

Totley Independent

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Working from home: Dore & Totley Station car-park, 3.30pm, Thursday 19th March

Stay At Home!

As the global Coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic continues through the days and weeks of spring, we at *Totley Independent* are only too aware that there is very little practical up-to-the-minute information on the crisis that a local bi-monthly magazine can offer. Nonetheless this issue, covering April and May, comes to you in the hope that you will find something interesting to read which will provide a little respite!

As our local shops, pubs, library, churches and other facilities closed, it became clear to us that printing our usual numbers would probably not reach many of our readers. We decided in the circumstances to bring you this issue of *Totley Independent* online through our website. Inevitably some regular articles are shorter than usual because of the cancellation of many local events.

Readers who are self-isolating or who are in a particularly vulnerable group, or who are caring for or supporting someone who is, may find it useful to visit the website of the S17 COVID-19 Community Support Group - www.s17covid19.co.uk - which is a local group providing practical help and advice.

There is also a link to this group on the 'Totley Independent Forum' Facebook page.

The group has around 150 volunteer members in Sheffield 17. Between them they have delivered leaflets to every house on every street in Totley, Bradway and Dore, offering anyone who is self-isolating the possibility of help with collecting shopping, posting mail, getting urgent supplies, or simply offering a friendly phone call. In addition to the great work being done by this group, we thank our local food shops for staying open and/or making home deliveries, and of course our local pharmacy providing, as usual, a fantastic service to the community.

The current crisis will end. But in the meantime it is vitally important that everyone observes the government and NHS guidelines on staying healthy in the current situation. You must avoid social contact outside of your immediate family, keep washing your hands thoroughly, and most important of all, stay at home if you possibly can!

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Councillors' News

Heavy Goods Vehicle restrictions at last After a two year campaign by Lib Dem Councillors we were delighted when the Council finally imposed HGV restrictions on Twentywell Lane, Prospect Road, Queen Victoria Road and the surrounding roads.

In 2017 we uncovered the fact that these roads were among the worst 'hot spots' for HGV traffic across the whole city. A local petition soon followed and, as a result of our intervention, traffic surveys were undertaken that showed this area was the highest priority for action in Sheffield.

The Council knew about this issue for years - that these roads are totally unsuitable for heavy trucks - and local residents are glad to see that action has been taken.

Community speed checks Speed checks are being carried out in the area. Bands of volunteers working alongside the PCSOs have been at several localities where speeding is an issue. Cllr Colin Ross joined them on Long Line recently and



Councillor Colin Ross joins the speed-checkers on Long Line

in one hour 21 motorists were caught exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. Speeding is an issue about which many people contact us, so please be aware of your speed. Totley has a limit of 30 mph in most of the area, including Baslow Road, so don't get caught in a speed check area or by a speed camera. The limit is there for a reason.

Café in Whirlowbrook Park Negotiations are progressing on getting a permanent café into Whirlowbrook Park, and it is hoped that that work will start in the early spring. The old toilet block will be transformed into the new café and if weather conditions are favourable it is hoped that the café will be open well in time for the summer season.

Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Joe Otten

Dore Optician

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:

Dore Optician has asked us to point out that at the time of writing the practice is open for essential and emergency eye care only but with the situation changing rapidly please see the website for updates. There are strict hygiene procedures in place, with only two members of staff present at any one time. One patient is seen in clinic hourly, with an extra fifteen minute buffer between appointments. Hand sanitising is required on entering and leaving the practice. Strict disinfection procedures are in place.

Home eye tests are available where appropriate for those who have to remain at home. We also provide at-home spectacle repair/adjustment services.

Some people will be unable to attend clinic or have home visits. If these patients have questions about their spectacles or eye health please contact the practice. In some cases we may be able to post out an emergency pair of spectacles if required.

People Keeping Well / Age UK Sheffield

Due to the current guidance from the government we have taken the difficult decision to suspend all of our current Age UK Sheffield/People Keeping Well activities to ensure the health and welfare of all our participants/volunteers and paid staff, for the foreseeable future.

We would like to stress that your activity has not been cancelled and this is not a permanent closure. We will be seeking to recommence activities as soon as it is safe to do so and in line with government guidance.

Whilst we all navigate our way through this difficult time, we would encourage you to make contact with us if your situation becomes difficult and you feel you need support, and we will assist where we can. If we are unable to assist directly we will signpost and refer you to someone who can help.

Please contact Joanna Woodward at Age UK Sheffield via email at joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk Please do not feel alone, we are here to support you and look forward to seeing you when we recommence our activities. In the meantime take care of yourselves and your families.

*Joanna Woodward, Community Development Worker
Age UK Sheffield*

*Tel: 0114 250 2850
www.ageuk.org.uk/sheffield*

Totley Show 2020

We have started the preparations for this year's show with our first meeting in January 2020.

We will have Seven Hills Quintet and the Tuneless Choir providing the entertainment once again for us this year. In late March we will have finalised all the classes.

The entry form will appear in the next two issues of *Totley Independent* (June/July and August/September), ready for the show on Saturday 12 September 2020. Please keep this date in your diary.

Recently, we presented cheques for £250 each to two local charities from last year's show - Transport 17 and Totley Cubs and Scouts New Building Appeal.



Mick Warwick presents the cheque to Sue Bridgens for the Cubs and Scouts New Building appeal

As always we could do with a few more volunteers on the day, particularly later on in the afternoon helping with the auction and tidying away.

If you would like to help please contact me on the e-mail address below.

We look forward to seeing you, at the show, on Saturday 12 September 2020.

*Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com*

John Heath & Sons

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Green Oak Park - Next Steps?

Have you taken part yet in the current consultation, organised by People Keeping Well, on how best to improve Green Oak Park? If you haven't, you shouldn't miss this opportunity to have your say over how the community can make better use of this excellent local facility. Believe it or not, there are people living in the area who did not even realise that this well-hidden green space existed!

Green Oak Park was opened in 1929, and the Bowling Green was constructed in 1956 and opened the following year. Although well used over the years, the park needed some care and attention by the early years of the 21st century. A group of Topley residents who set out to work on the park – the Friends of Green Oak Park – was established in 2003, and worked alongside local councillors to try to obtain funding to improve the Park.

Topley resident Mick Warwick remembers:

As a youngster my mum took me to the Park and I remember going on the swings, roundabout and the slide. The latter was much taller when I was a kid, due to health and safety the height of the slide was reduced.

On a Sunday morning we would sometimes go and watch a football match. Green Oak had a strong and successful Sunday team and there would often be 50 to 100 people watching the matches. I am sure 'the slope' gave them some advantage when they played at home.

In the summer holidays we played cricket in the Park and kept a bag with all the cricket gear in the Park keeper's hut. There was always a park keeper allocated to the Park. He would usually be working doing practical jobs in the grounds. Occasionally he would be in his canteen round the back of the toilets making a cup of tea. We would get up to 20 teenagers playing cricket sometimes for most of the day.

One important development in this period was the replacement of the old tennis court with the Multi-Games Area, otherwise known as the MUGA. Unfortunately by 2006 this original group had ceased to operate, and at an annual general meeting of the Topley Residents Association it was agreed that the Friends of Green Oak Park activities would come under the umbrella of the TRA.

Topley resident Rony Robinson remembers:

In my childhood there was a parkie, a football pitch, a cricket pitch (that still appears in droughts), tennis courts where the tarmac court now is, a bowling green and courting couples galore. In the war I'm pretty sure the 'bottom field' was allotments (digging for victory).

Very many people don't know about our 'secret park' - including people who live very near it. It doesn't open out directly onto any roads and you can't see it without going into it....

My pal Roger Turton banged his own front teeth out while playing tennis here. My dad was always bowling club chairman and used to make speeches here. It used to be used more... kids and sports people and courting couples.

Not long after we got here in 2006 or so there was a community / Residents / Green Oak event - a series of tents and things? Using our electricity from our kitchen through our hedge!

In March 2007 the TRA held a meeting with officials from Sheffield City Council with a view to the Association taking over the buildings in the park near the Lemont Road entrance. The Association was chaired by the late Avril Critchley, a keen community activist, environmentalist, and wildlife enthusiast. Although the TRA did not succeed in its bid to take over the park buildings, discussions with council officers from the Parks and Countryside Department

resulted in the creation of a project team charged with creating a 'master plan' for the regeneration of the park.

Through public meetings and consultation exercises the master plan was developed through 2008. The aims included the refurbishment of the park buildings to provide multipurpose facilities for bowls and other sports; planting new trees, redesigning flowerbeds, improving the stream and ponds and providing additional facilities. Everything, of course, was dependent upon there being sufficient funding.

Through 2009, much work was carried out by residents, council workers, and children from local schools. New trees were planted, the stream and ponds were cleared, wildflowers were starting to grow, and football coaching was made available through the summer for young people, though it was reported in the *Topley Independent* of September 2009 that not many young people took advantage of what was on offer.

The refurbishment of the buildings, however, was another story. By November 2009 attempts to improve the buildings were put on hold because of problems with funding – remember that by this time the global financial crisis had hit, with funding cuts affecting local authorities. The TRA reported in the *Topley Independent* of February 2010 that "the group who have been meeting with parks and countryside officers and councillors has become increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress.... Costs mount up because of council red-tape. Expertise offered by local residents has been turned down. Left alone, local residents could refurbish the buildings in Green Oak Park at a fraction of the suggested cost." By spring 2010 there had been cuts in funding, changes in council personnel and delays to the installation of play equipment.

Nonetheless, the children's play area was resurfaced, the swings were repainted, and there was new equipment with picnic tables; and the large climbing boulder (pictured right) and zip line were installed.

Avril Critchley reported that the zip-wire in particular was "proving a hit with young people. When I visited, there were 12 young people queueing up for a turn on the wire, organised by a very efficient teenager. I have not seen so many youngsters in the park at the same time before! This is great news."



