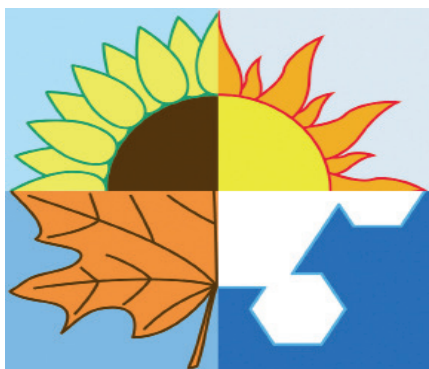
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Totley Weather Report 2018

Long term records broken, taken from Weston Park weather report

- Coldest February day since 1956 (daily mean temperature)
- Lowest March minimum since 1986
- Lowest March maximum since 1942
- Coldest March day since 1947 (daily mean temperature)
- Highest April maximum temperature on record
- Warmest May on record (monthly mean temperature)
- Longest period with no rain since 1959
- Driest June since 2006
- Driest July since 1990
- Driest August since 2007
- Lowest September minimum temperature since 1995
- Wettest September day on record
- Wettest September since 2008
- Lowest October minimum temperature since 1998



2018 Summary

Wettest day: 20th September (66.2mm Weston Park (WP) and 81mm Totley (T))
Sunniest day: 14th May (17.6C at WP)

Hottest day: 26th July (32.1C at WP, 30.8C at T)
Coldest night: 28th February (-6.3C at WP, -5.8C at T)

What an extraordinary year weatherwise, very wet and bitterly cold to very hot and a long spell of 28 consecutive days without rain! I think looking at the above information from WP (with T records which I have added) leaves very little else to say. January, March, April and September either doubled or almost doubled the WP average for rainfall, while July managed half the WP average for rainfall and August approximately a quarter. The rainfall for the year was 1041.4 MM for T and 796.9mm for WP (T average 2003-20143 = 1046.6mm and WP average 838mm). There were 46 days with lying snow in T in the first four months of the year as against 11 days in WP.

Sunshine hours for WP 1729.6 (WP average 1442 hours).

Rain for the year:

	Totley	Weston Park
2018	1041.4mm	796.9mm
2017	934.5mm	694.3mm
2016	1114.5mm	797.1mm

Wettest Day:

	Totley	Weston Park
2018	81.0mm	66.2mm
2017	32.7mm	25.6 mm
2016	60 mm	37.7 mm

Coldest Night:

	Totley	Weston Park
2018	-5.8C	-6.3C
2017	-5C	-3.4C
2016	-5C	-2.6C

Hottest Day:

	Totley	Weston Park
2018	30.8C	32.1C
2017	28.8C	29.0C
2016	26.0C	30.5C

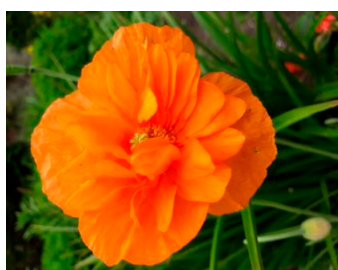


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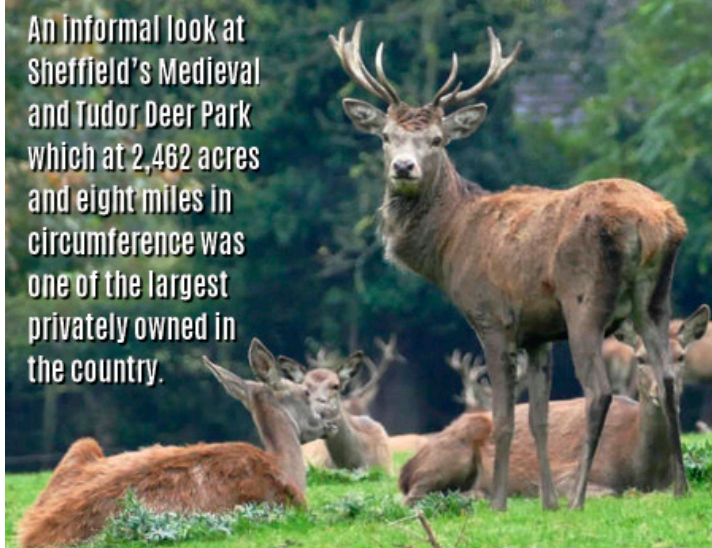
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Totley Talent!

At Totley Primary, we are firm believers in providing children with a wide range of sporting opportunities, as well as building physical activity into the school day wherever possible. As such, we work closely with external providers who support our staff in delivering both curriculum time and after-school coaching. Fencing, pilates, karate and yoga have been popular recent additions to the sports on offer, joining more traditional choices such as hockey, rugby, netball and gymnastics. The resulting high levels of participation have been great to see as all children have benefited from this offer.

However, sometimes it is important to pause and acknowledge those children with a special sporting talent. In our current Y4 class, for example, we have Olivia who competes at a national level in gymnastics along with Spike, one of the best rock climbers for his age in the country, and Ella who is rapidly rising up through the national squash rankings for her age group. In Y6, we have Archie, who has recently represented the school at the English National Schools diving championships and has been selected to join the England training 'pathway' over the next few months and years.

Finally, also in our Y6 class, is Sonny – recently crowned South Yorkshire U11 boys table tennis champion. Clearly, we are incredibly proud of all of our sporting stars but Sonny is particularly interesting because he first picked up a table tennis bat and ball whilst at school. Here is his story:

My name is Sonny Ford, I'm 11 years old and live in Totley, Sheffield and attend Totley Primary School.

I began to play table tennis in Y3 when the school provided us with a table, bats and balls. I spent the entire year self-teaching and learning basic shots. I really started to enjoy playing table tennis.



On my 9th birthday my parents made me my own table to fit the size of our lounge. I once spent six hours straight practising on it. In Y5, I started taking lessons at school with my coach Sean, who taught me more advanced shots while improving my basics.

In Spring 2018 I started to attend Abbeydale Table Tennis

Club on Saturday mornings with my friends Oli, Jack and Eddie. My Dad also took me during the holidays.

