

Totley Independent

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A reminder of Autumn colour before winter weather kicks in (Photo: Chris Measures)

Quiet Days in Totley...

Not that we should complain, what with this wretched virus still at large, but things have gone rather quiet around the area of late. Things that got us going over the months seem to have become Famous Controversies of Yesteryear.

The platoon of rubbish bins regularly parading at the bottom of the Rise has gone, thanks to improved access for Veolia vehicles.

Amey's tree-felling shenanigans have ceased, with a severe rap on the Council's knuckles from the Local Government Ombudsman over the way the Council handled the tree-removal operation. The Ombudsman said that "This case highlights the imperative for councils to act with honesty, openness and transparency – without this people can lose faith in their integrity and not trust they are doing the right thing" though to be fair, he also acknowledged "the hard work the council has since done to re-

store people's faith,...Apologising to the people of Sheffield for its past actions and acknowledging what went wrong will help build that trust further."

Heavy vehicles have finally been banished from the steep and narrow roads around Totley and Bradway with the consequent reduction in traffic, vibration and noise.

On the other hand, Covid restrictions have unfortunately kept some of Totley's best facilities far too quiet - Transport 17 and the Library being just two examples. But things will get back to normal. And Totley is certainly cleaner than it was, thanks in no small part to the Litter Picking group. All that's needed now for some residents are a few lessons in DDD - Dog Dirt Discipline.

Covid aside (and the vaccine's on its way!) there are plenty of reasons to be cheerful. Let's all hope that 2021 will bring us lots more!

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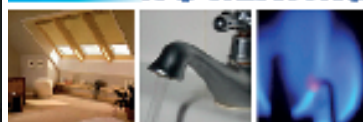
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Councillors' Update

Like most organisations the Council continues to operate remotely for most of its meetings. Zoom and Microsoft Teams have become part of all of our lives! Whilst we are missing the face to face contacts and informal interactions which are often very helpful in achieving results there are a number of benefits in terms of efficiency from these remote meetings. When we eventually reach a post-pandemic world it is likely that some aspects of this new way of working will be retained.

Whether we're in a new lockdown or back to Tier 3, we need to be aware of supporting our neighbours in this difficult time. There are a number of sources of help such as the S17 Covid-19 Community Support Group who have done excellent work throughout this period. The Council helpline number is 2734567 and this can provide help and support in a number of ways.

One thing we can all do is help our local businesses, which are all facing the harsh economic realities of the current crisis. During the spring lockdown many of us rediscovered the great service they provide and life was easier with their help. Let's keep giving them our support because we will need them in the future.

Concern about speeding traffic is an issue that has been around for a while and has received lot of comment during lockdown. Community speed checks have been suspended during the pandemic but the Police have been doing some extra speed checks locally such as recently on Dore Road. Councillors are also investigating purchasing another Speed Indicator Device from our Ward funds like the one on Baslow Road. These SIDs can be rotated around the area to speeding hot spots and are effective at reducing speeds.

We have reported on the need for a café in Whirlowbrook Park before. As with many things, progress has slowed since March, but we understand the proposed café operator is still very much interested and terms of the lease are currently being negotiated. Here's hoping that 2021 will see its arrival.

An Ombudsman report on the highway trees issue has recently been published and widely covered in the press. It gives a damning picture of how Sheffield City Council handled the situation and we must never let this happen again.

And finally....due to the pandemic we regret that our face-to-face surgeries remain temporarily cancelled but you can still contact us by phone or email. We look forward to hearing from you.

Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Joe Otten

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West View Lane: a Postscript

Westview Lane was originally built to serve Westview Cottage. It is a three-in-one structure – a built-up slope, a bridge over the river and a bridge over the railway – similar to all those built by Midland Railway seen all along the railway lines into Sheffield. A second railway bridge was constructed immediately to the south over the River Sheaf, which just carries the railway over the river.

Westview Cottage, prior to the railway, had an access road slightly to the south (which the current road replaced) and was demolished. Originally the path was a continuation of Savage Lane which went through Bushey Wood and straight over the main road, through the gardens of 2/4 Brinkburn Close.



West View Lane - the bridge over the railway

The name 'West View Lane' does not appear until 1980s maps, but this is most probably because the road was classed as a driveway, not a public road.

Up above West View Lane, it is thought – though not established definitively – that the land on which some properties were later built on Prospect Place may have been sold by the Duke of Devonshire, who was certainly selling land in Totley around the 1880's.

Information from Dominic Harris and Pauline Burnett

Recently Spotted....

This is typically the scene, any day, any time, on the double-yellow lines outside the shops at the top of Totley Rise. How liberating to know that Totley folk feel able to break the law in this very specific and limited way, and to redefine the law on parking on double-yellow lines as advisory only. Wonder where they got the idea from.



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Keeping things 'on track' at Totley Primary

As the country heads into its second lockdown, it was with great relief that we listened to the words of the Prime Minister as he announced that schools would be remaining open. Much as though everybody made the best of the incredibly difficult situation we found ourselves in during the total lockdown of the Spring term, the prospect of continuing to be able to keep face to face teaching going and seeing our children and families every day, made us all dance a little jig!



The benefits children gain from the daily routines, expectations and interactions of school life, with all of the accompanying emotional, pastoral and social enrichment it provides, has never been clearer. This was spelled out for us when the children bounced back into school after the recent half term break, showing readiness to learn and great joy at being able to rekindle positive relationships with school staff and classmates.



Since returning to school in September, much work has gone into implementing our full, broad curriculum plans, whilst having an intensive focus on phonics, reading and supporting children who have gaps in their learning. Alongside this, we have also

seen the exciting installation of an all-weather running track on our front field, thanks to the vision of our PE subject leader, Sam Flevill, pictured above. This is being used every day to ensure that children's physical activity levels remain high. Around 9 laps are equivalent to a kilometre, with 14 laps making a distance of a mile. Already

the benefits of this facility on children's energy levels, ability to concentrate and physical fitness are apparent – although the school cook has commented that children's appetites at lunchtime have increased accordingly!