However, controversy raged for a while over the location of a 'youth shelter' in the park. Some residents complained that they had not been consulted, and others were worried that such a meeting point would encourage bullying by older children, not to mention the

possibility of illegal drinking and drug use. Roger Hart, the TRA committee member who was leading on this matter, pointed out that proposed location of the shelter would be such that was not visible to local residents but would make it possible for the police to monitor its use, and reminded critics that the shelter would be installed on a trial basis. The shelter, currently located next to the MUGA, was installed in June 2011 and its use was reviewed at the end of that year. The review reported that although police (*continued page 6*)

Green Oak Park - Next Steps?

had found evidence of drinking (though not drug use) and there had been an increase in litter, there had also been a 60% reduction in reported antisocial behaviour as compared to the same period the previous year! All in all, something of a success!

The Green Oak Bowling Club began its 2011 season with a plea for new members and the news that members would now have to pay £45 per year each to the Council to be able to play bowls in the park, because the parks department's budget had been reduced. Furthermore, anyone wishing to have a casual game of bowls now had to make advance arrangements in order to do so as there would be no council employee on site. To make things worse, it was reported that there would be no Junior Bowls Club that year as there was no one able to run it. These were clear signs of the likely demise of bowling in the park, and Green Oak Park Bowling Club closed down at the end of 2012 season - having existed for 53 years.



One result of the organisational problems within the Totley Residents Association in 2011 was the re-establishment of the Friends of Green Oak Park as a separate and independent organisation. The group continued to pursue the aims of the original park master plan especially with regard to wildlife, ponds, flowerbeds and flower planting. By April 2013 the group reported that new outside fitness equipment (pictured above) had been installed together with some new children's playground equipment, but by this date active membership of the Friends group had dwindled, and after Avril Critchley passed away in 2015 the Friends ceased to operate.

Five years on, the Council's park workers continue to keep the place looking cropped and fairly tidy - but once again Totley residents have the opportunity to see their park regenerated through the current 'People Keeping Well' consultation. Maybe this article has rekindled memories of Green Oak Park in days gone by - or sparked off brand new ideas as to how we might use this valuable community asset. Either way, have your say through the consultation!

Forms are available at the Library, when it re-opens, or go to Totley Independent Forum on Facebook for the online survey!

Fostering in Sheffield

"We're going on a bear hunt! We're going to catch a big one!" Foster toddler found the whole idea of bear hunting very exciting after seeing the famous Michael Rosen book.

Watching her foster family members pretend to squelch through mud and swish through grass helped enliven the experience. But as she grew older and stopped babbling and started talking, she took a particular interest in the various characters hunting the Bear across the English countryside.



Bear Hunt by Denny

"Baby!" she asserted of the infant hanging onto the young man's neck in the story. And then at the age of two, she'd point at the elder characters in the story book, turn to us curiously and ask: "Mummy?" or "Daddy?"

With language come questions, as any parent knows. And since foster toddler is sharp as a tack, it was clear she saw something in that beautiful book that for her didn't quite ring true.

Her mummy and daddy clearly love her, but she sees them, separately, every fortnight in one case, and once or twice a week in the other, in surroundings very different to the stories she reads at bedtime.

And unlike the brothers and sisters hunting bears together, she plays with her half-sibling for a couple of hours every week in her family's living room.

We have to be sensitive to all this, and she's quietly learning and happily getting on with living in a wide extended family including our grown up kids on some days and her own blood relatives on others.

We have to be sensitive to language too, and as her own confidence grows we try and ensure she knows that mummy and daddy care about her very much, even though they only see her every now and then.

Then one day, while hearing again about the happy family hunting the Bear through the long wavy grass (swishy swashy) she carefully studied the man in the story carrying the baby on his back, then looked up at me, apparently remembering the times I'd done the same when she got tired after running through the local woods.

"Daddy!" she said, pointing at me. No, no, I thought in a bit of a panic. "I'm David," I said quickly, followed by a diversionary "swishy swashy" and turning the page as quick as I could, I said: "Can you see those ducks in the river?"

She looked up at me puzzled again as book 'daddy' carried baby over the river, so I pointed at the picture on the

mantelpiece of her being cuddled by her dad. "There's your daddy!"

"My daddy," she said.

After a few more 'stumble trips' in the forest, the scary Bear chased everyone home, and foster toddler and I hid under her blanket so Bear couldn't find us.

"David!" she said, looking at me. "My David."

Whereupon I stayed under the blanket to well up for a second, as Bear trudged home to its dark and lonely cave.

David Bocking

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/fostering>

Totley Rise Methodist Church

The Methodist Church nationally and the Sheffield Circuit have given guidance as to measures we should take and we here at TRM will be following these.



Worship services are suspended for the time being along with all Church activities. The Sheffield Circuit has identified this period of time to be 12 weeks, which means we will need to think creatively about how we celebrate Easter. Although we will not be able to worship together in our building we will still celebrate the risen Christ!

See our website at <https://www.totleyrise.co.uk/> for more information.

Mark and Sally Fletcher invite you to

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

Sundays 12.00 to 9.00pm

Phone 01433 630 423

Traffic News

Speed check updates

Here is the latest information from the manager of the speed camera van, in response to questions asked by local drivers, put to him by Les Day and myself.

How many speeding tickets have been awarded for this stretch of road in the last year. and how many re-education courses as the alternative to docking points off licences?

"In 2019 there were 377 on Baslow Road and 1167 on Abbeydale Road South. Interestingly, just over 40% of offences detected are by those living in the area or nearby. Typically, 55 – 60% of these drivers will be offered and will attend driver retraining."

Is there a specific reason the detector van is appearing on Baslow Road so often? Are there a lot of speeders? Some critics are seeing it as a fund raising exercise.

"Both of these locations were brought to our attention by local residents because they had concerns over the speed of vehicles using these roads. In recent weeks, we have also had a request for enforcement for further along Baslow Road, near to Hillfoot Road."

As regards the funds, I am reliably informed that the funds raised do not go to the local Police, as some people suggest, but go to central government funds. The money from offenders who are picked up on fixed speed cameras, however, does go to the local police.

"Speed surveys that we conducted evidenced that speeding is an issue on these roads. Our data show that on Baslow Road, over 40% of vehicles travel at speeds above the speed limit. On Abbeydale Road South, it was just over 65%. Records show that for 2019 we visited Baslow Road 26 times and Abbeydale Road South 40 times, so maybe not as often as people think."

Are the locations of speed cameras published?

"We still publish our enforcement locations on our website and twitter:

<https://www.safetycamera.org/where-are-the-mobiles>

<https://twitter.com/SYSafetyCameras> "

Is there a tolerance allowed?

"It is 10% of the speed limit, plus 2 mph, therefore in a 30 mph zone, 35 mph, and in a 40 mph zone, 46mph. These tolerances are only in areas where the Chief Constable has agreed them, (and this is the case in South Yorkshire) and also where the Police Officer accepts them in the circumstances prevailing. For example, if there was an accident, and the limit was 30 mph, but the driver was doing 33 mph, the Officer would be entitled to charge the offender for exceeding 30."

When an offence is committed, three options of disposal are available to us:

1. If the driver is eligible, a driver retraining course may be offered as alternative to prosecution and If the driver attends driver retraining, then a fee is paid directly to the course provider; OR

2. The driver may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £100 and 3 points, in which case the fine goes to Central Government; OR

3. The driver may be summoned to court, where the fine and punishment is determined by the court, and might relate to the offender's income."

Readers should note that guidance issued by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) suggests when enforcement action will be taken against speeding motorists – this is usually when the relevant speed limit is exceeded by 10% plus 2 mph. However, as noted above a police officer has the discretion to act outside it. Some drivers wrongly interpret this to mean that they can legally exceed the speed limit – this is most definitely not the case.

Finally: if 40% of offenders live locally, what can one say?

Roger Hart

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Before you buy an electric car...

If you're looking to make the transition from a traditionally powered auto to a full electric car or crossover, you'll find it's a brave new world. Driving a battery-powered electric vehicle (EV) has many advantages, particularly lower operating and maintenance costs, though the ownership experience is different than with a gas-fuelled model. Whether you're looking to buy a new or a used electric car, you'll want to ask yourself some tough questions before making the switch to battery power.

1. Is the car's operating range sufficient?

With the current generation of electric vehicles able to run for more than 200 miles on a charge, so-called range anxiety is less of a factor than it was a few years ago when EVs struggled to crack the 100-mile mark. Still, you'll want to make sure a given model's range is, at the least, sufficient for your daily commute and weekend activities. It pays to overestimate your needs with regard to an EV's estimated range because your mileage, as they say, will vary.

You'll burn through more kilowatts of energy at motorway speeds than you will around town, for example. You can also expect an EV's range to suffer significantly in cold weather. Research conducted by the AA found that when the vehicle's heater is in use, an average EV's range drops by 4%. Battery range suffers in the summer as well, dropping by an average 17% with the air conditioning running.

2. Does the vehicle otherwise meet my needs?

As with any type of vehicle, you'll want to do some research to ensure an electric car you're considering is sufficiently roomy inside for you and your family. Make sure there's enough cargo space for weekly shopping excursions, sports equipment, or push chairs and other child-related gear. Choose a model that fits your budget and comes with all the features you require. And always give any vehicle you're considering a thorough test drive to see if it drives to your liking, is comfortable, and you find its controls easy to operate.

3. Should I lease or buy an EV?

While new-vehicle leasing currently accounts for around 30 percent of all transactions, published reports suggest that close to 80% of all EVs are leased. Down payments and monthly outlays are usually lower than with conventional financing, and carmakers often offer promotional lease deals with built-in cost reductions. Leasing an electric vehicle for two or three years can help ensure you'll keep up with the latest technology, particularly with regard to operating range. On the downside, leasing virtually guarantees you'll be making a perpetual car payment with no vehicle ownership. What's more, you may encounter unexpected charges at the end of the lease if you exceed the stated mileage limit or turn in the vehicle in a less than pristine condition.