My friends and I formed a Joola league team in September 2018 as part of Abbeydale Table Tennis and competed monthly against a variety of talents at the Institute of Sport. On Tuesday 5th February 2019 I entered the South Yorkshire County School Table Tennis Championship, without understanding the full title, and by some miracle I won!

I'm really looking forward to competing in the nationals on 27th April 2019 in Wolverhampton.

I am really pleased to have got this far with Table Tennis and I am now having extra lessons to prepare myself for the Nationals.

Sonny Ford

As well as the weekly table tennis club, school has also invested in outdoor tables for both the school playground and our breakfast and after school club. They are in almost constant use and the number of table tennis balls we get through each term is impressive to say the least!

So as well as wishing Sonny and all of our children who compete regularly in sport the best of luck with their endeavours, the bigger message to everyone in our school community is to be as active as you can, enjoy your sport and if you really want to improve then practise practise practise... you never know where the journey may take you!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society

DON'T MISS THIS ONE! The Yeomen Of The Guard, as many of you will know, is one of the very best light operas written by this exceptional pair. Their comic operettas have been and are still being performed all over the English speaking world (and sometimes even in non-English language countries like Germany! I met many of my G&S friends when I went on a trip to Germany with Dronfield Gemini Opera who performed The Pirates of Penzance and I know that there have been more performances like this. The locals were intrigued and the performances were well supported with the jokes being translated by those with a good command of English for those who did not have such.. They all laughed in the right places, thank goodness).

The Yeomen of the Guard, as I said in the last issue, is the one that came closest to grand opera in that it has a tragic element in the story. But don't let that put you off trying out this very English showpiece. It has a strong story line, superb music, comedy, intrigue and pathos. What more could you wish for in a musical? I am still laughing from last week's rehearsal involving the interplay of the jailer, Wilfred Shadbolt, and Phoebe Meryll when she steals (borrows) the key to Colonel Fairfax's cell to facilitate the escape plot.

If you have never seen a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta before this might just be the one for you. I'm sure that you will come away at the end with "I have a song to sing O" washing over you.

The show will be at The Merlin Theatre, 2 Meadow Bank Road, Nether Edge, Sheffield, S11 9AH, from Wednesday April 10th to Friday April 12th at 7.15pm and on Saturday 13th April at 2.15pm.

The tickets are priced at £15 adults, and £7.50 U16s, and can be purchased by phoning the ticket hot line 0114 2363797 or by sending a S.A.E. to John Savournin at 62 Hastings Road, Millhouses, Sheffield S7 2GU; or via our web address at <https://doregass.weebly.com/tickets.html>

The Merlin Theatre has recently been refurbished to a very high standard and we will be the first Society to use it. It has disabled access and limited parking for those with mobility problems. There is plenty of on-street parking. The stage is large and the audience views are totally unrestricted. As usual we will have a professional orchestra and the production team and cast will ensure a show of the highest quality. We hope that you will come and support us at this new venue and I am sure you will have a wonderful evening's entertainment. I'll finish as I started.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

Derek Habberjam

Gardening Tips for April and May

It's raining, and after all that lovely sunshine recently it is very welcome. The ground was getting quite dry, especially in the raised beds. We have not spent much time in the garden recently as coughs and colds have taken their toll on our enthusiasm. I have popped up the garden to open the greenhouse doors (100 degrees is not uncommon when the sun shines) and have had to dash up later when the temperature drops.

We are now feeling better and raring to go. These two months are very time-consuming, what with potting up cuttings and seedlings, visiting garden centres to purchase plants, etc. I think I have mentioned before that we don't put many seeds in these days since heating costs and looking after seedlings get tedious, so we take the easy route and let the nurseries do all the initial work.

The compost bins are getting quite full, and some of them are ready for spreading. This is a job we have to do in stages:

Stage 1 find a muck tub with handles.
Stage 2 put compost in muck tub, not too much.
Stage 3 test the weight of the muck tub.
Stage 4 remove some compost from muck tub.
Stage 5 stagger to the veg or flower beds.
Stage 6 spread compost over the beds
Stage 7 sit down with a cup of tea.

As you will gather this can take some time, as we have seven large compost bins! I must try to find a narrow wheelbarrow, or widen the footpaths. More work!...

I am a bit late with the compost spreading as it was not quite ready earlier. I had not turned it over enough, and it got a bit dry; we must cut down on all these holidays, as they are so time-consuming and they encourage us to neglect these essential jobs. It is important to keep compost bins well stirred, and the addition of a little water helps to activate the decomposition (good word!) of the different materials we put in them.

If you have compost heaps, turning them over regularly is essential, and covering them with an old carpet, (a green one is best, as a fancy patterned one would look a bit out of place) this will help prevent the heap getting too wet, and keep in any heat that may occur, and also the insect life and the mice will love it.

The ponds have been neglected. The one with the leak is still leaking. I have removed some of the leafy gunge from the bottom - lovely stuff for the compost bin! I am waiting for a bit of fine weather so that I can fit a new liner which I have had for some time. It's the type of job that requires a lot of self-motivation, and motivation at my age takes time and a lot of effort. 11th May is the date when the plant sale at the library takes place. If you gardeners have any spare plants please bring them along, and if you have forgotten what they are I will be there to guess whether they are plants, or weeds which look like plants. The proceeds from the sale go towards the running of this great community asset, so do look around and bring lots of goodies and yourselves! You never know - you may find that elusive plant that you have been searching for, as I did last year. What a bargain!! Enjoy your composting.

April

Flowers: Complete the planting of herbaceous perennials and plant gladioli. April is a good time to plant or replant alpine. Apply a good fertiliser to roses - it will give them the food they require throughout the summer. Sow hardy annuals. Plant out and stake sweet peas, and also violas and pansies if they have been properly hardened off. A rather cool semi-shaded place is best. This will give a longer life to the flowers and a well-manured bed will ensure fine blooms. Start dahlias in a frame, cover tubers with a light soil and water moderately. Those of you who planted half-hardy bedding plants early can transfer them to a cold frame. Keep the frames closed for the first few days unless it is really hot. Cover over with sacks or insulation at night in case of frost. Plant antirrhinums and penstemons once they are hardened off. Clematis can be planted now - a good pot-grown specimen is best.