On behalf of all at Totley Primary, I would like to send the local community our very best wishes for safe passage through these continued stormy waters, along with hope of brighter skies in 2021.

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

On the Beat



Seasons greetings to all *Independent* readers! Totley has now been added back into my beat area and your editor has been kind enough to let me write a few words in your magazine

again. I now cover your area with PCSO Paul Harran and between us we are responsible for Totley, Dore, Whirlow, Millhouses, Greystones, Bents Green and parts of Ecclesall.

As I write we are about to move into a new phase of rules and regulations amidst an increased number of COVID cases. Whatever your views on the virus and the action being taken, I urge you to find, digest and understand any new restrictions being put into place, particularly in regards to the socialising aspect and how this affects young people. Over the last few months we have seen a number of reports of groups of youths gathering on the open areas around Dore & Totley. It's been interesting to see the discussions being created on local social media around these gatherings with convincing arguments from both sides as to why they either should or shouldn't be moved! However there are rules and I believe that most of the people reading this article have been sticking by them – please continue to do so. If you have problems interpreting anything please contact me and I will try and translate into plain English for you.

Whilst on the subject of contacting me, can I please remind you not to use the number at the end of this article for your initial reports of crime or anti-social behaviour. Reports should be made through 101, through our online reporting system (SYP website) or in life or property-endangering situations only, 999. I cannot create incidents and don't take my work phone home with me (I know – no dedication!) so it is not a 24/7 monitored number. Can I ask once again that if you leave me a voicemail, you also leave a number for me to get back to you. It is immensely frustrating to reach the end of a message I need to respond to, and find no number is given. Also on this subject

please do not place posts on the local Facebook page and assume that police will see them. I have read on a number of posts recently that probably someone may have informed the police about something although often find that no report has been received. If you want to contact us through Facebook please follow the Sheffield South West NHP page, as we can also be messaged through there although again these messages are not monitored all the time.

If you're struggling to find an upside to our current situation, I'm pleased to say that house burglary figures across our area are currently very low. I'd like to say that this is down to fine policing but it's more probably the fact that so many of us have not left our houses in months thus reducing the opportunities burglars would normally take advantage of. However as people were starting to head back into 'normal' life we have seen a small pick up in numbers.

As mentioned many times by me over the past few years please ensure you have upgraded your locks to the latest British Standard kite marked anti-bump and snap locks and that you make good use of timer lights and other aids such as TV simulators if you're lucky enough to be going out in an evening.

I'll also give the age old reminder to ensure doors and windows are all locked and secure on leaving the house, on retiring for the evening or in fact any time you are in and not in sight of the windows you have opened. Garages and sheds seem to be the main target at the moment so please ensure anything of value is properly secured maybe using garage bolts or extra locks. This is particularly important as we head towards Christmas and the contents of houses and garages may become more tempting.

If you still haven't signed up to SYP alerts please do so for early notice of any emerging crime patterns in our area. Go to www.sypalerts.co.uk or send your name, house number, postcode and email address to my contact address and I'll get you signed up. We are not currently carrying out home security visits but hope we can get back to offering these in the New Year.

As ever, please contact me if you need to on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or the mobile 07787 881945.

It seems very early to say it but I hope you and your families enjoy the best Christmas you can under the circumstances!

*Adrian Tolson, PCSO 8136
South Yorkshire Police
Sheffield South West Neighbourhoods Team
Woodseats Police Station
T: 0114 2963684
M: 07787 881945
southyorks.police.uk*

Gardening Tips for December and January

We are in lockdown at the moment. It makes life a bit difficult, and a bit scary. We wonder which is the best way of coping - there are so many differing rules! We are so glad we have a garden to lose ourselves in. Our neighbours are great friends to have around, even though we have to keep distancing. We are still using our lovely carers for supermarket shopping for basics, and the local shops are delivering other goods - vegetables etc.

We are just getting over a big refurbishment in the barn flat: new wiring, appliances, decorating, etc. It has been very stressful, and sleep has been difficult at times. Fortunately the contractors have been able to do the work despite the coronavirus, but it all seems to take a long time. I used to be able to do most of the jobs, but I now find it too difficult, and sometimes impossible. Christine keeps reminding me that I am not getting any younger.

The garden has had to take a back seat: maybe we will be able to settle back into some sort of routine and get on with some of the work, but our garden helper is in isolation, so we will have to shelve the heavier jobs until the circumstances get easier.

We have decided to eliminate one of the ponds. We have been having a lot of trouble trying to prevent leaking, even after a reline, so we are going to have a bit more border to play with, but first we have a rather large hole to fill. It is rather ironic that the pond does not appear to have a leak since we decided to eliminate it; we have had a lot of rain, and I suppose the subterranean ground is fully saturated (big word - thank goodness for spellcheck!)

November 8th: The greenhouse is still busy. The tomatoes have nearly finished, though there are a few still hanging on. Another week or so and then the plants will have to go into the compost bins, which will make room for the over-wintering plants, mainly geraniums and fuchsias. The ginger lily has just given us a lovely flower. I thought it was having a rest - it has never flowered this late before! I will be bringing a pot of them into the greenhouse. They seem to like it better - the flowers last longer and the perfume fills the greenhouse in the summer. The veg garden has given a reasonable amount this season, though not as good as previous years. I think the erratic weather earlier did not help, or perhaps I planted them a bit too soon.

Our neighbours' garden has had a transformation - all the overgrown shrubs, brambles, nettles, and every weed have been removed along with quite a few ash tree saplings. The wildlife will be missing it. Now it remains to be seen what will take its place.