4. Where and how will I charge the vehicle?

Though the number of public charging stations is growing, it's



far more convenient – not to mention cheaper – to charge an EV at home. It is technically possible to plug the vehicle into a standard wall outlet for what's called Level 1 charging, but it can take anywhere from eight to nearly 24 hours. A better choice would be to have a qualified electrician install dedicated service in your property to accommodate Level 2 charging that can replenish a drained EV battery in as little as four hours. You don't technically need an enclosed garage, though if you'll be plugging in an EV outdoors, you'll likely need to purchase a specific charging unit for that purpose and have it professionally installed according to local building regulations.

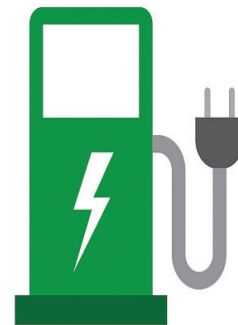
5. Are there public charging stations near where I live, work or shop?

Even if you're buying one of the longer-range models on the market, there will be times when you'll want to give your EV an extra charge while away from home. Public chargers are typically installed in public parking areas, shopping centres, at new-car dealerships, and even on some urban streets. Tesla maintains its own network of Superchargers exclusively for their models. Chargers are most typically limited to urban and suburban areas having higher EV penetration. While most public units are of the Level 2 variety, some provide what's called Level 3 charging, also known as DC Fast Charging, which can bring an EV's battery up to 80 percent of its capacity in around 30-60 minutes.

A number of websites and apps feature interactive maps that show the locations of public charging stations, what type of charging they support, and even whether or not they're currently in use.

6. What incentives can I take advantage of to help offset the cost of an EV?

The UK government is currently offering buyers of new EVs a one-time £500 credit; and if you're leasing an EV as a company car with the inherent Benefit in Kind tax bill, this is being reduced to 0 for the first 12 months and then 1% and 2% for 2021 and 2022. The OLEV grant only applies if an Approved Installer undertakes the work



7. How long should I expect to own an EV?

Those looking to forge a long-term relationship with an electric car may be concerned about what it would cost to eventually replace the battery pack. Fortunately, some manufacturers warranty that an EV's power cell is covered for at least eight years or 100,000 miles. For its part, Hyundai extends this to lifetime coverage on the Kona Electric. However, some carmakers only cover an EV's battery pack against total failure, while others, including BMW, Chevrolet, Nissan, Tesla (Model 3) and Volkswagen will replace it if it reaches a specified reduced capacity percentage, which is usually 60%-70%, while under warranty.

Assuming you own a given EV to the point that that battery needs replacing, it's not a cheap component to swap out. An EV battery will degrade over time, but so far there have not been widespread reports of earlier-generation EVs needing new power cells. With proper care the battery should be a life-of-the-vehicle component.

8. What does it cost to insure an electric car?

Insurance costs for EVs tend to be higher than the norm. One source pegs the premiums at 21% higher, on average, than for comparable fossil fuel-powered models. That doesn't mean they're less safe or more accident-prone than other vehicle types. Rather, it's because EVs are priced higher than conventional alternatives and generally cost more to repair after getting into a collision, especially because of their pricey battery packs.

9. Will I still need a carbon-powered option as a back-up?

Though it's possible to take a longer-range EV out on an extended road trip with routes planned around the location of Level 3 charging stations, family car trips are stressful enough without having to endure range anxiety. If you frequently visit out-of-town friends and relatives, or otherwise travel

beyond your car's range, you'll probably want to keep a traditional or hybrid-powered model. Or you can simply rent a conventional car or crossover when you want to venture beyond your comfort zone.

10. Should I buy new EV or a used one?

Buying an electric car can be a costly proposition, with most mainstream branded models priced in the £35,000 range; luxury EVs are priced as steep as £100,000 for the top version of the Tesla Model S. Buying a new vehicle assures you're getting a full warranty and (depending on the type) the latest technology and longest operating range on a charge.

That said, you can save considerable money by instead choosing a pre-owned model. With some exceptions, most notably the Tesla models, older EVs take a hit in terms of their resale values, due largely to the aforementioned tax credit combined with relatively lower demand. Though they won't necessarily have the operating range of some of the latest models, you can find four- or five-year-old EVs selling for £10,000 or less. What's more, given their range limitations, used EVs tend to be driven fewer miles than the norm, and thus typically endure less wear and tear than the norm.

Charlie Coupland



Totley Library

As this issue of *Totley Independent* goes to press, the Library is closed because of the coronavirus crisis. This means that all events and activities at the Library, including the Plant Sale, Community Cinema showings, and all meetings organised by community organisations, are cancelled until further notice.

Brighter News

Plant Sale: Although the Plant Sale has been cancelled, Fiona Smith reports that we had a number of plants in preparation for the sale. "We decided to see if anyone would like them, specifically the house plants for those individuals who may be living alone and/or self-isolating. They have all (except for a couple of outdoor ones) been snapped up and we have had some lovely feedback from people in the community, who have given them, for, example, to elderly isolated neighbours who have really appreciated them." Thanks, Fiona!

Extra cash boost! Sheffield City Council has confirmed that the grant funding for voluntary libraries is set to continue. In addition, however, in March the Council announced that every library in the city will receive an additional 'one-off' cash boost of £10,000. This windfall means that Totley Library will have extra money to spend on what will best meet the needs of our community. The trustees will be discussing how best to spend this cash when the Library re-opens.

Harry Potter Book Night on Thursday February 6th was a resounding success. Over 80 children plus their parents/carers attended the evening and we raised over £250 for Library funds. There were plenty of mini-wizards and witches in attendance and they all seemed to have a great time mixing potions, making wands, decorating dragon eggs and even making their very own Hedwig in The Owlery.

"Honeydukes" were selling delicious refreshments including Chocolate Frogs! There was an intriguing Treasure Hunt and a Harry Potter quiz to keep ardent fans busy. We had a number of games and plenty of fun activities for everyone. We even had our very own version of Quidditch. In the Quidditch Competition Ravenclaw were the winners with 16 points and Daniel Watkinson won the jar of Bertie Botts Every Flavour Jelly Beans. There were 121 Beans in the jar and Daniel guessed 120. Thank you to everyone who came along! A huge "thank you" must also go to all the Library volunteers who put on their wizarding finery and made the whole evening such a wonderful success.

Lottery Winners Congratulations to recent Library Lottery winners! The first-prize winner in the January draw was Ann Butterel, and the second-prize winner was Roberta Bunns. In the February draw, the first prize was won by Brenda Fryer, and the second prize was won by Eva Ellis.

Dore Art Group

Dore Art Group would love to welcome new members. We meet on two afternoons per week and you can join whichever one suits you. Funds do not run to us having a tutor because term fees are just £25. We are not professional artists - we are enthusiastic artists.

Our sessions are Tuesdays, 2.15pm to 4.15pm and Thursdays, 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

If you would like to join us and want more information please contact Gerry Doherty on 01142 368 418.

Totley Girl Guides

Volunteers Required!

Our local community is in desperate need of Girlguiding volunteers!! We have lots of girls locally who are interested in becoming Rainbows, Brownies and Guides but we don't have enough adult volunteers to accommodate them.

You don't have to have previous experience of Girlguiding to become a volunteer leader of Rainbows, Brownies or Guides - appropriate training will be provided. What is important is your enthusiasm to work with young people for the benefit of your local community.



Volunteering with Girlguiding isn't just about campfires and helping girls to get their next badge - although those are special moments that we all share. It is about empowering girls and giving them new experiences. It is being a role model and helping girls to realise their full potential. It is sharing and developing your skills.

Working with young people and other volunteers helps you develop valuable transferable skills - skills such as event planning, time management, leadership and budgeting. As an organization, Girlguiding is fantastic at helping volunteers learn these skills, and in providing appropriate support.

For further Information register your interest at girlguiding.org.uk and someone will contact you very soon.

*Mo Allum, Leader,
45/99 Sheffield Guides (Totley All Saints)*

Councillors' Surgeries

Liberal Democrats:

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

Gardening Tips for April and May

I have just had a stroll round the garden. We have lost quite a few plants, unless they are reluctant to come up. I don't blame them - the rain has been very persistent. But I fear that some of them may have rotted away.

Some of the raised bed boards are also rotting. I will have to get some more scaffold boards to replace the bad ones. The garden looks untidy at the moment, so I hope the rain gives us a break to enable us to tackle these neglected jobs. The sun is shining just now which makes us feel that spring has arrived (March 11th). I hope it keeps up so that things can get bit drier, and warms the soil ready for planting out the vegetables.

The seeds I ordered earlier have arrived. I will be putting runner and French beans and sweetcorn in root trainers, and they should be ready for planting out in late April or early May depending on the weather.

I have got lettuce and cabbage seeds to be planted in the greenhouse every 4 to 6 weeks apart, to give a succession of veg through the season. They sometimes catch up with one another, and then we have a glut and a giveaway session. The peas should have been in the ground by now, but I have held them back due to the bad weather. We will be picking them a bit later than usual, and I look forward to that - I do enjoy eating a pod or two sat in the garden.

The bedding plants will be in the garden centres and supermarkets by the time you read this, but keep an eye on the weather forecast. It's best to hold back planting if frost is forecast otherwise you will be buying more plants if Jack Frost has his way. We have not made any drastic changes in the garden for this season. We are not up to doing any hard landscaping now - we just let nature take its course, by giving us pleasant surprises when something comes up which we had forgotten about (senior moments!).

I have just come across a copy of the catalogue for the Totley Allotment and Horticultural Society fifth annual show for 1922! It was given to me a long time ago (not 1923) and it makes interesting reading. The rules were very strict (three pages). There were lots of judges for each of the various sections, and also different judges within the sections. The copy I have is not quite complete, but they had over 250 categories in different classes in which they could enter. The organisation of such a lot of entries must have been quite daunting, especially when you consider that a lot of them were live entries, ie. rabbits, poultry and pigeons. It must have been a noisy affair (lots of cooing and clucking). One or two things made me smile: prizes were given for -

Plots best cultivated and most productive

6 potatoes kidney white

6 potatoes coloured any variety except King Edwards.

12 eschalots any variety.

School plot (shame we don't have this) .

A brace of celery

Flowers: best table decoration, space allowed 6ft x 3ft (wow, I wonder how many of these were shown?)