Vegetables: Feed spring cabbages which are near maturity with a top dressing of nitrate of soda and hoe it in - and another dressing in 3 weeks' time. Plant the second early and main-crop potatoes to give them plenty of room. Plant onion sets 4-6 ins (10-15cms) apart in rows about a foot (30cm) apart. Sowings of lettuce, radish, peas etc. should be made. Soil should be pulled up along each side of broad-bean rows. Sow winter cabbage, savoy cabbage and broccoli. Prepare trenches for runner beans, which will be sown or planted next month.

Keep the hoe going on all plots - the frequent aeration of soil and checking of weeds does a great deal of good and certainly encourages growth. Those of you who grow celery should prepare trenches now unless of course you grow the self-blanching type. Sow parsley outdoors. If your garden is susceptible to carrot fly then make a fleece tent for your parsley, as carrot fly grubs love a change.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Clean up strawberry beds - take off dead or damaged leaves and clean up generally making the whole tidy. Spray blackcurrants against big bud mite with

a proprietary insecticide or lime sulphur. Spray gooseberries



against mildew. Make sure any newly planted shrubs or trees are kept moist during dry spells while they are getting established. Keep an eye on plum trees for the first sign of aphids and deal with them as soon as they are seen. Remove grease bands from around trees which have been on since September.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: There will now be much less difficulty in maintaining sufficient temperature in the greenhouse. It may even be necessary to shade temporarily on the hottest days - do not use side vents or doors which can cause damaging draughts.

Prick off seedlings as soon as they are handleable. Do not let them get too deep-rooted as this causes them to check growth when transplanted. Pot on seedlings pricked out earlier. Take cuttings of winter flowering begonias. Rest freesias, lachenalias, arum lilies and cyclamen. Place them on a shelf near the glass and gradually reduce watering. Stop early flowering chrysanthemums by pinching out the tips of

rooted cuttings required for spray flowering.

Plant tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicum etc. in a heated greenhouse. Sow annuals for flowering pots in the greenhouse. Watch out for ants and woodlice as they can do an awful lot of damage to seedlings. Indoor plants should have their watering increased and established houseplants given a good feed. Split up and repot ferns.

Lawns: Rake up debris and lightly roll. Scarify, spike and aerate. Start or continue routine mowing. Apply lawn dressing or liquid feed. Treat any moss or lawn diseases as soon as they are seen. Seed new lawns and keep well watered in dry weather.

May

Flowers: Prepare beds ready for summer bedding plants. Dig in plenty of well-rotted manure or compost. Remove any weeds. Thin and stake herbaceous perennials. Watch out for greenfly and treat it before it gets too bad. Encourage blue tits, hover flies, lacewings and ladybirds - they love greenfly. Slugs will be on the rampage. Beer traps work but are a bit smelly if you forget to empty them regularly. Tie up sweet peas and give them a mulch to keep them moist. Dead-head bulbs that have finished flowering. Don't cut the leaves or tie them in knots - let them die back naturally or move them to another plot. Put them in a trench and cover the bulbs until the leaves have died back, then dry them in the sun or greenhouse.

Thin out chrysanthemum growth, plant out dahlia tubers, cover with 8cm (3in) of soil. Spray roses with fungicide if you had trouble with black spot last season. Plant up window boxes and hanging baskets, but keep them in the greenhouse or in a sheltered spot until the frosts have finished. Plant out seedlings of hardy perennials. Place them in a nursery bed where they can grow undisturbed during the summer. Trim aubrietia to prolong the flowering period and top dress with compost or well-rotted manure. Pinch out the growing points of herbaceous plants such as phlox, Michaelmas daisy and golden rod. Sow hardy annuals such as clarkia, cornflower, calendula, candytuft, godetias etc. Liquid feed container-grown plants. Seaweed fertilizer is ideal and it's organic!

Vegetables: Earth up potatoes, support peas and runner beans, thin out carrot, lettuce, parsnip, turnip and spinach seedlings. Keep all crops well watered, especially cauliflower. Harden off indoor raised vegetables and salad crops. Clear the remains of spring greens and prepare beds for leeks, digging in plenty of well-rotted manure and compost. Add a bit of hoof and horn. Prepare mound for planting out courgettes, marrows, pumpkins etc. to have a constant supply of veg throughout the season. Sow small amounts of seeds every 3 or 4 weeks to obtain a succession of crops and avoid a glut.

Plant out winter greens particularly Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and purple sprouting broccoli. Runner beans can be planted out now: put in 2 seeds together about 9in apart. If they both germinate cultivate the weakest looking one - you need about 3ft between rows. At the end of the month sow vegetable marrow and ridge cucumbers outdoors. On the mounds previously mentioned, as I think I have told you before, I use 2 bales of straw with well-rotted compost and manure mixed in between them with a topping of soil; this keeps them off the ground. I soak the bales thoroughly - this keeps the moisture topped up.

Watch out for pests and diseases and deal with them as soon as they are seen before they get established and beyond control. Onions require a lot of feeding especially those that will be going in the Totley Show in September. A high nitrogen fertilizer (seaweed again) or sheep droppings tied in a bag and left in a tub of water - lovely! Give them this until the end of July, then change to a high potash feed like tomato fertiliser. By the way, keep the tub of sheep dropping juice at the far end of your garden as it can hum a bit, especially during the summer. Keep your vegetable patches clear of weeds. Vegetables don't like the competition for nourishment.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Mulch around fruit trees and bushes with well-rotted manure or compost. This helps retain moisture, keeps down weeds and gives them nourishment. Give apples and pears a spray of fungicide if you were troubled with canker or scab last season. Replace grease

bands to counter caterpillar infestation. Start to pick gooseberries as they form, thinning them out so that the remainder can develop evenly along the branches. Keep all fruit well-watered and prune overcrowded raspberry canes. Keep newly planted evergreens mulched and spray with water especially on hot days. Remove any suckers from trees and roses. Trim over and top dress heathers after flowering - bone meal is ideal. Give your ericaceous subjects a special treat with iron sequestrine plant tonic. Plant out tender shrubs like fuchsias and hydrangea. Prune spring flowering shrubs such as flowering currant, forsythia, willows and dogwood. Trim back dead shoots on rose of sharon.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: As the sun becomes stronger and more prolonged (we hope) it is very important that the ventilation and shading is controlled carefully. Begonia and gloxinias in particular enjoy being shaded. Seedlings must never be in full sun although they must have plenty of light to aid their development and stop them going 'leggy'. Watering is also important - check the plants regularly. Pot on pelargonium and other greenhouse cuttings that were struck earlier, allow nerine, arums, freesias etc.