It's time to gather your thoughts and plan what you are going to do next year. We have to be optimistic and hope that we may have a Totley Show. The committee are planning already, so I hope you are planning to have some exhibits for the show bench. There is one consolation - if we do not have a show you can always eat your vegetable exhibits, your paintings can be hung in pride of place and the Lego can be made into other dioramas. But let's hope that the war against coronavirus is being won.

The birds are very quiet just now. The food I put out is not going down as fast as usual: I suppose there is enough natural food about, and they will be back when the weather gets colder. Horace the hedgehog is still taking food, but I guess he will be nodding off soon, and dreaming of the lovely spring time to come. I think we will all be thinking that, but we cannot nod off, as there is plenty to do in the garden - preparing beds, mending paths and fences, checking plant supports, making sure that the plants are nice and cosy over the next few months.....

I have just started reading a book about a village show. It made me feel very nostalgic, hearing how their committee had meetings to sort out who did what. I remembered our first show meeting (mid-1980) at Totley Rise Methodist Chapel. We had a few volunteers - and we needed them as the tables we used were very heavy! They were stored under the stage, and it was very awkward getting them out. To make the show interesting, and to make it look busy, we made a centre display with flowers and vegetables scrounged from the allotments and from various gardens. People were very encouraging, and we had a good first show. Over the next 30 years or so it went from strength to strength. I hope the show continues in the future - I know the committee is already working on new ideas to keep it going. I hope they don't have as much bother as the committee in the book I am reading!

Enjoy your gardens and keep safe.

Flowers: Prune back any large rose bushes; chop them down to about half way, so that they can be pruned properly in the spring. The early chopping down will reduce any wind rock which can severely damage rootstock if rain and frost get down there. It also makes your rose bed look tidier. Work in humus making material into your soil during the winter months. Manure, lead mould, spent hops, garden compost, old grow bags etc. are ideal. All of these will have a beneficial effect.

Herbaceous plants sometimes suffer from slug damage during the winter; delphiniums are generally first in line. To help prevent them spoiling your young plants, scrape away a little soil from around the crowns and replace with sharp sand, (better still cinder ashes). Check all the structures supporting flowers (arches, fences, trellis etc.) Make sure they are sound and ready for next season's weight of flowers and berries.

Mulch over any roots exposed by the rain. Top dress with compost or soil, peat and sand. Large flowered clematis such as Jackmanii can be cut back fairly severely. Order your seeds in good time. Try something new this year because there are a lot of new varieties to choose from. Or maybe, you can resurrect an old favourite that you haven't sown for a few years. They say a change is as good as a rest. You can divide and move or plant new stock of Michaelmas Daisy and Golden Rod.

Pick over plants in frames or cloches and remove dead leaves etc. and dust with fungicide. Dig and prepare new beds. Place insulation over frames at night to give extra protection from frost, and ventilate well on sunny days. December is the



Golden Rod

last chance to plant out late tulips. If you haven't given your flower beds a slow acting fertiliser for a year or two, now is a good time (January). A dusting of hoof and horn or bone meal will do your flowers a world of good. Hoe it into the top inch or so and the worms will do the rest. Stand well back in the spring, as the flowers burst forth. If you want to increase your stock of perennials or if you have some plants ready for the various charity stalls or swaps, you could take root cuttings.

Dig up the plant to be propagated, or cut a portion from one side. Wash off as much soil as possible so that the roots can be separated from each other and cut off the sound roots about the thickness of a pencil. Divide into sections about 2 inches long, (5cm). Trim off small fibrous roots and cut the bottom of the root diagonally and the top straight so that you know which way up to plant it. Insert into pots of cutting compost with the tops just buried. Water well and stand in a frost free cold frame or propagator, if you want them to root faster. Plants with thin roots can be multiplied in a similar way, 3 inches (8cm) long pieces laid horizontally in the compost, (dusted with fungicide). Cover them with another 1-2cm of compost and water well. Some of the plants, which can be done this way, are Acanthus, Brunnera, Caenothus,



Echinacea

Dicentra, Echincicea, Eryngium, Japanese anemones, Nepata oriental poppies, Phlox Rhus, Verbascum etc. Remember root cuttings taken from variegated plants will turn out green and NOT variegated.

Vegetables: Firm in any plants loosened by frost. Dig any vacant plots and manure the ground. Apply lime to acid soil where cabbage is to be planted, Do not apply at the same time as manure, wait a month or two if possible. Prepare runner bean trenches. Take off any yellowing leaves from brussel sprouts and compost them. In January chit seed potatoes, i.e. put them in a frost-free place in shallow boxes with the eye ends upwards. This will encourage them to sprout.

Prepare your onion bed, (I am giving away secrets now). Dig in manure deeply; spread bonfire ash over as well as bonemeal and hoof and horn at about 4ozs (100gms) per sq. yd. Prick this into the soil lightly. As mentioned before sow onion seeds around Boxing Day, in separate pots, with two or three seeds per pot. Place a propagator or greenhouse at a temperature of 65F. When they have reached the loop stage, discard the weakest seedlings, leaving just one per pot. Or, put seeds in a tray when they are at the loop stage. Transplant into deep boxes or trays and reduce temperature to 55F. Lift a few roots of mint, and place them in a deep wooden or plastic box. Cover them with potting soil, old stuff will do, and place them in a frame or greenhouse. This will give shoots for early picking. Mulch asparagus beds with well-rotted manure. Break it up well and spread it about 2ins thick.

Trees, Fruit and Shrubs: Do not let snow hang on conifers; it can break off branches and spoil their shape. Firm in any newly planted trees and check all stakes and supports, making sure they are firm. New fruit trees can be planted now if weather permits, (keep roots moist and frost free prior to planting). Prune apple and pear trees, removing cankered branches. Prune fruit bushes and canes, check grease bands and renew if necessary.