Oats 24 ears.

Wheat 24 ears.

Swedes 3.

Mangolds 3

Butter 2 half pounds.

And some of the prizes given by various people were most unusual. A spanner? Maybe adjustable. A bag of soot! The only use I can find for that is that it darkens the soil, and therefore absorbs more heat from the sun, but there are no nutrients in it. A tin of tea, a knife, fork and spoon, a potato fork.....the show took place in the field opposite Totley Grange (kindly lent by Mrs Earnshaw).

The fish have woken up! Another job keeping them fed. The water temperature must have crept up, or the light value increased slightly. They are looking quite lively. I suppose the frogs will be back soon, filling the pond with spawn - that's if they have not got the disease that was going around last year.

I hope you are all keeping well despite the coronavirus - keep washing your hands!

April

Flowers: Complete the planting of herbaceous perennials, plant gladioli. April is a good time to plant or replant alpinists. 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.



Clematis

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 maincrop potatoes to give them plenty of room. Plant onion sets 4-6" (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.



Arum lilies

Plant tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicum etc. in a heated greenhouse. Sow annuals for flowering pots in the greenhouse. Watch out for ants and woodlice, 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. Place 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, 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. (cook the trimmings - you will need plenty of sugar). Keep all fruit well-watered, 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.



Fuchsias

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.



Schizanthus

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! 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 knobbled by old Jack Frost.

Lawns: Give weedy lawns a top dressing of lawn sand. Keep new lawns well-watered, and 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 topdress lawns which have not been done earlier, spread it evenly and brush it in.

I don't think I have mentioned the Topley Show yet this month! 12th 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

Letters to the Editor

Our page 1 story about local buses in our last issue sparked some correspondence. First, a letter casting a little doubt on some aspects of our story:

Dear Editor,

Having read Chris Morgan's article re the 97 bus: sorry, it does not hold water. A couple of weeks ago a friend and I waited one hour and eight minutes for a Topley bus on Cumberland Street. I do not blame the drivers - they are under terrible pressure. It is those who decide which buses go where and when.

While we waited, frozen to death, 14 Lowedges passed us. These also go through the town centre, then through to the Northern General Hospital. If these buses can get through, it follows that the 97 could too. So why not?

Mrs P Borland

Second, a local resident (name and address supplied) sent in the following photograph, taken on board a number 98 bus from the city centre:



As our correspondent points out, given that the frequency of 97 and 98 buses has now been reduced to half-hourly, an advert stating "Your personal bus service is here. Every 10 minutes or less" is nothing more nor less than 'a blatant lie'.

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Totley Open Gardens Association

Vintage Fair

The Totley Vintage Fair took place on Saturday 14th March in aid of Totley Open Gardens Association fund. It attracted 20 sellers with some lovely retro and antique items. Footfall was down, as a result of coronavirus worries, but the Fair nevertheless netted £630 for TOGA.



This money will be added to the takings of £935 from the November 2019 Vintage Fair. See 'Totley Open Gardens' item below for details of how the funds will be distributed by TOGA to local community and voluntary organisations.

The next Totley Vintage Fair will be on Saturday 7th November. If you would like to be a seller, please email Chris Jenkins christine.jenkins1@sky.com

Jennie Street, Linda Wheawall, Chris Jenkins

Yard Sale

Please note that because of the coronavirus crisis, the Yard Sale scheduled for Sunday 26th April has been cancelled.

Totley Open Gardens

Sadly, Totley Open Gardens will not be taking place in July this year.

However, combining the takings from the two Vintage Fairs run in November and March, with reserves that TOGA had, it has been agreed that TOGA will now donate £4,300 to local organisations. £3,300 will go to Cherry Tree Support Services, and £1,000 to Totley Citizens' Advice Bureau. Both these organisations continue to support people and need all the help they can get.

Jennie Street
jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk Tel. 0114-236-2302

Totley weather report 2019

Long-term records broken (taken from Weston Park weather station summary):

- highest February maximum on record.
- most March days with more than 5 mm of rain since 1982
- lowest May maximum temperature since 1996
- highest June maximum temperature since 2000
- wettest July since 1973
- highest temperature on record
- highest daily mean temperature since 1990 (second highest on record)
- highest mean August temperature since 2003
- wettest September since 1968
- wettest October since 2002
- wettest November day on record (fifth wettest day overall)
- wettest November on record
- wettest autumn on record
- wettest year on record

As I write this the sun is shining, a beautiful spring day, although it is January and a great part of the country is under cloud. I am revelling in this as a very often, parts of the

country boasting of their wonderful sunshine when we are under cloud! At least the cloud in the hot summer kept our grass green when further south it turned brown. We replaced the thermometer in October after realising it was faulty and unfortunately when collating the figures for the year, we found this had happened a few months ago. But I was able to record nine nights Totley (T) and seven nights Weston Park (WP) below zero, and four days T (five WP) of 10+° C in January, four nights T (one WP) below zero and 16 days for both T and WP over 10° C in February with five nights T (four nights WP) in November and two nights T (three nights WP) in December below 0° C. Average highs for January were 6.8° C and for February 7.1° C (WP). Weston Park recorded their highest February temperature on record – 18° C (16° C in Totley) on the 26th, making the winter the fifth warmest on record. There was a mini-heatwave of four days at the end of June with a temperature of 30.5° C at WP and 28.5° C in T. During another mini-heatwave in July Weston Park had the highest temperature since records began of 35.1° C on the 25th, and Totley recorded 32.1° C.



Rainfall for January, February and May was less than average and April had half the average while all others except December were more than the average. There was over double in March, June, July and October, with three times more in November in Totley. Weston Park had more rain than Totley in July – the first time I remember this happening! Three consecutive days in September produced more than the average for the month. November was obviously the wettest month when there were only five dry days in Totley and three in Weston Park. During the year there were 10 days when more than 1 inch of rain fell and two which saw 2 inches falling. The longest dry spell was 19 days in Totley and Weston Park in April, and apart from that the length was less than a week. Totley recorded seven days of snow (showers or lying) and Weston Park had no lying snow – for the first year since 1951.

Weston Park recorded 1595 hours of sunshine, the average being 1442 hours. I recorded five thunderstorms during the year, and one day of fog.

Rain for the year:

	Totley	Weston Park
2019	1333.5mm	1176.2mm
2018	1041.4mm	796.0mm
2017	934.5mm	694.3mm

Wettest Day

	Totley	Weston Park
2019	67.3mm	74.1mm
2018	81.0mm	66.2mm
2017	32.7mm	25.6mm

Coldest Night

	Totley	Weston Park
2019	-2.9C	-2.9C
2018	-5.8C	-6.3C
2017	-5C	-3.4C

Hottest Day

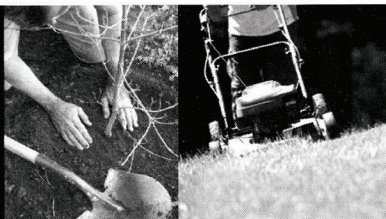
	Totley	Weston Park
2019	32.2C	35.2C
2018	30.8C	32.1C
2017	28.8C	29.0C

Tristan Swain

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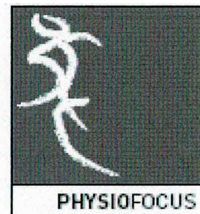
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A New Start

At my secondary school, everyone was encouraged to make sure they didn't waste paper in any of their exercise books. Inside front and back covers were to be used and all finished work ruled off and new work started immediately below the last. There were no new pages for new topics, just a double ruling off to demarcate the work. Once the books were full, the staff checked to make sure every page was full and then they would sign the book whereupon we had to take it at break to a central stock room. There we had to wait for another member of staff who would stamp the old book to say it was cancelled and present the new book. A new book seemed such an exciting thing and for me, even today, a new notebook or a blank page suggest the endless possibilities of a new start. Most of us will be familiar with new starts. New starts can happen any day and at any time. Some may not be of our choosing or liking and can often be painful experiences. It might be simply a new page in a book, or as a result of a mistake, but sometimes we may find ourselves having to pick up the pieces and start again when life has taken an unexpected turn. As winter turns into spring, we see in nature all manner of new starts. New life is starting all around us. The flowers are slowly starting to break through and the birds sing as they start to nest. Trees come into bud and as the days get longer, we sense the renewal of the hope of brighter days to come after the long and gloomy days of winter.

This message of hope can also be found in the Easter story. The death and resurrection of Jesus means that our past mistakes are cancelled (just like my old school books). We are given the opportunity to start a new page in the book of our lives. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith. It transforms lives. It transformed the lives of the apostles and the disciples. All those who met Jesus after the resurrection became new people. God didn't promise us a life free from troubles or pain. His promise is of a renewed life with a fresh purpose.

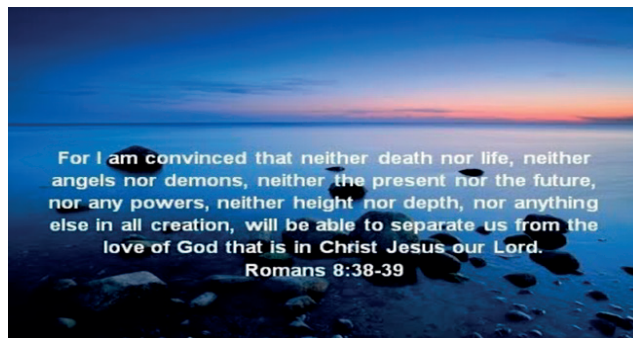
It is freely available to all who choose to accept it. It is never too late to make a new start. Happy Easter.

Coronavirus: There has been an unprecedented change in daily life for all of us. On 18th March we received notification from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York that due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, all churches should remain closed until further notice. Emergency baptisms can take place in hospital or at home, though subject to strict hygiene precautions and social distancing as far as possible. There can be no weddings in church buildings until further notice. Funerals can only happen at the crematorium or at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way. The impact of these measures will cause a great deal of pain and anguish to all concerned but they only serve to illustrate how very serious this situation is.