to go to rest by gradually reducing water. Place them in a sunny spot - this will ripen the bulbs ready for a good show next season. Remove side shoots from tomato plants and pollinate regularly by tapping the supports or brushing the flowers. Trim and feed melons and cucumbers bearing in mind that they soon rot if overwatered. Best water from the bottom if possible (put a small plant pot in the side of the large pot or growbag and water into this and not directly onto the plants).

Sow cinerarias and schizanthus for plants later in the year. Keep insulation in place until all chance of frost is past. Cuttings can be taken now of most common houseplants. Sow flowering pot plants such as browallia, indoor primula, calceolaria, cineraria, ornamental peppers and cacti. Pot on seedlings and cuttings and once again watch out for pests and diseases and deal with them as soon as they are seen. Don't forget - watch the weather as it can still turn cold at night, so keep your heaters at the ready. I would hate to think that all your hard work nurturing those seedlings is nobbled by old Jack Frost

Lawns: Give weedy lawns a top dressing of lawn sand. Keep new lawns well-watered, regular cutting at a medium height is much better than cutting it too short. If you use a liquid weed killer make sure you do it on a still day. If it's windy the killer may drift onto your borders with devastating results.

Spike and top-dress lawns which have not been done earlier, spread it evenly and brush it in. I don't think I have mentioned the Totley Show yet this month. 14th September is the date to aim for. It promises to be an even better Show this year. Preparations are well in hand - it only needs you to make a special effort and bring along those prize winning plants, photographs, tapestry, cakes, jams, and work and crafts - go on, have a go! In the meantime, enjoy your garden.

**Cheerio for now,
Tom**

Friends of Dore & Totley Station

Hope Valley Line 125 – 1894 - 2019

The Dore and Chinley Railway running through the Totley and Cowburn Tunnels took less time to design and build than our current platform restoration scheme is going to have taken. It was originally built for freight, mostly coal to Lancashire industry, and opened in November 1893. It wasn't until Whit Tuesday, 18th May 1894, that the railway saw its first passenger excursions, and 1st June before a scheduled fast service ran.



Celebrating 125 years of passenger service on the Hope Valley line - this photo was taken in around 1901-3

Stations between Dore & Totley and New Mills were almost entirely built of wood and weren't ready for scheduled stopping services until 1st July. The only surviving building that remains is the station café at Grindleford. All the rest have gone, victims of lack of maintenance during WW2 and thereafter.

All the stations along the line now have Station Friends groups. We're working together under the banner of the Hope Valley Rail Users Group to actively prepare a range of indoor and outdoor events at and around the stations to celebrate those 125 years. Walks, talks, whatever we can think up. We're gathering together many photographs, newspaper clippings, old railway tickets and stories about the railway – anything.

If you have any material or memories you think may be of interest please contact us through our secretary who's email address is below, or through our Facebook group.

We hope to start proceedings at Dore & Totley with an opening ceremony for our new canopy, but that can't be before 18th May (see below). Events should continue until September – the 50th anniversary of station staff being withdrawn from all our stations!

We'll be having a range of walks organised by various bodies, all focussed around the railway. We'll be leading one to Grindleford on the 22nd June, return by train. Watch this space for more details. We hope to add events on our website and Facebook page as and when they are confirmed. We'd be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to arrange a rail related event in the May-September period.

That canopy – maybe by April?

We've almost missed this winter, hopefully it will be in place before Easter. The final hurdle seems to be getting Network Rail's approval since moving the ticket machine was brought into the scheme.

Meeting with Dan Jarvis, Sheffield City Region Mayor

Along with other community rail supporters from our region members of the FoDaTS committee met Dan Jarvis, Sheffield City Region Mayor recently. It was a very brief meeting but we were able to impress upon him, and representatives from SYPTE, the importance of the long neglected line to Manchester and the long delayed Hope Valley Capacity Scheme. He advised that there's a large sum due to the region from the Transforming Cities fund and it has to be spent quite quickly.

We suggested that more parking and more than rudimentary station facilities when we get the second platform would both be welcomed. He indicated it might be possible, but early days yet.

We invited Melissa Farmer, Rail Development Manager, SYPTE to speak at our forthcoming AGM on 7th May at Totley Library – she has material input into that car parking issue! Watch out for more details but it's due to start with tea and biscuits at 7.00, proceedings begin 7.30 until 9.00. We'd like to hear from anyone who'd like to join the committee. Drop our Secretary a line and we'll get back to you. Ideally we'd like at least one more lady, possibly someone who regularly uses the trains, maybe lives beside the station, with gardening skills – and we're under represented by those under 55. We'd not expect one person to fulfil all, or even more than two, of those criteria!

Timetables

At the time of writing Northern have not made public their timetable from May, and it may not come until early April. Trans Pennine Express and East Midlands confirmed in January that services will be unchanged. We hope, but don't expect, Northern may have managed to fill some of the current long gaps in the service to and from Sheffield. We have been lobbying Northern, TPE, East Midlands, SYPTE and Transport for the North to get better services. If nothing transpires in May rest assured that we're now concentrating on the December changes.

Punctuality and train length

It's good to be able to report that over the last 4 weeks all regular services to and from Dore have averaged less than 10 minutes late and we're getting closer to under 5. Nevertheless, our station features in the worst 100 in the country on punctuality. Still room for improvement.

TPE trains were supposed to be 6 coaches from December. Most aren't, but possibly from May? Northern are adding extra carriages out of Manchester in the evenings.