January is a good time to give fruit trees a tar oil winter wash, so choose a fine and wind free day. Blackcurrants will benefit from feeding in January as they like plenty of nitrogen. So, give a top dressing of sulphate of ammonia or nitro chalk at 4-6oz per well established bush. Sprinkle it thinly over the soil and keep it away from the stems. Newly planted blackcurrant and raspberries should be pruned back severely, with

blackcurrants to 2-3 inches from ground level, and raspberries 6-9 inches above ground. In mild spells, plant out deciduous trees, hedging plants, stored or heeled-in shrubs.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Dead head faded flowers and pick over all pot plants. Water sparingly. Keep bulbs fed and watered after flowering, but move to a cool spot. Increase humidity around indoor Cyclamen, Azaleas and Winter Cherries.

Use insecticide to control aphids and white fly. Paint patches of scale and mealy bug with methylated spirit. Plant Amaryllis, Lily of the Valley and indoor gladioli. Pot on Cineraria, Primula and Slipper Flowers. Examine all bulbs placed in the dark. They should be about ready to bring into half light conditions prior to bringing into a light warm house. Don't rush them though. Seedlings and cuttings should be kept as near to the glass as possible, and stake up Schizanthus. Sponge over large leafed evergreen plants with half a teaspoon of milk stirred into a cup of water. This will make them nice and glossy. Make sure the greenhouse glass is kept clean. Cut back old geranium plants, shortening the growths to a joint or bud 6-9 inches above the pot. Replant the plants, shaking all the soil from the roots. Replant them in the smallest pot into which the roots can be placed, and use ordinary John Innes compost or similar.



Geranium

Get ready for seed sowing by cleaning all pots, seed trays and boxes. Pot Lilies required for the greenhouse and feed Fuchsias pruned earlier. As geraniums, the plants will be potted on into larger pots as new growth develops. If you have a heated greenhouse you can start tuberous rooted Begonias and Gloxinias. Keep a careful watch on ventilation. Remember a sunny day can reach quite high temperatures in a greenhouse or cold frame even in the depth of winter. I have known mine to shoot up to 95F when snow was on the ground, so be warned. Heat at this time can do a lot of damage to young or freshly shooting plants, and quite a lot of plants cannot put up with large variations in temperature.

Lawns: If you walk on your lawn at this time of year and find squelchy patches they need attention. Spiking is a real pain, but it is a good cure for squelchy bits. Note where they are and when they have dried out a bit (hopefully) go over the area making holes at about 6 ins intervals with a fork. Do a couple of square yards at a time then brush in a good dressing of sharp sand (not building sand unless it has been in the rain for a long time) leave a shallow layer on top, this will encourage rooting in spring. Keep lawns clean and keep off in frosty weather.

Clean and overhaul your mower, you could take advantage of the cheaper rates for servicing, up to the end of February. Please bear in mind that these notes cover 2 months when doing the various jobs.

Have a Happy Christmas and a lovely gardening year.

Cheerio for now

Tom

Ask Your Pharmacist

As I write this, we are in the second lockdown hoping that it is not extended beyond 2nd December. Hopefully, when you read this, there will be a plan to allow us to look forward to Christmas with our loved ones. After the year we have had, we all need something positive to look forward to. I'm sure many of us will be wishing in the New Year with added intensity this year. The strange circumstances this year may also create a less commercialised and more traditional Christmas that we spend with close family.

The unusual conditions during the first lockdown may reflect what many people feel Christmas should be about – with shops closed, materialism was side-lined and families spent time together.

"Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting" If this quote, which I saw recently, is true, many people in our community exemplified this during the first lockdown, selflessly helping their neighbours and the needy and isolated. The mobilisation of volunteers really was a heroic effort and an invaluable lifeline for so many. We were hugely grateful for the help volunteers gave us delivering prescriptions. We should be very proud of the community spirit and kindness shown by residents of Totley and neighbouring areas.

Despite the incredible efforts of key workers and NHS workers through the year, unfortunately, health resources will continue to be tested and stretched for the next few months. For the past quarter of a century, I and my team at Totley Pharmacy have served the communities of Totley and S17. This has never been truer or more rewarding than this year. During the next phase, we will continue to care for you and be by your side - proud to serve you and to support the NHS at a time of need.

This year is another where the Christmas holidays fall over the weekend, meaning that surgeries will be closed for four consecutive days. Though there is no need to panic, please ensure that you order your prescriptions early enough to get them before the holidays. With the disruption to normal routines (including deliveries etc) and uncertainty, this is even more important this year. With GPs' surgeries having to adapt the way they work, this may be more difficult than usual - if you struggle to order your prescription, please get in touch with us so that we can help you.

We can also help if you need your prescription to be delivered. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us with deliveries last time. If you are able to help us with deliveries, please get in touch as demand is likely to be huge again.

NHS resources will be stretched to their limits this winter. To lessen the load, please consider using pharmacies as your first port of call for minor illnesses. This will allow GPs and hospitals to concentrate on more serious illnesses. To help yourself through this winter, it may be useful to supplement with vitamins to boost your immune system. You will have heard many times about the correlation between Covid and vitamin D; as well as this, we can also advise on other supplements to help. Remember to continue with distancing and good hand hygiene.

I would like to offer two sincere notes of thanks; the first is to my team who have worked tirelessly this year in incredibly challenging conditions to provide you with the best care.

The second is to all our patients. Your loyalty and kindness, positive messages - and especially all the presents - have been very gratefully received. We appreciate your support of us as a business by shopping with us.

Please continue to support us when you do your Christmas shopping. We have many great gift ideas, and our Christmas cards are always extremely popular. Pop in to pick up a bargain and support a local business while also staying safer than in town or large shopping centres.

Stay safe - together, we will get through these challenging times.

Tajinder Singh

Totley Show 2021

This is a reminder that we extended the Poster Competition and have a new deadline of **18 December 2020**. The poster for next year should have a theme, so that you can associate it with Totley. That could be any building in Totley, school, church, parade of shops, a park, the wood or an area within the Totley village. Below is a copy of the poster we used for the 2019 Totley Show.