Meeting together for worship is important for all people of faith and so it is at All Saints. The churchwardens and associate priest and members of our church congregation have been working hard to ensure that we are able to keep in touch. This is being achieved by phone, e mail, post, our Facebook site and also our website (<https://www.allsaintstotley.church/category/vchurch/>) where we plan to have virtual church on a Sunday and where we will post information for anyone who wishes to visit.

Sunday 22nd March saw our first virtual service and it (and subsequent services) will be available on our website from

10 am every Sunday. We also have a network of small groups who as well as supporting each other, offer pastoral and practical support to the more vulnerable members of our community. For all of us, people of faith or none, this is a time of great challenge, fear and anxiety and members of our church family, along with members of the local community are working hard to ensure that we do all we can to support each other. Our faith is not an insurance policy, it does not mean that there will be no difficult days ahead for us, but our faith assures us that however much the world may change God will never change nor will he abandon us, even when circumstances indicate otherwise. As a church we pray regularly for our community here in Totley, this will not change and as much as we are able to we will continue as a church and as individuals to help and support our community. We pray that you will stay safe and well.



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 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 at totleyassociate@gmail.com

Liz Hayden and Angela Waite, Churchwardens. Totley All Saints




Friends of
Gillfield Wood

Friends of Gillfield Wood

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, Our indoor and outdoor events are cancelled until further notice. This includes our conservation work mornings.


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Bird Walk

Friends of Gillfield Wood
www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com

15th February 2020: gathering at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane always provides a good starting point for our Bird Walks, as it did in February. A flock of Long-tailed Tits were trilling and calling as they moved along the low hedgerow there, while a Dunnock sang perfectly at the top of a small sapling for all to hear.

A small party of birdwatchers had keenly turned out for a breath of fresh air and a nice chat on a windy, rainy morning and were quickly ticking off Blackbird, Blue Tit and Starling - 30 of these at the top of an old Ash tree, preening and looking at the surrounding fields, perhaps assessing which field to fly down to, to feed.

You can always rely on Woodpigeons as well to put in an appearance. They were constantly flying over in ones and twos and there were also over eighty feeding in a nearby field. Their numbers have exceeded 200 recently in these Totley Hall fields along with a good number of Magpies - too many, some people say.

Before moving on too far, the opportunity was taken to try to see what species we could pick up along the high hedge that borders Totley Hall Lane Playing Field. Goldfinches are guaranteed here these days, calling excitedly as they gather together, a delight to hear and watch. Chaffinches were also present plus Bulfinch and Lesser Redpoll were heard calling



Lesser Redpoll

deep within the scrub area. These latter two species failed to appear for us to get good views so we had to be satisfied with just hearing the short melancholy notes of the Bullfinch and the distinctive rattling notes of the Redpoll. Our attention was then drawn to a single Black-headed Gull skimming its way overhead in a rocking motion on stiff pointed wings; it was being ably assisted by the wind that was by now blowing strong.

Time to move on and keep warm. Our next stop found us standing at the junction of paths and fields watching a male Sparrowhawk circling low just on the edge of Gillfield Wood. This was first noticed by a sharp-eyed lady in our party and provided brief views for us all before it turned gracefully on open wings and glided over the wood and out of sight.

The weather conditions were making it difficult - Storm Dennis had a lot to answer for. Little was showing as we continued our walk, not like in the days immediately before, when Little Owl, Ravens and Buzzard were seen in the area - good views as well! And a flock of about 150 Redwings and 50 Fieldfares had been seen in one of the fields. These were the winter thrushes we had hoped for, but no luck this day. At least one or two members of the group managed to see Redwings in flight and in tree tops on our walk last November.

The weather was not that good on that November walk either, and again birds were difficult to find. It was anticipated that the species list that morning would be low, so for a bit of fun a target of 20 species was set. Well, for a quiet bunch of folk there was so much excitement at being set such a challenge. The competitiveness was very apparent, especially when a

cock Pheasant was seen feeding at the top of a field some distance away; everyone wanted to make sure they saw it, and they did.



Male Sparrowhawk

Now back to this February walk, our route took us through the wood with the occasional Coal Tit calling "teechu-teechu-teechu" from on high in the Larches. The highlight here was when another lady grabbed everyone's attention by pointing out a Treecreeper making its way up the side of a tree only a few metres from the group. It is fascinating to watch these tiny creatures quietly going about their business edging their way on bark and branches feeding, sometimes silhouetted against the light from the woodland edge so that you can clearly see its down-curved beak probing away. Quite wonderful.

What more did we see on this walk? Well we had a pair of Mallards floating quietly on a bend in Totley Brook, we had good views of Nuthatches calling in several areas and we spent some time watching House Sparrows, Greenfinches,



Greenfinch

Great Tits and several other species using a tangled hedgerow as cover and a corridor to move towards a feeding station in the back garden of a house on Rowan Tree.

One more highlight to mention was when we were in the vicinity of the Scout Hut and a party of Siskins were heard and seen feeding in the tops of an Alder. These little finches have broad yellow wing bars, yellow rumps and yellow sides to their tails. Their whistling and twittering "speeoo" call is a giveaway; a cracking little bird on which to end our very enjoyable morning out. And yes, we exceeded 20 species again.

Chris Measures

Please remember that 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. You will always be made most welcome. The events are advertised on the FoGW website but things are a bit on hold at the moment as you will appreciate.



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Organic Wildlife Gardening

There can be no doubt that the climate is changing. In February, it seemed that we were in the rainy season. Those of us who live on a hill are lucky that we are less likely to suffer flooding, and I am sure everyone feels a great deal of sympathy for those whose towns, villages, streets and houses have been flooded. Personally, I agree with those who say we should not be building on flood-plains, but we all need to be more knowledgeable about the natural world, so that we can live with it and not against it as it will only seek to find ways to try to rebalance everything, as is perhaps happening now. The current outbreak of the Coronavirus might not have occurred and the flooding might not have been so severe or so often.

My garden has been very wet, but seven small trees as well as a variety of shrubs have helped to absorb the excess water. The top of the lawn was quite squelchy too, but it soon improved when the rain was less frequent.



Mini log pile next to the bark path, supporting mosses, ferns and masses of hidden wildlife

This situation will hopefully not occur in future as, in March, two Alder Buckthorn, a Downy Birch and a Goat's Willow tree were planted, and they will take up more water as well as supporting a wider variety of wildlife. I also ordered eight more Alder Buckthorn whips to be planted within existing, mostly native, hedges to try and improve their density. An extra ten of these were sent by the supplier in error but they let us keep them (without payment!) and they are being added in to the hedges too. We are hoping they will flourish. They were all grown in Britain from indigenous seed - some in Scotland and the rest near York.

I am delighted to have found an Oak seedling in my garden. It may need a little control in many years to come as its position might not be ideal but it is the best tree for wildlife, supporting around 300 species in its lifetime, and my gardener has kindly given me another one from his own garden. Hopefully, they will both be here for a very long time.

Springtime is not the best time to plant trees, but it is a good time to plan for next Autumn and look into where to source native British-grown trees. This is important because several destructive varieties of foreign wildlife have been brought in with trees and other plants grown abroad to the detriment of our own wildlife.

I understand that there are problems with many local street trees and there could be many reasons for this. Trees are beneficial for improving air quality and the ambience within built-up areas, but they must always be native for our benefit and that of our wildlife. White Hawthorn and Silver Birch are particularly good, but others are also suitable. In total contrast, the Ornamental Cherries which have been prevalent round this area for many years make a huge amount of slippery mess on pavements, especially the leaves in Autumn, and provide little, if any, support for wildlife.

I was interested to read the article in Bradway Bugle concerning the damage caused to insects by the use of electric blowers. The loss of insects over the last twenty years or so is huge and a serious problem. No wonder bat populations have

plummeted - some species to the point of extinction. There were bats around my area years ago - but not now. So buy a good brush and gather up the leaves (it's good exercise!) which can then be mulched or piled in a dry, sheltered place where they will support insects until they break down. If you aren't able to do so, there are plenty of people who can. I am sure someone would be only too happy to help.

If a lot of leaves fall on the lawn, remove some of them but do leave a "fair scattering" of them for the wildlife in the soil. They will draw it back down which will feed the lawn with natural and vital nutrients which are far better than any product you can buy, supporting the soil wildlife and so helping them to create a healthy soil texture with good drainage.

Throughout winter, there have been many birds visiting the feeders and pottering around the garden. These include goldfinches, chaffinches and greenfinches, one greenfinch being mostly a creamy yellow - almost like an albino. Blue tits, great tits and coal tits, along with house-sparrows and dunnocks are regular visitors. These small birds have to wait their turn until the magpies, blackbirds and squabbling starlings (so good to have them back, though) have had their fill. Two lovely wrens are finding insects on the hedges and among the debris below. If disturbed, they fly to the top of the garden close to the hedge and in an undulating manner - almost as if they're bounding along!! Maybe they will nest up there, and there's plenty of material around for all the nesting birds on my untidy beds!

The robin perches on a branch near the feeders, waiting for a chance to visit them. He will come quite close when the feeders are being refilled and often follows us up the garden, perching nearby and singing a brief phrase. If I whistle a similar phrase, he will answer and this exchange can go on for quite a while which is lovely. He is particularly pleased when there is any gardening activity, coming quite close and darting in as soon as he can for worms!



Liverwort and wild daffodils peering over the wall

Most spectacular are two woodpeckers who visit two or three times on most days and two beautiful nuthatches, clinging upside down on the feeders, as they do. In late March, two collared doves appeared as well.

All this activity attracted the attention of a sparrowhawk on at least two occasions, but as far as I know, it was not successful in catching any birds. The nearby Hawthorn and Ivy may have helped here. However, all living things depend on others, including us, so we must not demonise the sparrowhawk!

All in all, and despite the rain, there is plenty going on in the garden which is very satisfying and, hopefully, more to look forward to. In fact, while frogspawn had not come in February as usual, as I finish this article, I am delighted that a large amount has appeared in the middle pond so, hopefully... there will be lots of froglets and newts too. Wild daffodils are blooming as are some primroses, and I will soon be adding more varieties of wildflowers, grown from seed, into the beds.