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's a very active group. If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary; nj-barnes@outlook.com There's lots of information on our website at; www.fodats.net

Chris Morgan, Chairman

John Wade Singers
present

A Maytime Musical Medley *A selection of music and songs for Spring*

Saturday 18th May 2019, 7.30 pm
Millhouses Methodist Church,
Millhouses Lane, S7 2HA

This varied programme will include a
selection from the music of:
Gabriel Faure, Thomas Tallis, Giuseppe Verdi,
Jerome Kern, Howard Goodall and Ola Gjeilo.

**Proceeds to Sheffield Churches Council for
Community Care (SCCCC)**

Tickets available on the door or by emailing
tickets@johnwadesingers.org.uk
or by telephoning Helen on 0114 235 1433
or Jenny on 0114 236 0798

Pedalling the Parks

Peak District manager tackles epic 1600-mile cycle ride across the UK's most treasured landscapes

Intrepid Lorna Fisher is gearing up for an epic 1658-mile cycle ride – taking in all 15 UK national parks in just two weeks.



Intrepid cyclist Lorna Fisher

Lorna – a Peak District National Park engagement manager who leads a team of rangers – begins her challenge in the Cairngorms on 13th April. She will pedal through national parks in Scotland, Wales and England, ending in the Norfolk Broads National Park on 27th April. She will cycle through the Peak District on Friday 19th April.

The punishing route is about twice the distance as cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats.

Lorna's marathon bike ride coincides with National Parks Fortnight (6th-21st April), reflecting on the 70th anniversary of legislation which ultimately led to the Peak District becoming the UK's original national park in 1951.

Throughout her challenge, Lorna will be raising funds for #70kfor70 – the first campaign of the newly-launched Peak District National Park Foundation.

The Foundation has been set up to grow support and raise funds to care for the Peak District National Park. This year, it is working to raise £70,000 for a range of high impact projects that care for the landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Peak District – and enable more people to enjoy the National Park.

During her cycle challenge, Lorna hopes to meet people from as many local communities as possible, inspiring people about the UK's National Parks – which attract millions of local and international visitors each year.

She also plans to raise awareness of 2019 as the 'Year of Green Action', urging people to say #iWill to new challenges that help contribute to sustainable lifestyles.

Lorna has been a keen cyclist for seven years, but this will be by far her greatest challenge. She says: "I'm an explorer at heart who loves being outside. I am at my happiest when walking in the hills, whizzing along country lanes, simply exploring.

"I've previously taken part in 400km and 600km audaxes (time-limited distance rides), but at around 2,500km over two weeks this will be like nothing else I've attempted before."

She adds: "In my role at the Peak District National Park I'm incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to inspire and engage others, sharing my passion for the natural world. There'll certainly be plenty of time to tune in to the landscapes and meet some of those who live and work in our

national parks throughout the challenge. Seeing the world from two wheels always brings a new perspective."

A full map of Lorna's route can be found at www.peakdistrict.org.uk/pedallingtheparks

You can follow Lorna's progress on social media on @peak-district on Twitter and Facebook, and with the hashtag #PedaltheParks.

Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

Here I am again with another TOADS update!

Rehearsals are well underway for our May 2019 play, with Sarah Scott directing this time. Sarah is an experienced director and actor, so we are in safe hands.

The final choice of play is in fact two one-act comedies linked together by a common theme. The first one-act play is 'Mixed Doubles', and the second is 'The Luvvies'. Both plays were written by Lynn Brittney who is one of our favourite play-writers, and are part of her 'Wine and Wisdom' series of plays.

The dates of the play are Wednesday 15th May to Friday 17th May at 7.30pm, and the usual matinee on Saturday 18th May at 2.30pm. Please come along and support your very own AmDram society, it will be lovely to see you.

The venue is, as always, St John's Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Please call 0114 2351206 to reserve your ticket, or contact me or any TOADS member. Ticket price £6, or £5 for concessions.

TOADS meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room at St John's Hall, and if you feel like a new hobby, treading the boards or helping out in any way, or are just curious, please pop in to see us! We are a friendly lot and you would be very welcome. You can always contact me on 01246 460 318, or visit our website www.toadsdrama.co.uk.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Anne Bettridge

Totley Yard Sale 2019!

There will be a Totley Yard Sale on Sunday 28th April from 10.30am.

This will be the 8th Yard Sale, which is popular among buyers from across Sheffield and beyond. You sell your unwanted things from the front of your home. A list of vendors is produced for selling to all punters, and the Yard Sale is advertised widely on social media and in the local press.



Vendors pay £6 to take part, and this money goes to Totley Open Gardens, who combine the money with the funds raised by the Open Gardens event on 6th and 7th July. These funds are then distributed to local voluntary and community organisations.

Since this is a community event organised voluntarily to raise money for local groups it is appreciated that everyone contributes the £6 in order to take part.

If you would like to take part in the Yard Sale, to book your name on the Vendors List, please contact Jennie Street on jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk or Tel. 236-2302.

New Fitness Classes from Activ

Activ Physiotherapy are excited to announce their new service, Activ Age Fit which provides health advice and exercise classes for people aged 50 plus who want to increase their activity levels in a supportive, fun and social environment.

Changes to our bodies that we associate with older age, such as loss of bone density (leading to osteoporosis) and loss of muscle can start when we are in our 30's! As we get older many people start to notice other changes such as joint pain and stiffness, reduced balance and less stamina. These changes can affect a person's ability to participate in activities or hobbies they enjoy, can limit their ability to manage everyday tasks at home (for example reaching into a high cupboard or climbing the stairs) and can lead to social isolation if an older person stays at home because using public transport or getting in or out a car (or taxi) is too challenging.

Physiotherapist Kerry Lauder has completed specialist training as a Postural Stability Instructor (PSI) to provide Age Fit classes using the Falls and Exercise Management (FaME) programme. Kerry explains that "FaME has several proven benefits including strengthening bones, strengthening muscles, improving balance and co-ordination and increasing stamina".

She adds, "these benefits lead to increased physical ability and reduce the risk of having a fall so that everyday tasks become easier and older people can continue to participate in activities they enjoy". Often classes provided by the NHS are usually limited to just a few weeks; the FaME programme runs for 6 months and people are welcome to attend for as long as they wish.