There will be two age classes: up to and including 8 year olds, and 9 to 14 years of age. There will be a winner in each class. The judges will choose one to be next year's poster and the other winner will be on the front cover of the 2021 programme. The winner of the younger age class will have their picture taken with Totley's Alfie Bear. The winner can choose one of the outfits Alfie Bear has worn over the summer, while he has been on display in Totley. The winner of the older age group will receive a £10 Book Token.

The poster can be in any art medium, in colour or black and white, and portrait style.

The poster will need to display the following information: -

1. Date – 18 September 2021
2. The words 'The 35th Totley Show'
3. Time – 1.30 – 4.30 pm
4. Place – Totley Primary School

Put your age on the front of the Poster, preferably in the bottom right hand corner. Then put the details of the entrant either on the back of the entry or on a separate piece of paper attached to the entry. This to ensure that the judges do not know the name of the entrant, prior to judging, other than their age. All entries can be dropped at The Ironing Parlour, which is opposite the top of Mickley Lane, during their opening hours, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, up to the closing date Friday 18 December 2020, at 4.00pm.

We aim to judge all the entries over the Christmas period, so that we can put the winners in the February/March 2021 issue of *Totley Independent*.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me on my email address below.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com



Totley Library

New Volunteers Always Welcome

Interested in volunteering? Would you like to be involved in a thriving community library?

For the last 6 years Totley Library has been run by volunteers and has gone from strength to strength. Until March this year, when all libraries were required to close because of COVID restrictions, Totley library was one of Sheffield's most loved and well-used volunteer-run libraries. In July it was one of the first libraries in Sheffield to re-open with an "Order and Collect" service and one of the first to open their doors once again for library users to come in and choose their own books.

The library is managed by a committed, friendly and resourceful group of Trustees and we would welcome new faces, bringing new ideas, to join this group. You do not need to have library experience but you do need to have the necessary skills and understanding of working in a volunteer-run organisation. We are particularly looking for people who have experience of marketing, management, writing articles for the local press, keeping policies and procedures up to date and who are committed to helping Totley Library re-establish itself as a community resource once COVID restrictions are lifted.

We are not just looking for Trustees but would also welcome new volunteers who are interested in being involved in the day to day running of the library e.g. front desk and book processing tasks, preparation of displays, cleaning, gardening, property maintenance etc. Training will be given to all new volunteers.

If you would like to know more about the roles that are available and what they entail, please email your details to totleylibrary@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

Lockdown Having just added photocopying and limited Public Network computer access to the limited browsing facilities that we had been offering since the 7th of September, and looking to expand our opening hours, the lockdown announced on 30th October stopped us in our tracks. Although Libraries had to close the guidance did allow us to revert to an "Order and collect" service and to offer continued Public Network access. However, the guidance also stressed that customers should not enter the Library, and we could not see how it would be possible to offer computer access on that basis. Consideration was given to reinstating an "Order and collect" service but we knew, from our earlier experience of this, that it would be very demanding of volunteer resources at a time when these could be limited with older and vulnerable people being asked to take extra care of themselves. The decision was taken, reluctantly, to close the Library completely during the current restrictions but we are planning to reopen on Friday 4th December if the restrictions in force then allow us to.

New Books Throughout the pandemic we have continued to purchase each month to keep our "Orange Sticker" stock up to date and we will continue to do this during the current closure. We would welcome any suggestions as to which titles, or what types of books, we should be buying. If possible, please let us know by email at totleylibrary@gmail.com.

New Community Defibrillator With help from the British Heart Foundation we have purchased a defibrillator which we plan to install on the outside wall of the Library close to the main door. We hope it will be an important community asset and it will be fitted once all the necessary materials are to hand.

The Future Once COVID restrictions are lifted, we are looking forward to increasing our opening hours, welcoming back our loyal volunteers and increasing the range of activities available to the public. We plan to offer appropriate refresher training to returning volunteers, enhanced training to new volunteers and we will ensure that when we open again, suitable COVID secure

measures are in place to ensure everyone's safety. Clearly there may be some restrictions on what we are able to do but we are confident that Totley Library will once again become a vibrant and active part of the local community.

Lottery Winners Congratulations to recent Library Lottery winners! In the September draw the first-prize winner was Margaret Marsh, and the second-prize winner was Dennis Richmond. In the October draw, Nicola Thompson won first prize, and the second prize was won by Don Root.

Totley CRIC website We will endeavour to keep everyone posted about any new developments through our website – keep an eye on it at <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/>

Norman Rolfe

Information from Sheffield Central Library

Despite moving into a second lockdown, we continue to provide the following services;

- An Order and Collect service at all council-run libraries
- Computers for essential use in the Central Library - they will be provided in a separate bookable room with social distancing measures in place to provide maximum safety. Limited printing facilities and use of the scanner will be available. You will need to book an appointment by telephone on 0114 273 4764 before you visit, and the maximum time available will be one hour per day.
- Online eLibrary available 24/7 for library members
- A programme of online events
- Home Library Service

Unfortunately, the City Archives will be closed for visits, but will continue to answer email enquiries.

The **Order and Collect Service** is for customers wishing to receive a pack of 5 books selected for them by library staff at all libraries across the city plus Central Library, based on their preferences for genre submitted by email or phone. Contact details for the libraries can be found on the City Council webpage.

It is a minimum contact service. Customers will place their order and then collect a bag of 5 items (Books, non-fiction DVDs, audio books, graphic novels etc) for either adults or children from the foyer or an external door of the library. They will also be able to return books they have had on loan.

Online Events

We also have a growing list of online events for both adults and children. For the latest updates on upcoming activities check out our social media channels on Facebook and Twitter, and our Eventbrite page.