I think I dare hope that Spring might really be here and cheer us all up in these most difficult of times.

Marian Tiddy



Transport 17

To say the first couple of months of 2020 have been an interesting time for Transport 17 is an understatement. Just a couple of days before Kerry Machon, our admin assistant, was leaving to concentrate on her other job, Mike Finn, Transport 17 Manager, was signed off from work with stress. Since then he has given notice that he will be leaving Transport 17 on 10th April to concentrate on his health and wellbeing after 35 years of dedicated service.

Mike (pictured right) joined Transport 17 in 1986 as part of the Community Programme Scheme which provided us with a driver for 25 hours a week to help cope with the increased running times. In 1989 funding was obtained which enabled Transport 17 to employ Mike as a co-ordinator/driver to take over the day-to-day organisation from Ron Hogg. He co-ordinated the many aspects of maintaining a very efficient service and maintaining the safety of the minibuses as well as doing some driving which he has been doing ever since.



Mike initiated the Outward Bound Club in 1993 which was an extension of the current service, taking club members on planned outings to events, places of interest and garden centres. Sadly it had to be folded in 1999 due to a shortage of drivers and pressures of the permanent service. At a time when there wasn't an effective Management Committee, Mike, along with John Savournin, took the lead in running the organisation. More recently Mike was heavily involved in the organisation of our very successful Pea and Pie Supper.

The buses were Mike's pride and joy and he spent hours ensuring they were maintained to a very high standard for which we are renowned. His contribution to Transport 17 and to those whom it serves in the local community has been immeasurable and we are certain that you will join us in thanking him for his long service and wishing him well for the future.

Also our treasurer, Peter Marquis, resigned from the Management Committee. We need to find a replacement for him as soon as we can, so if you or someone you know feel this something you could do we would love to hear from you. We would like to thank Peter for taking on the role and are really pleased he is continuing to help us as a passenger assistant.

We've had to pull out all the stops to keep Transport 17 going, and between all of our volunteers – both on the buses and in the office – we've kept the buses on the road serving all of our clubs, only cancelling one bus run in the last two months. We are grateful to all of our volunteers for doing extra shifts, above and beyond what they would normally do – which is always a lot – to make sure that we can continue to serve our passengers.

A new volunteer role has emerged as we tried to cope with no administrative assistant. Some of us have been in the office first thing in the morning to pick up messages and answer phone calls, which is critical to ensuring that the list of passengers each day is correct. It has worked really well so we seek to recruit volunteers to help with this activity. Volunteers are in the office for 9.00 and stay until 10.30 or 11.00. Initially it is quite a busy time with drivers and passenger assistants

meeting to collect their lists as they begin their day so there is a very sociable atmosphere. Again, we would love to hear from you if you think that this is something you could help us with.

A special mention must go to Jenny Nuttall who has been taking on many of the responsibilities critical to keeping Transport 17 rolling. She has also looked at the range of tasks that underpin the running of the organisation in an effort to take things forward most effectively. Jenny's commitment and dedication to Transport 17 has been incredible as she has worked to keep things going on so many fronts. We are so appreciative and can't thank her enough.

Andy Birch and Stuart McDonald passed their MIDAS tests and can now drive for us. This has eased pressures somewhat but sadly we are to lose Colin Price who is returning to Eastbourne to live.

Colin has been a stalwart of Transport 17 for 22 years but his connection goes back 30 years, as his mother-in-law was a passenger on one of the buses. Recruited in November 1997 when he had taken early retirement he began as a passenger assistant. Once he had the driving qualifications he started on the Jordanthorpe route, and then other routes including St Williams and St Marks which he did for 10 years with Tony Bradbury. At one point he worked four days a week – an amazing commitment. As well as driving the buses he took the buses to the garage for maintenance, has played a significant role in recruiting volunteers and attends our coffee mornings! In fact there isn't much that happens at Transport 17 that Colin hasn't been associated with at one time or another. We all could rely on Colin and we're going to miss him greatly.

Colin is terribly sad to be going but on the upside he has discovered there is a community transport bus service that goes to Beachy Head that is looking for volunteers, so he is intending to offer his services – how lucky are they going to be! He and his wife have found a ground floor flat and having many friends in the area already they are well prepared for many happy years down south. I'm sure that you would like to join with Transport 17 and wishing him and his wife all the very best for the future.

Colin will leave a huge gap at Transport 17 and although we have two new drivers starting it will take more than that to replace him, so our search for volunteer drivers is as important as ever. Maybe hearing of Colin's experiences might just trigger the thought for you that this is something you would enjoy doing in whatever spare time you might have available. If you would be interested in taking on this or any of the other roles mentioned in this article please either pop into the office, 172 Baslow Road or send us an email to admin@transport17.co.uk

The effects of the coronavirus are hitting us all, as everything we do has come to a halt. It is hardest of all for our passengers who will miss the social contact and we can only hope that it won't be long before we can resume normal service.

We had a very successful coffee morning at the Cross Scythes raising £805 despite all the concerns regarding the coronavirus. A huge thanks to Ben, Scott and the staff at the Cross Scythes, along with everyone who supported us whether through donations or attending. Dave Billington made us a super cake to guess the weight of, which was won by Catherine Wrigglesworth. Her guess was closest to the weight which was 4lb 13oz or 2.193 kg. Our volunteers did an excellent job in collecting an array of chocolate, wonderful raffle prizes, items for the 'as new' stall, then sorting, displaying and selling it all to make the money we raised.

Finally, we have received donations of £100 from Bradway Discussion Group, £170 from Cavendish Ladies Probus Club, £84 from All Saints Church raised in lieu of sending Christmas cards, £55 from Step Out Sheffield from their Saturday morning walks in January and February, £35 from the Rising Sun collection box, £100 from Heather Belbin and over £80 from small change donations from lunch club attendees.

Dore Methodist Tuesday Group have selected us as their chosen charity for this year and have given us £250 as a part of this. Once again we have also received a very generous donation of £2,000 from the Facey Family Foundation. Huge thanks go to all of these people for their support.

Sandra Longley (on behalf of the Management Committee)



Being Part of the Mercia Learning Trust

Visitors to school often ask what being part of an academy Trust actually means for Totley Primary. This is a good question, because schools within academies across the country work together in very different ways—from some which are virtually clones of each other, with the same uniforms and structures to their school days, to others which are very loosely federated. Over the past couple of years, CEO Chris French has worked hard with school leaders and governors to develop a genuine and deep partnership between the six schools within the Mercia Learning Trust: Totley, Nether Edge and Valley Park (primaries) and King Egbert, Newfield and Mercia (secondaries). The goal is for each school to retain its own character and personality, whilst reaping great benefits from working together.



Initially, a lot of this work was behind the scenes, with common approaches to central functions such as finance, HR, governance, payroll and estates management. More recently, though, the focus has been on work which is having a direct impact on the education of our children and making classroom teaching more effective. Much of this has been around the curriculum we offer, with a range of working groups now in motion to draw together the very best practice across the Trust to improve the deal our children get. Maths, Science, Reading and Personal Development are just some of the areas which have been tackled in this way. IT provision and outdoor learning have been identified as potential areas for joint development next year, along with new school websites and continued curriculum development. This is all very exciting and should provide more opportunities to demonstrate that we, as a group of schools, are stronger together!

Further information about the Trust's mission and principles can be found by visiting www.merctrust.co.uk. At that website (look for 'Annual Conference' under the 'About Us' tab) you can also obtain an insight into our fantastic recent joint INSET day on 24th February, including a brilliant video montage of children and staff across the six schools performing the iconic poem *If* by Rudyard Kipling.

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

Totley Swifts need your help



We are Swifts

We are in trouble

Would you miss us?

If your answer to this is Yes!

Please read the article below

Working with Action for Swifts we hope to try to ensure Swifts can continue to fly in the skies above Totley and enrich our lives every summer

Swifts: How We Can Help

Nationally, Swifts have declined by over 50% since 1995. Their numbers in Totley have also declined over the years, as many people have noticed around the houses where they live.

One of the reasons for this decline is due to the loss of nest sites following improvements to properties. Swifts usually choose to nest in buildings, quite often a hole in the wall of a house, high up under the eaves or guttering. So any changes in that area of the property can make it impossible for the Swifts to gain access to their old nest chamber. Having flown over 6000 miles from Africa in an attempt to nest and breed in our village; they really do deserve our help.

So a number of like-minded people in Totley are interested in forming a group to encourage the local community to record Swifts arriving; where they appear to be nesting; their current numbers and how many small flocks (schools) are swooping down at roof level during the breeding season. By gathering this information between May and August this year it will enable the group to get a good idea of the status of Swifts in our village. This could then lead to the erection of nest boxes on the sides of suitable houses in the village in an attempt to increase the breeding population of Swifts in Totley.

This should be a very exciting project. If you enjoy this iconic bird flying over Totley and you would like to help and be involved in recording Swift numbers near to you please write to swiftsoftotley@outlook.com

Here are two websites that provide additional information about Swifts and these in turn provide links to many other websites relating to Swifts:

www.swift-conservation.org

<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/>

Chris Measures

Talking the Dog....

Rony The weather's too cruel for our walk, Jack. Shall we stay by the fire and have a pretend walk instead? We could count all our favourite Totley places?

Jack OK, but we'll still deserve some treats after.

Rony Agreed?

Jack Agreed.

Jack Right, so which favourite Totley places shall we count first?

Rony The Totley Ten!

Jack Whatever they are.

Rony They are the best things in Totley.

Jack Well whatever they are you should always save the best till last. So start with something not so best?

Rony Totley's favourite Totley churches then? And the winner is — All Saints, Totley!

Jack Why?

Rony For one thing, it's all the saints at the same time, not like St John's who only have one. And for the second thing, at All Saints we have proper prayer books with proper Tables of Consanguinity so that you don't marry the wrong person by mistake e.g. your brother's wife's son's uncle.

Jack Dogs aren't allowed to get married, so we don't make mistakes like that.