Andrew Okwera of Activ Physiotherapy says, "we can give health advice on managing conditions associated with ageing including arthritis, osteoporosis, preparing for and recovery from joint replacement surgery and reducing the risk of falling".

Each session includes a warm up, mobilising exercises, balance work, cardiovascular exercises and strengthening exercises. The class finishes with a cool-down and gentle stretch. Time is also taken to discuss any health issues or exercise related topics as requested by the participants.

Age Fit classes are suitable for all abilities. Participants work at their own pace and adaptations or progressions of the exercises are demonstrated, so each person can choose the level of exercise most suitable for them. Options to exercise either in sitting or standing are also provided and to maximise the benefits of joining the class, participants are encouraged to gradually increase the challenge of the exercises they perform and to exercise regularly home (advice and exercise sheets are provided).

Kerry Lauder concludes, "the classes are fun and interactive, and give participants the opportunity to socialise and make friends. To make sure each session is tailored to everyone's needs I complete a health screen and make sure each person's goals are taken into account prior to them joining the class".

New Weight Watchers Workshop opens

Catriona Alfaham had never been a 'dieter'. A self confessed 'foodie', she enjoyed food and ate what she wanted, when she wanted. Over time the weight was creeping on and Catriona was getting bigger but she embraced her fuller figure and continued to enjoy her treats and takeaways.

However, after the birth of her second child, she started to lose her confidence. None of her clothes fitted and she had to ditch her normal clothes in favour of tracksuits.

Inspired by her mum who was recovering from breast cancer and had seen great results with WW (the new Weight Watchers), Catriona decided it was time for her to start feeling the benefits that her mum was seeing. So she went

along to her first workshop and was pleasantly surprised.

Catriona comments 'Unlike fad diets and quick fixes WW is a liveable programme, which means life doesn't have to stop while you lose weight. It provides a flexible and balanced approach to leading a healthier, happier lifestyle while working towards your individual wellness goals. What surprised me most is how nothing is off-limits and all foods can be eaten in moderation, allowing me to lose weight and continue to enjoy the foods I love.'



Catriona before and after the WW programme!

Catriona went on to lose over 3 stones, but more than that she's got her confidence back, is healthier than ever and has got herself a brand new role as a Wellness Coach for WW helping others achieve the healthy, mindful lifestyle they've been searching for.

The WW programme builds on the highly successful and effective SmartPoints system, making it the most flexible and liveable programme ever. It encourages you to enjoy food with freedom, find what moves you physically and gives you skills to shift your mindset so you can focus on what really matters on your weight loss journey - taking care of yourself and living your life the way you want to.

Catriona has started a new workshop in Dore on Sunday mornings at 10am at the Dore Old School on Savage Lane. To look for the best deals for membership look online on www.weightwatchers.com/uk

Drop-in and Draw

New from Sheffield Libraries!

Adults are invited to drop in to these relaxed group drawing sessions. All ages and abilities welcome. The emphasis will be on drawing for pleasure in a supportive, non-judgemental environment.

The Library will provide the subject, the space and the materials. A great opportunity to slow down, see more clearly and enjoy some 'me time'.

Highfield Library

Every Wednesday, 2pm - 3pm
(term time only)

Central Library Reading Room

- Saturday 13th April, 10.30am to 12noon
- Saturday 27th April, 10.30am to 12noon
- Saturday 11th May, 10.30am to 12noon
- Saturday 25th May, 10.30am to 12noon
- Saturday 8th June, 10.30am to 12noon
- Saturday 22nd June, 10.30am to 12noon



Run For The Trees!

Local running clubs cried 'run for the trees!' last year to help preserve and grow the woodlands of the Peak District by raising over a thousand pounds for the National Trust's Peak District Appeal at local races.

"Runners, climbers, cyclists and walkers are telling us they want to put something back into the countryside they love, and we're really grateful to the organisers of fell races at Wirksworth, Ilam and Longshaw for helping us kick start our fundraising," said Jon Stewart, General Manager for the National Trust in the Peak District.



Trust10k runners at Longshaw (photo by Tom Harman)

"For many active people, the Peak District is effectively their sports stadium, but in a wonderful natural environment. By making a donation or choosing the Peak District Appeal as a designated charity for an event, they're putting something back for themselves and helping our countryside for generations to come."

Since its launch, the Peak District 'Woods for the Future' Appeal has already raised over £16,000 to support the planting of native trees like lime, maple and yew in the White Peak to keep woodlands alive in areas that could be devastated as ash dieback disease spreads.

This year, some of the money raised is already going into the planting of 300 new trees in areas affected by ash dieback in Dovedale and Taddington Woods, including native oak, lime, field maple and alder.



Trees affected by Ash Dieback at Dovedale

The fundraising will also support the National Trust's clough woodlands project in the High Peak to bring thousands of native broadleaf trees back to the moorland valleys, to help

wildlife as well as reduce flooding lower down the hills.

And there'll also be a new native tree nursery at Longshaw, where young trees from the Peak District will be grown on to become the woods of the future.

"We're asking anyone who loves the woodlands of the Peak District to think about how they can help," said Jon Stewart. "That might be running for the trees, or sponsored events by families, churches or community groups, or asking your walking, cycling or mountaineering club to step, pedal or climb for the trees instead."

He added that £10 would pay for a new tree sapling to be planted with a temporary protective guard, and each native tree could eventually set seed and lead to a dozen or more trees in future.

National Trust rangers and volunteers will be choosing their own favourite trees over 2019 to highlight why trees and woodlands are so important to Peak District people.

"We're asking lovers of our National Park to nominate their own favourite Peak District trees after making their donation," said Jon. "Just tag a picture of your trees with #peakdistrictNT on social media and then we can all appreciate them."

Donations can be made at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/PeakDistrictAppeal>

David Bocking, National Trust

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Totley Brook Road

Join us on polling day, May 2nd at Dore and Totley URC where we will be serving refreshments all day. Voting early? Have a bacon sandwich. Over lunchtime there will be homemade soup and coffees and cakes are available all day.