You can also view selected recorded events for a limited time on our blog.

eLibrary open 24/7

We continue to provide online library services via our eLibrary with a simple registration process to become a member. The eLibrary contains a large range of eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks, and eComics. These services are available free of charge to library members.

Home Library Service resumes

We are now providing home library service deliveries in our new electric van.

The service delivers to any Sheffield resident who is unable to get to their local library and has no-one to help them do so, or who may be able to get to the library but cannot carry the books they've chosen.

We can also offer the service on a temporary basis, for example whilst someone is recovering from an operation.

For more information about this service customers can call 0114 273 4277 or email Mobileservices.Library@sheffield.gov.uk



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Transport 17

Settling to write this article, it is the 5th of November – more than one reason now to remember that date!! Uncertainty and new restrictions continue to rack up with little hope of any activity as such from Transport 17.

However, life clearly goes on as once again there is quite a bit to report – news about the appointment of a coordinator, celebration of once again being selected as a Co-op Local Cause and a number of goodbyes and thanks for some volunteers.

It was with some disappointment but a general acceptance that we decided not to appoint a coordinator. We had three applicants and interviewed two of them. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that the landscape for community transport has been changing since March and it has been difficult to know what the next few months will mean for Transport 17 and the running of the buses. We were therefore starting to think that it would not be appropriate to appoint to a salaried position at present and the news of the second lockdown has confirmed that it will probably be well into 2021 before the Transport 17 buses will be in service again. Whilst we need to be ready to offer a service when we are needed again, we have decided that there is too much uncertainty over the next few months to be able to appoint to a salaried position.

We would like to thank staff at VAS and People Keeping Well for helping us with the advertisement, the applicants for their interest, volunteers Dave Longley and Neil Comyn for helping to shortlist with Mike Roberts and Rosie Fry from the Management Committee and also Joanna Woodward (People Keeping Well) and Ian Jenkinson (Sheffield Community Transport) for joining Mike Roberts on the interview panel. Joanna and Ian's comments were very supportive in helping us to come to this difficult but appropriate decision.

Transport 17 is thrilled to have been chosen once again as a Co-op 'local cause' for 2020/21. This means that you can support us just by doing your shopping and using other Co-op services! Transport 17 is one of the Co-op's local causes between 25th October 2020 and 23rd October 2021 so please help us to make the most of this opportunity by simply selecting us as your chosen local cause. Given that we have been unable to have two of our usual fundraising events and missed the support from other organisations locally, this will be a huge bonus for us.

As before when Co-op Members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, the Co-op will give 1% to a local cause. You can choose Transport 17 as your local cause by going on-line at www.coop.co.uk/membership or by phoning 0800 023 4708

If you're not a Member of the Co-op, why not join today? It costs just £1 to join and as well as helping to raise money for Transport 17, as a Member you'll have other benefits, including earning rewards in store, weekly personalised offers and exclusive member deals. You can join by downloading the Co-op App, online, or over the phone or by visiting your local Co-op and asking for a membership form. Hopefully you will get behind us once again. Our local Dore and Totley stores have always been a great help to us by donating raffle prizes and advertising our events and we know that they will continue this support so a big 'thank you' to them too. Keep an eye out for further information – and thank you for your support.

Over the last couple of months we have sadly said farewell to 3 volunteers whose contributions will be a loss to us. Hazel Brand joined us at the end of 2017 as a passenger assistant helping with the Thursday Lowedges group. We know how much the passengers enjoyed her help and company and they will be disappointed not to be seeing her again. Hazel has also been a great help with fundraising, bringing enthusiasm and commitment to the group and they are going to miss her.

Earlier this year David Billington kindly volunteered to provide support with the finances which relieved pressure on Jenny Nuttall. He has also been a huge help at a number of our fundraising events. However he is now stepping back from these roles so we would like to thank him for all he has done for us and wish him well.

Finally Wendy Trotter has decided that she wishes to resign from the Management Committee. Transport 17 owes Wendy a huge debt of gratitude for all she has done over the years. Both Wendy and her late husband Jim have been involved with Transport 17 since the 1990s. They both became involved as volunteers, Jim driving and Wendy as a passenger assistant. Sadly Jim had to retire from driving as he had a torn retina but Wendy continued in her role. She worked with Terry Schofield and other drivers until she retired early in the first decade of the new millennium. Being a 'Totley person' from childhood she was remembered by some of the older passengers.

Recently we have reinstated the social get-together for volunteers, which used to be a regular feature and is now held at the Shepley Spitfire. Wendy remembers when 'Christmas Do's' were held at the Conservative Club on Baslow Road. There was music, entertainment and food which Irene Wells (Secretary), Margaret Barlow (Fundraising) and Wendy self-catered.



Wendy Trotter (left) pictured here with Pauline Perkinson

More or less throughout her time with Transport 17 Wendy has been involved with the fund-raising. They held coffee mornings in the Transport 17 office with tables outside if the weather was fine. For those of you who know the office this must have been a major achievement with the limited and restricted space available!! Donations were received from local organisations as they are today. Despite having celebrated her 90th birthday just a year ago we are delighted that Wendy would like to continue as a member of the Fundraising Events Sub-Committee, so her involvement continues and is hugely appreciated. The amounts raised have increased dramatically in recent years; we have recruited a number of new people to the committee to work alongside long-standing members and together they make a pretty mean team. She is extremely proud of all the fundraising achievements over the years.

Wendy joined the Management Committee when she retired



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as a volunteer on the buses. She has seen many changes in Transport 17 since she became involved and her knowledge, insight and understanding of the organisation is second to none which has been invaluable to the Management Committee. She has given so much of her time and energy to keeping

Transport 17 going and despite the enforced shut down is confident that we will be back on the road again, stronger and better than ever. What a fantastic achievement - thank you, Wendy, from everyone associated with Transport 17.