Rony No, but if you were, you wouldn't, not if you were in All Saints. Right. More favourite Totley churches, please.

Jack Dogs aren't allowed in churches.

Rony And our next Totley church is...the chapel at the end of Chapel Lane!

Jack There isn't one.

Rony No, but there used to be. That's why Chapel Lane is called Chapel Lane. And inside it was where Old Barrett used to ruler us in J2 when we didn't get 7-out-of-10 in Mental Arithmetic. But on Sundays the chapel turned into The Chapel again. But then Brian Edwards turned it right round, so it can't count any more. And The Totley Rise Methodists and The Totley Brook Road United Reformers can't count either, because they are non-conformists whatever they mean by that.

Rony They mean they wear whatever they want on Sundays and don't have to agree with the real God all the time. But come on, Jack! Chop chop! Give me another church?

Jack Well it's more of a funny castle than a church.

Rony Go on then.

Jack It's opposite Dore & Totley Station and —

Rony No!

Jack — it's where those funny posh men with little bags meet once a month and lodge there and then —

Rony No shshsh! No, Jack!

Jack — dress up in aprons and then —

Rony No! Shhs!

Jack — shake hands on their way to the festive board? And your Dad was one wasn't he Rony? A freemas—

Rony Waaaagh! Waaaagh! Do The Totley Ten! The Totley Ten! Waaaaghaghagahah !

Paws

Jack Go on then. Do your Totley Ten, whatever they are when they're at home.

Rony The Totley Ten are like the Ten Commandments, only harder. You have to have a pint in all ten pubs in Totley on the same night, and you're not allowed to be sick before you get home or you have to start all over again.

Jack There aren't ten pubs in Totley.

Rony The Cross. The Crown. The Cricket. The Shepley. The Peacock. The Moorlands.

Jack That's only s—

Rony The Fleur, where Joe Cocker and Ozzie used to sing. And The Grouse, next to the pepper-pot. And The Green Oak at the top of Mickley. And —

Jack They all shut years back. You're still only on six.

Rony Jack The Hare and Hounds. And The Dev. And The — They're all Dore. Dore's not allowed in the *Totley Independent*. You've stuck at six out of ten Rony, so Old Barrett won't half give you some stick now. The end.

Paws

Rony And it's the end of your pretend walk too, Jack. Go to your bed without any supper!

Jack You're being a bit cruel today Rony.

Rony Yes well today is a bit cruel. That's why we stayed in. But I've had enough pretending for one day thank you. Bed!

Paws

Jack Rony?

Rony I'm much too busy trying to write this article for the *Totley Indep*—

Jack Yes but—

Rony Yes but what, now?

Jack Yes but you do realise, don't you, that the readers of the *Totley Independent* who read this 'Walking the Dog' feature every two months, do realise that it's only you pretending? And that even when it's me speaking like I am now, or going to bed without any supper, it's not really me who is? It's just you pretending me? Even now, when I'm saying that it's just you pretending me, it's you saying me saying that I am?

Long paws

Rony You've spoiled everything for ever.

Jack Soz.

Rony And you've spoiled everything again by telling everyone my Dad was a Freemason.

Jack He was.

Rony Yes! But you have to shshshs about it, or you get buried a cable's length from the shore.

Jack You should have shshshsd about it then.

Rony It was you who should have shshshsd about it, then, because it was you who said it.

Jack Yes, but I'm you when I say things, remember?

Paws

Jack Shall we start again?

Rony Yes, but only if we can have our treats first.

Jack Agreed?

Jack Agreed.

Paws

Jack And who was Ozzie supposed to be when he was at home, anyway?

Rony & Jack Robinson

Note: There may be small prize from the Editor for the first person to correctly say who 'Ozzie' was when he was at home. Usual terms and conditions don't apply.

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CofE Primary School



Believe Aspire Support Grow Care

Despite the rather dreary weather that has started 2020, there's been plenty happening at TASS this term.

Taylor Shaw, who provide our school lunches, came into school to hold a "Pizza day" when every child was able to make a mini-pizza to take home. The children loved the opportunity and it is an important step in encouraging them to understand how to make healthy and delicious food.

Our after school Art Club is going from strength to strength and the children have produced some beautiful artwork. There is always a waiting list to take part in this very popular club.



World Book Day was great fun with everyone dressing up and taking part in fun activities that raised the profile of reading.

TASS Governors like to know what's going on in school and carry out termly class visits where the children can ask them questions about what they do.

Visits and visitors

These are an important part of bringing the curriculum to life for our children. Y3 have had a visit from the Roman day History Van where they experienced many aspects of Roman life and Y2 had a welcoming and informative visit to the Sheffield Islamic Centre.

To help them understand their science theme of evolution, Y6 spent the day at The Yorkshire Wildlife Park – giraffes are REALLY tall!

Rivers have been in the news a lot this winter and Y5 learned about them on their trip to The Longshaw Estate.

Even our youngest children get out and about and will be enjoying a trip to Whirlow Hall Farm during March.

Pupil Leaders at TASS



The school council has been very busy too. They completed an Actions Benefit Celebration reflection of what they had achieved in the autumn and then moved onto this year's business. They have completed a "wish list" for the new library and organized the fund raising for Sports Relief.

The Global Neighbours group reminded us all about Fair Trade Fortnight and organised a fund-raising bun sale which raised an amazing £105.48. They also had a talk from Dr Fitton about schools in Africa with a particular link to Kenya. Other groups of children are still organising and holding bun

sales for local good causes and our Merit Team captains are working hard to lead their teams.

Caring for the whole child

The pressure of modern life can be very stressful for children so supporting Children's Mental Health week was very important to us. The children took part in assemblies and class activities to supplement the work we already do through our PSHE curriculum.



We will also be supporting Neurodiversity week to help children appreciate the positive aspects of thinking in a different way and highlighting famous and successful people who have ADHD or ASD.

Achievements so far this year

- 100% of our Y4 children achieved their 25m and water safety awards
- Our own TASS take on a SPELLING BEE highlighted some really high quality spelling
- A team of Y5 children took part in a Maths Quiz at Emmanuel School and managed a very creditable 2nd place!
- Y6 have been revising hard towards the tests that show they are "secondary ready" an important standard to reach so they can take off into their secondary education.
- Sheffield Diving came to school to scout out potential future divers from Years 3-5. Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm. Particularly well done to the 18 children who have successfully made it onto phase 2.

Always something to look forward to at TASS

Our hardworking PTA Fun-d raisers are putting on a Family Breakfast which is always very popular.

A team of Y6 mathematicians will be taking part in the Sheffield Hallam University maths quiz.

We always hold our Sports Day at the EIS which the children find very inspiring, as many top athletes train there, and which avoids cancellation due to bad weather.

Residential visits are something the children really look forward to and over the next few months we have Y4 in Castleton, Y5 at The Oakes and Y6 at Thornbridge Outdoors

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 and Trudi Brown, Proud Headteachers

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Gordon Grayson, 1924 - 2020

We are sorry to advise that Gordon Grayson, former partner at Graysons and eldest son of its founder, Robert Benjamin Grayson, died on 17th January 2020, aged 95.

Graysons would not be the firm it is now without the influence of Gordon, his brother Derek and his father Robert.



Gordon was born in 1924 to Robert Grayson and his wife Kathleen. Derek was born three years later. The boys enjoyed a very happy childhood in Brook Hall, Mickley Lane, Sheffield: making dens in the woods behind the house, damming the stream, flying aeroplanes they had made and

riding go-carts. Gordon attended Birkdale School in Sheffield (where he later served as chair of governors from 1963 to 1991) and then went to Haileybury in Hertfordshire. From here, in 1942, he won a senior scholarship to study classics at Cambridge, where he undertook his first two terms before his education was interrupted by the war and he was drafted into the navy under the 'Y' scheme, which recruited educationally qualified young men of potential officer material.

He remained in the navy until the end of the second world war when he returned to Cambridge and studied law. He then commenced his professional career at his father's firm, first as a solicitor and then as a partner. He was later joined at the firm by his brother, Derek, who had also attended Cambridge and was called up to the navy as an ordinary seaman. He served on H.M.S. Ajax in the Mediterranean and was involved in the Haifa Patrol: limiting the number of immigrants entering the newly formed country of Palestine. Derek sadly died in 2018.

Gordon was recently honoured for his service during the second world war. He received the Arctic Star for his extraordinary actions in the face of danger aboard convoys that took planes, fuel and food from Scotland to Russia to help the war effort on the Eastern front. Many seamen perished in the winter convoys and Gordon was himself torpedoed twice during his career.

In 1950, Gordon married Eleanor and had a son and two daughters. Eleanor died in 2016. His daughters remembered their childhood and life with their parents fondly, in a tribute paid to their dad at his funeral on 10th February 2020, saying that he had a great capacity for friendship and a positive attitude whatever life threw at him. Sadly, Gordon's son died in 2010.

Gordon retired from Graysons in 1989, following which he was a consultant for the firm until he finally finished his work with Graysons in 1992, aged 68.

Gordon was well known and respected in Sheffield, not only for his legal work but also for his honorary offices and charitable good works. He was chair of the Juvenile Bench of the Magistrates Court and the Probation Committee. He was on the Town Trust, which gives grants to a variety of good causes in Sheffield, was involved with the YMCA and helped run Overdale Christian Care Home. As a committed Christian, Gordon also served as a lay reader in the area.

Graysons is proud of the deep-rooted family values and ethics of the service on which it was established and which continue as a result of the beliefs and standards inherited from Gordon, his father and his brother.

Graysons Solicitors, with thanks to Gordon's daughters, Jenny and Julia for their contribution to this tribute.



Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

Hello everyone! Here I am again with the latest TOADS' update!

Our last play, *Biddies' War*, was written and directed by Alan Wade, and was set on a farm on the eve of the D-Day landings. It was a lovely play to appear in and was very well received by our audiences. Thank you to our back-stage ladies who decorated the entrance hall and auditorium with memorabilia, bunting, war-time posters, etc., which served to set the atmosphere for the play.

And now the bad news.