We do this to raise money for Christian Aid in readiness for Christian Aid week from 12th to 18th May.



World War 2 Living History Event and Exhibition

WW2 reenactors · Oral History Exhibition · Wartime café
Displays · 1940s music · Children's activities

Saturday 6 April 2019

Dore Old School 10.00 am - 3.30 pm

Free Entry - 1940s dress encouraged!



Dore Village Society Archives and Heritage

facebook.com/dorearchivesandheritage twitter: @doreheritage
email: dore.archives@mail.com



Totley History Group Programme 2019

24th April: Annual General Meeting, followed by 'The Great Sheffield Deer Park', a talk by David Templeman. An informal look at Sheffield's 8-mile Medieval and Tudor Deer Park - one of the largest privately-owned in the country. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

22nd May: Open meeting. Come along and share your memories of the 1950s. We will be having displays of photographs of Totley in the 1950s and class photos of Totley County School. Whether you were living in Totley at the time or not please bring along any old photos and memorabilia. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

26th June: 'A Contract from Hell: Building the Woodhead Tunnel 1839-1845'. Chris and Judy Rouse explore the working and living conditions endured by the Railway Navvies whilst building the tunnel on the summit of the line linking Manchester and Sheffield. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

People Keeping Well

The following regular events will continue through April and May. Except for 'Memoir/Creative Writing', no booking is required for these activities. Watch out for posters and ads with information about other activities!

Body Conditioning Class, Mondays 2pm-3pm, United Reformed Church. Transport available.

Exercise To Music Class, Thursdays 2.30pm-3.30pm, United Reformed Church.

Sporting Chatter, 10am-12pm, 12th April, 26th April, 10th May, 24th May. Totley Library.

Table Tennis, Thursdays 3pm-5pm and Fridays 7pm-9pm, Bradway Community Hall

Memoir/Creative Writing, Mondays 2pm-4pm, Dore Parish Church Hall. Booking required. Transport available.

Contact Jo Graves at joanna.graves@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 0114 250 2850 for further information or booking where required.

Totley Scouts

Where is Spring? We all got so excited by our brief spell of warm sunny weather and it certainly turned our minds towards planning our camps and outdoor activities. We are hoping the lovely weather will return soon and we can get our young people outside.



In April our Scouts are embarking on the first camp of the year. The Scouts will sleep in tents (with indoor accommodation available should the weather not be kind to us), they will cook for themselves and take part in some great Scouting activities. We know they will all have a great time.

All our sections are busy with their programmes. Our Beaver Colonies practised their sewing skills recently and had a go at making their very own cuddly Beaver. They all worked very hard and the results were fantastic. Thanks to all the parents who came along to help with the endless re-threading of needles and untangling knots!!

The Cubs have also been busy with the Thursday pack perfecting their knotting skills by making paracord woggles. It took us all evening and a lot of perseverance but they all went home with a really nice new woggle to wear with their neckerchiefs.



In February some of our leaders, young people and their parents joined forces with the Totley Litter Pickers and took part in a wonderful community project. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny Saturday as we walked the streets of Totley and the youngsters very enthusiastically collected lots of litter. They were all rewarded with their



Community Impact badge at their meetings the following week. It was a very rewarding project and is something we plan to get involved with again. Well done everyone.

Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader
hallamadccubs@gmail.com

Tater People

Some people never seem motivated to participate,
But are just content to watch while others do the work.
They are called SPECK TATERS.

Some people never do anything to help,
But are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work.
They are called COMMENT TATERS.

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do,
But don't want to soil their own hands.
They are called DICK TATERS.

Some people are always looking to cause problems by
Asking others to agree with them.
It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet
They are called AGIE TATERS

There are those who say they will help
But somehow just never get around to actually doing what they promised.
They are called HEZZIE TATERS

Some people can pout up a front and pretend to be some they are not.
They are called IMMA TATERS.

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will.
They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand.
They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.
They are called SWEET TATERS.

Anonymous

Nature's abundance at Blacka Moor

Looking over the nature reserve from the advantage of Bole Hill in late afternoon light is a wonderful experience as the sun drops slowly down behind Strawberry Lee Pastures, casting a warm glow and long shadows everywhere whilst silhouetting grazing sheep against the skyline. When the winter snow came there was a keen nip in the air as a thin white layer covered the bracken lying between silver birches, and a pronounced ridge and furrow effect was clearly visible on a north-east facing slope of pasture where the snow was still hanging on.



Sheffield & Rotherham

There was a certain stillness about the reserve at this time. So standing on the slabbed path that runs across Cowsick Bog, with a kestrel hovering overhead, proved to be another special moment when a magnificent short-eared owl was seen to drift low over long grass as it hunted just the other side of a boundary wall. It twisted and turned and dropped in pursuit of prey and the light shone perfectly through the trailing edges of the pale brown feathers on its long broad wings.

And thoughts now go to spring when the reserve will be full of colour and sound, with birds singing on territory, with butterflies, bees and hoverflies on the wing. Birds such as willow warbler, tree pipit, pied flycatcher and cuckoo, our summer visitors, arrive during April from distant lands, to add to the diversity of song. These will then be joined, probably a little later, by garden warbler, spotted flycatcher and the delightful wood warbler. So much to seek out and watch on this exciting nature reserve.



Wheatear (photo: Amy Lewis)

Blacka Moor is the largest of the 16 nature reserves managed by the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Formerly part of the Duke of Rutland's moorland estate, the land was given to the City of Sheffield by Alderman J G Graves in the 1930s. The land forms part of an internationally important wild moorland landscape which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and has been managed as a nature reserve by the Wildlife Trust since 2001.

The range of habitats and the sensitive management of the nature reserve both contribute to the rich diversity of wildlife found there. There are ancient woodlands, scrub, heathland, pastures, streams, bog and wet flushes on the nature reserve – and it is the mosaic of these different habitats which allows the reserve to support such a wealth of wildlife. Aside from the diversity of bird life, there are common lizards, rare bilberry bumblebees, stunning green hairstreak butterflies and of course the majestic red deer, to name just a few of the most iconic species.