Earlier this year a longstanding volunteer and supporter of Transport 17, Phil Kirkup, didn't feel able to continue as a passenger assistant but has been involved in other roles for us. He helped out in the office at the start of the year and is now going to develop a 'T17 archive', bringing together lots of different bits of information, photos etc into one place so we can keep it all safe. Thank you to Phil for his continued support.

The current climate does not bode well for planning future fundraising events. Dorothy Firth came up with the idea of a Walking Treasure Hunt around Totley which the committee feel would be a great idea. We had thought of doing it over the Christmas holidays but the latest Covid restrictions seem to have put a bit of a damper on it. The committee need to work on developing the idea into a reality and are hoping that it might be one of our first fundraising events in 2021 - a whole new beginning, fingers crossed. So watch this space for updates.

The latest announcements seem to have caused so many of us to feel an increased level of despondency, and mental health levels must be at an all time low as once again our way of life is turned upside down. There are many concerns about people being able to get out and about confidently, and we are all aware of the isolation people can be feeling. So many people are doing amazing things to support others. As you read this, being positive, lockdown 2 will be coming to a close and Christmas will be in everyone's mind. It is to be hoped that we can be together with family and friends to celebrate this very special time of year but who knows. Somehow it doesn't feel right to wish you the very best for the coming festive season and a 2021 that enables us all to get back to more familiar ways BUT

Whoever you are, wherever you are, everyone at Transport 17 hopes that you are all keeping well and healthy and we can't wait to get those wheels turning again.

Sandra Longley (On behalf of the Management Committee)

Holmesfield Church Walking Group

Holmesfield Walk

On Wednesday December 9th at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from Holmesfield Church car park. We will walk through the wood down to Fanshaw Gate Lane, then Lydgate, then Horsleygate, then Cartledge and back to the Angel for lunch, but due to the pandemic we may not be allowed in.

If you would like to come just turn up on the day. Any queries phone Robin on 01246 412767. The walk is 4 miles long but there is a short cut. The cost of the walk is £4 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church.



Totley History Group

Sue Scattergood was intending to represent the Group at this year's Remembrance Day service that was, sadly, cancelled due to lockdown restrictions. Instead Sue placed a wreath on our behalf at the War Memorial.

The Committee is still hoping to be able to hold an AGM in April when the future of the Group will be the main topic for discussion. Because these discussions could affect regular visitors who are not members of the Group, the meeting will be open to non-members so that anyone who might be interested in helping to ensure the Group's future can take part.

The eventual date of the meeting will be made known via the *Totley Independent* and our website, www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk.

Norman Rolfe, Chair

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Totley Brook Road, S17 3QS

We continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am via zoom for a time of prayer, bible reading, reflection and music. If you'd like to join us please go to www.sheffieldurc.org.uk.

The service is followed by virtual coffee and chat, getting to know one another better. You are welcome to join us.

We also have a regular Carers zoom session on alternate Wednesday mornings. If you care for someone and would like a chat or some advice on what is available for carers please contact Jan Outram at the Sheffield Carers Centre for more information. Her contact details are email to jan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk or telephone 0114 2728362.

In December we plan to put some Christmas messages on our church railings. If you'd like to add your own message please do so.

To all our friends in the local community, stay safe and we hope to see you all again before too long.

Elaine Ferguson



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Walking the Dog....

- Jack** Why do you keep stopping on this walk when I'm trying to get a move on?
- Rony** We're drawing for our lives.
- Jack** What do you mean? We're not dead yet, though I bet I go first.
- Rony** What I mean is that the function of art is to help us understand the world and change it. Art is –
- Sally** We're not changing much except getting colder while we juggle our pencils and stand on the bridge looking at the Totley Signal Box.



- Rony** It's better than standing here in 1947 looking for a Garratt.
- Jack** What's a Garratt? Isn't that where you artists starve?
- Rony** A Garratt is a special sort of steam engine that we little lads used to cross out in our little ABC train spotters' notebook. You're barking up the wrong tree there Jack and –
- Jack** Well, you've got a notebook now haven't you? And you're being so busy with it that I can't even get to the right tree to wee.
- Sally** Rony is insisting that we keep stopping to make a drawing. The rule is that we can only draw for one minute.
- Jack** Can you draw me in that notebook Sally?



- Jack** Looks a bit scribbly.
- Rony** Art doesn't mean reproducing life exactly. Art is –
- Jack** I suppose my life and what I want to do doesn't interest you. I want to get on with this walk now. Where are we anyway?
- Rony** Here on Totley Brook Road. Look, we've drawn Sue and John having their own walk on their way to –



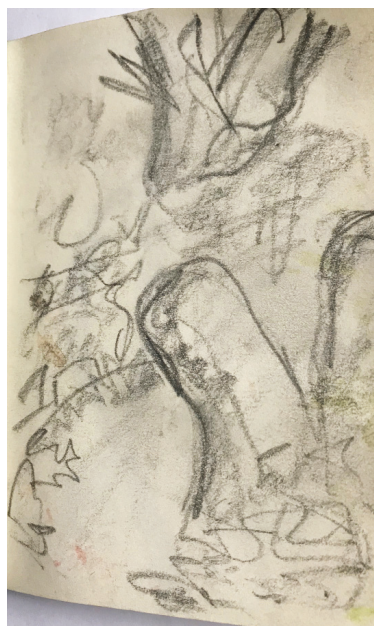
- Jack** Isn't that against lockdown rules? Oh do come on. A dog's got to do what a dog's got to do.
- Sally** Hang on Jack. We're going to sit on this bench now, next to the Old Hay Brook juggling our pencils again. You can wazz up these trees.
- Jack** At last. And a bit of sniffing not scrawling.