Toads are very sorry to announce the cancellation of the May play in view of the current situation regarding the coronavirus. We hope to be able to present *Murder in Play* in November.

Please, everyone, stay well!

Anne Bettridge

Totley History Group presents...

THROUGH KIRTON TUNNEL

A Railway Journey from Sheffield to Cleethorpes

by STEPHEN GAY

WEDNESDAY, 27TH MAY 2020
7.30 P.M. IN TOTLEY LIBRARY
Non-members are welcome

Friends of Dore & Totley Station

Due to the COVID-19 crisis all rail services are being reviewed and emergency timetables are being put into place. They are likely to change as the crisis develops. Some late cancellations will inevitably occur when staff become unavailable. Please check for latest services before leaving home.

The Pacers have finally gone – what next?

On 6th March 2020 the last Class 142 Pacer ran in normal service on the Hope Valley line. I first saw one stop at Dore (the station name was Dore between 1971 and 2008) on a trial run just after the line was singled through the station in 1985. They didn't take over our route for a few years after that but there was enthusiasm for the new trains. At the time they were hailed as salvation for many branch lines, and they were. Without them it's quite likely we'd have had no service at all.



Pacer at New Westminster, Vancouver, in 1986

Amazingly there were great hopes for export orders and one unit went to Vancouver in 1986. 142049 later became a regular on our line, but has already been cut up for scrap. Some of a different class were sold to Iran and - scrapped by 2005.

The longer Class 150 trains we're now getting are also about 35 years old, but may have to soldier on for another 5-10 years. However, there may be good news on that front. The latest Class 195 trains like the one pictured below are being deployed over the next few months and it's likely we'll see some of them from May. It's possible we may get three carriage units on some services, and four-coach trains in the evenings.



Regular users may spot a slight problem with that. The Hope Valley line's platform is normally 2C, and it only takes 2 coaches. From May about half of our trains will run from Platform 7, and for the others they may be on 1, 2, or 8 - probably. We'll have to be alert for platform announcements!

TransPennine Express now have six carriages on most of their busiest trains stopping at Dore & Totley. East Midlands are struggling with their fleet but by the end of the year they too should have better trains.

Canopy

Sadly our new canopy has failed a review by Network Rail's inspectors and has had to be propped up. It's a difficult issue and a subject of discussion as to whether extra support is necessary at all - and then who does what about it. In the midst of the present national emergency any bets on early resolution would be very optimistic. Priority was to make sure it's safe. It certainly is now, but looks bad.

Defibrillator

The box was finally installed as this article was going to press. It's beside the Amazon box at the entrance, installed by Northern and part funded by SYPTE, TransPennine Express and FoDaTS.

Station environment

The crocuses and daffodils are now in flower and buds are forming on the hedges and trees - Spring is early this year. Final arrangements are being made for a large bench beside the drop off zone and a planter, to be donated by Abbeydale Rotary. Negotiations are almost complete for a local gardening company to maintain the main road frontage. By the time you read this they may have made a start to tidy it up. Our volunteers continue to tend the platform planters, pick up litter and tidy around the car park.

Zozzy's Coffee

Lee and Zoe survived their first two months operating their early morning coffee facility out of a Smart car. If things were normal they'd be open Monday to Friday, starting at 6am and are there until 9.30 - longer on nice days! But due to present circumstances Zozzy's coffee has had to withdraw from the station, where the car park is all but deserted and nobody was buying.

It's getting busier down at the station - or it was!

Sadly, my optimistic comment in the last issue came too soon. Thanks to the coronavirus, working from home is increasing and demand for flights from Manchester Airport has fallen off a cliff! All the extra capacity on the trains means travellers won't be quite as close together. Let's all hope this crisis will not be too prolonged.

Our Annual General Meeting was scheduled for Thursday 30th April at Totley Library. The speaker was to have been Pete Myers, Client and Stakeholder Manager, Northern Trains. This has now been cancelled.

All would have been welcome when we were to meet to review a very successful year. Light refreshments would have been available and guests would have met, seen pictures and statistics, exchanged memories, asked about present and future services, and maybe heard some further good news for the future. Other rail industry guests might have been on hand for a Q and A session - virus control has scuppered all that! Let's hope we can try again by the autumn.

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; njbarnes@outlook.com There's lots of information on our website at; www.fodats.net

Chris Morgan, Chairman



How to be an Active Employer

30 Sheffield companies already trying to enable staff to make more work trips on foot and by bike shared their ideas in an online meeting organised by Love to Ride and Sheffield City Region.

Here are their suggestions to help employers planning their company's future travel plans after we get back to our workplaces. Hope they're useful.

In General

- Active travel needs both enabling and encouraging
- Ask what your people need
- Add ideas on the city's transport network, good or bad, to the SCR interactive map
- Businesses can join the lobby at local and national level for cycling and walking
- Walking is easy to enable in a workplace, but needs better infrastructure for the journey, including single stage pedestrian crossings and pleasant routes
- Running is increasingly popular, but requires lockers and showers
- Cycling (e-bikes especially) need secure storage
- E-bikes (including e-cargo bikes for family or business use) are a game changer enabling more people to take cycling seriously. They can be tried on loan through CycleBoost, and bought over 2 years (and at discount) through initiatives like: www.cyclescheme.co.uk

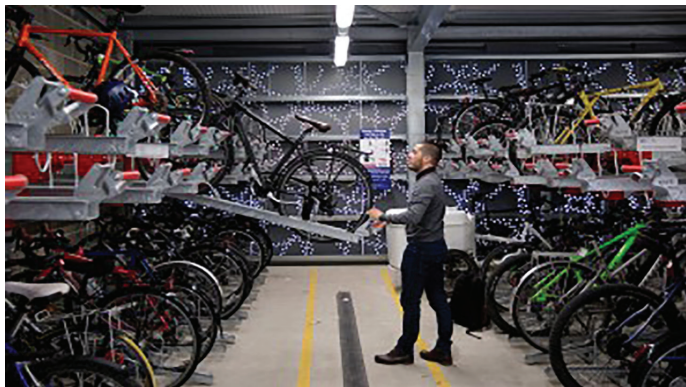
The HSBC Model

(Helped regular cycling quadruple to around 10% of staff)

- The best way to encourage cycling (and other active travel) is to put someone able and enthusiastic in charge, with time and resources
- Building a community of active travellers helps inspire and help newcomers
- Enabling 'tryouts' works — interested people won't know if they are happy riding a bike unless they've had a go at it

The University of Sheffield Model

(Allocating car parking on need, and charging, generates funding for active travel measures that have cut car comm-



University of Sheffield Cycle Hub

-uting down to 30%, with 36% of workers commuting actively)

- Restricting car parking is often a shock, but explaining the reasons and benefits helps, and can lead to lasting change in the individuals concerned

- Bringing a competitive element to active

travel promotion increases participation, for example Love to Ride incentivises cycling while Better Points is used to promote walking

- Maintenance services for cyclists keep people moving

The Smaller Businesses Model

(e.g. Urban Wilderness, Sheffield Sustainable Kitchens)

- If senior management are keen, it will happen
- Concentrate on secure bike storage, washing (and drying) facilities if possible, and building an active travel community in the workplace

Under the Current Covid 19 Situation

It's worth pointing out to employees that keeping active helps keep up their fitness, mental health and immunity, and helps the NHS by keeping them out of the health care system at a time of crisis.

See <https://blog.lovetoride.net/blog/2020/03/19/lets-ride-biking-makes-good-sense-the-coronavirus-era/>

Some Resources

Some of the following have suspended their activities during the current crisis, but when normal business resumes

Sheffield Council offers adult cycle training, hybrid, folding bike and e-bike loans and Dr Bike maintenance services through CycleBoost, and hope to offer 50% to small businesses for packages like storage or washing relating to active travel. A bid has also gone in to provide cut price e-cargo bikes for businesses.

Russell's Bicycle Shed and A Different Gear (formerly Recycle Bikes) offer bikes, cargo bikes, e-bikes and maintenance packages — other bike shops are available!

Sheffield Sustainability Network for businesses addressing all issues around sustainability, and Love to Ride runs a network for businesses interested in all types of active travel.

SYTE Active Travel pages include initiatives and advice from the South Yorkshire PTE active travel team

David Bocking



Staff from Sheffield Sustainable Kitchens walking to work

Totley Events in May

As this issue is published, all events for April have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus crisis. Looking on the optimistic side, if restrictions were to be lifted for May, some or all of the following might go ahead. You'll need to check with the organisers beforehand, however, to see if this is the case.

SUN 3rd and FRI 8th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/

WED 13th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB 10am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Illustrated talk by Ray and Cathy Lawrence, "Traversing the USA". Visitors welcome.

TUES 19th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Sarah Whitaker, "Floral Arrangements". Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am.

SUN 24th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/

MON 25th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/

WED 27th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Stephen Gay, "Through Kirton Tunnel: a Railway Journey from Sheffield to Cleethorpes". Totley Library, 7.30pm.

WED 27th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB 10am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Illustrated talk by John Kirkman, "Darwin: his life and how he changed our world". Visitors welcome.

SUN 24th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service.



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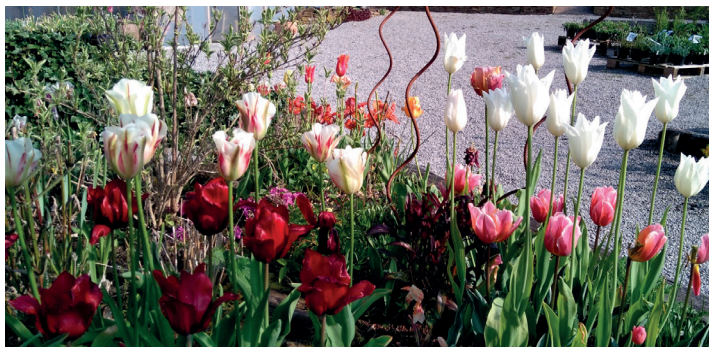
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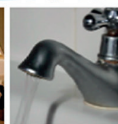
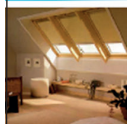


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