The Wildlife Trust has been working hard to maintain this richness of wildlife, while also maintaining good public access across the network of public footpaths and bridleways which

criss-cross the nature reserve, and conserving the historical and archaeological interest of the site. Their mantra is very much aimed at maintaining a wild landscape: doing as much management work as required to maintain the nature reserve, but intervening as little as possible.



Common lizard (photo: Graham Thorpe)

Over the autumn and winter, the Wildlife Trust's volunteer team have been busy removing invasive rhododendron from the woodland in the upper part of the nature reserve (near Hathersage Rd), and clearing birch scrub which has been encroaching on to the open moor. Woodland management work has been undertaken in the lower part of the nature reserve (near Shorts Lane) - removing non-native sycamore and creating open glades to encourage rare breeding birds such as pied flycatcher and willow tit. Nest boxes have also been installed at key locations and ancient trees have been surveyed and mapped across the site.

To keep the open grassland and heathland in good condition, sheep graze on the pastures and cattle graze on the moor from May to October. During lambing and bird nesting season, from 1st March to 31st July, wildlife and livestock are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, so visitors to the nature reserve are asked to keep dogs on a lead or under effective control.

The Wildlife Trust runs volunteer work days twice every month on the nature reserve, so if any readers are interested in doing their bit to help care for one of Sheffield's most special areas and getting some healthy exercise in the outdoors, they would be very welcome to attend a volunteer day. For more information please visit the Wildlife Trust website:

<https://www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on/> or email nature.reserves@wildsheffield.com

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TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

MONDAYS	<p>COFFEE MORNING, All Saints Church Hall, 10am-12noon. Transport usually available on request. Tel 236 0872 before 9.45am.</p> <p>TAI-CHI, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 11.30am-12.30pm.</p> <p>RAINBOWS and GUIDES, All Saints Church Hall, 5.45pm-9pm.</p>
TUESDAYS	<p>SLIMMING WORLD, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Call Catherine Haynes on 07718 205733.</p> <p>PILATES, The Old School, Dore, 9.15-10.15am. Phone Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372.</p> <p>BABY TIME, Totley Library, 1-2pm. A fun music session with songs, rhymes and simple musical instruments for babies aged 0-18months</p> <p>COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am-noon.</p> <p>KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT & CHATTER, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 12 noon - 3.00pm.</p> <p>CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU Drop-in, free, impartial and confidential. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am-noon.</p> <p>CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm.</p> <p>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.</p>
WEDNESDAYS	<p>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.</p> <p>COFFEE in the Library, 10am-11.30am.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>TODDLER GROUP, 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Katy Maclean 07790 411893.</p> <p>HEALTH WALKS, 10.30am, Totley Library. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email stepoutshel@stepoutshel@gmail.com www.healthwalksinffield.btck.co.uk. For more information see Totley Library item in this issue.</p> <p>MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm.</p> <p>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.</p>
THURSDAYS	<p>BELROBICS, United Reformed Church, 9.15-10am, email: jenny@belrobics.co.uk or tel 07816 850132.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ROCKCHOIR, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd, 11.30 - 1pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276</p> <p>PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1.30-3pm. Tel. 07912 352543 for details.</p> <p>PILATES CLASS run by qualified Pilates Instructor/Physiotherapist for all abilities and ages. 1.30 - 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Emer on 07792 422909.</p>

APRIL

WED 10th to SAT 13th DORE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY "Yeomen of the Guard" at the Merlin Theatre, Meadowbank Road, Nether Edge, S11 9AH. For full details and performance times see page 25.

WED 10th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Michael Lewis, "A Time To Speak". Visitors Welcome.

SUN 14th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/

TUES 16th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Suzanne Bingham, "Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases" Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am.

WED 24th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Illustrated talk by Dr. Andrew Raftery "New Kidneys for Old - The History of Transplant Surgery". Visitors Welcome.

WED 24th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Annual General Meeting, followed by David Templeman, "The Great Sheffield Deer Park." An informal look at Sheffield's 8 mile Medieval and Tudor Deer Park - one of the largest privately owned in the country. 7.30pm, Totley Library.

SUN 28th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5pm (weather permitting). See SUN 14th above for details.

SUN 28th 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 8.

MON 29th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD AGM followed by a talk by Dr Nicky Rivers, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, "The Otterly Amazing! Project & State of Nature in Sheffield". 7.30 pm, Totley Library. For more details see page 8.

MAY

SAT 4th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD May Bird Walk with Chris Measures. An opportunity to look for spring birds. Meet at the end of Totley Hall Lane at 8am. No experience necessary. For more details see page 8.

SUN 12th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/

WED 8th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB 10 am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Illustrated Talk by Ann Beedham "Some Sheffield Notables". Visitors Welcome.

TUES 21st TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Keith Whatlin, "The History of Architectural Styles, Part 2". Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am.

WED 22nd TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Open Meeting - The 1950s. Come and share memories of what it was like to live in Totley in the 1950s. 7.30pm, Totley Library.

THU 23rd FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Evening Wildflower Meadow Walk led by Rebekah Newman. Meet at Shepley Spitfire, 6.30pm. For more details see p. 8

WED 22nd TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB 10am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Illustrated talk by Chris Dorries, H. M. Coroner, "The Porthole Murder". Visitors Welcome.

SUN 26th 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 8.

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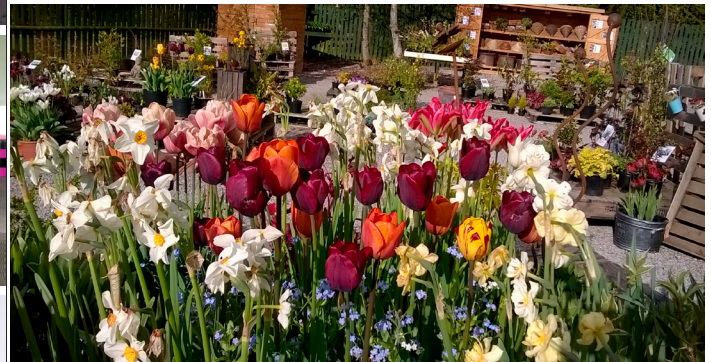
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