- Sally** And here's the horsey horsey field.
- Rony** Where Miss Freeborough read Tom Sawyer to us in 1947 and we wanted to kiss her like Becky and Tom kissed on page 93 and –
- Jack** We've heard that before Rony.
- Rony** Well, with my late onset epilep –
- Sally** Look at all these oaks! I'm going to colour mine in later.



- Sally** Here's Marriott Fox's cobbled path off Penny Lane.
- Rony** Do you like Sally's *stile* Jack? Art is –



Jack
Sally

Can I sniff it?
If you like. It's a Derbyshire Squeezer like Brian Edwards said. Oh, and here we are at the Pinfold actually. I might colour this one in too.



Jack
Rony
Sally

You studied art in Venice didn't you?
Yes, she did watercolours of the canals and – I didn't. I just froze in cold churches with the most boring professor in the world.

Jack
Rony

Is this Venice?
No, this is All Saints where the vicar was called Adam's Son and we choirboys used to try some original sin after Evens –

Sally

Here's our drawings side by side.



Rony Like we are Jack.

Sally Living in sin.

Rony and Sally For ever and ever.

Jack Amen.

Rony and Sally Nearly home.

Jack Just one last sniff and a cocked leg on Anita's gate ...



Rony Robinson
Jack Robinson
Sally Goldsmith

Totley Library Garden

Despite the impact that Covid-19 has had on the world we currently live in, the Totley library gardening volunteers were able to resume their work in the library grounds following LD1, and have continued to maintain, plant and develop the gardens throughout late Spring, Summer and Autumn. In fact, we have found that the gardening tasks successfully lend themselves to being a socially distanced activity, and being completed outside helps the volunteers remain Covid-safe. As volunteers we have all felt the benefit of being able to return to a 'normal' activity, one that feels 'useful' and contributes to the wider community, spend time in the fresh air, and see and speak to other individuals, all at a time where some of us have felt very isolated at times and have had many of our usual activities suspended and our social contacts curtailed. There is much being written now about the benefits of being out in nature and gardening on our mental health, and I think we would all agree that those benefits are real!



The gardening group has discussed the possibility of holding a plant sale next Spring. We could not hold the sale this year to raise funds for the library and engage with the wider community. We hope we can plan a manageable event next year, whilst remaining Covid-secure - it would help raise spirits if nothing else!

The fact that the event is held outdoors is a plus point when considering the safety of library volunteers and members of the general public. At present we cannot commit to a specific date as we need to wait to see what the Covid situation is like. However, we know that if we hold such an event it will look and feel different to previous years. For example, people may be required to pre-book arrival time slots to help manage numbers throughout the sale and/or a rule of 6/12/15 etc. It is likely that social distancing will still be in operation next year, as will the wearing of masks and the use of hand sanitiser. We would welcome any ideas or experiences others have that could be helpful in planning such an event. And please do still keep us in mind if you have any plants you have divided this Autumn and/or when planting your seeds in the Spring. All plant donations are gratefully received and the success of previous library plant sales is, in a large part, down to the quality of the plants donated by members of the local community.

Fiona Smith



All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

It's Christmas, but not as we know it.....

At the time of writing we are in the second lockdown. It is due to end just as the *Independent* is published but this is by no means assured. As a result there is much anxiety about how this will impact on Christmas arrangements. For many there are real fears that the "traditional" family celebration will not be allowed to happen. Many family celebrations have been lost this year already because of lockdown and social restrictions and the thought of yet another could be just too much to bear. The loss of loved ones, fears for our health and that of our families, job losses or reductions in income because of enforced lockdowns, an uncertain job market, the injustices we see in our society and so many other concerns, only serve to take a toll on our peace of mind. At the moment the only certainty is uncertainty. We cannot underestimate the impact that such things can have on our mental health and wellbeing.

Here in Totley we are greatly blessed that there is such a great community spirit. Throughout the pandemic, individuals and groups from all sectors of society have worked hard to support and care for each other. Our local shops and services have been outstanding and so many people have stepped up to help those in need both locally and globally. All this focus on family gatherings however only brings into sharp focus the plight of those who are alone and isolated and it is as important as it ever was that we all continue to look out for each other.

We have all been forced to think differently. We have had to learn to adapt our lives in ways we never could have imagined and yet we still need to live our lives as well as we are able.

Christmas will still happen but it might be a little different this year. But different doesn't have to be a bad thing. There may even be some inward sighs of relief that the pressure to produce the "best ever" Christmas is off. This Christmas may well give us the perfect opportunity to think about what is really important to us as we celebrate.



Churches are finding new and different ways to reach out to people and to share the message of Christmas. The Christmas message is still a message of love, hope and joy, even in the midst of a pandemic. The baby born in a stable was God's act of love in reaching out to all people and challenging them to love and care for one another. This Christmas will certainly be different to ones we have known before but it will still be Christmas. May you know the comfort of love, hope and joy this Christmas and always.

At All Saints we enjoy planning our Christmas Celebrations and welcoming everyone to share in them. However the second lockdown has ensured that things will certainly be different this year. All Saints Church will be closed until December 2nd, and after that we do not know what will be permitted or if we will have to remain closed. However, details of arrangements will be on our website <https://www.allsaintstotley.church/> or on our Face Book page (All Saints Church, Totley). You can also view our weekly services on the website.

We held our AGM on Sunday October 11th, several months after its usual date in April. At that meeting Liz Hayden and Angela Waite stepped down as churchwardens after their (extended due to lockdown) three-year term of office. Ann and James Powell are now the new churchwardens and can be contacted on churchwardenstotley@gmail.com

Members of our church family pray regularly for our community here in Totley and this will not change. However, if you would like prayer for a specific situation or person, we are happy to do this on your behalf. You can e mail Prayer requests to churchwardenstotley@gmail.com Requests do not need to include surnames if you prefer and you will not be contacted unless you want your request to be acknowledged.

Liz Hayden, All Saints Church

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Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

The History of TOADS

We are often asked about the history of our society and, in particular, why we are Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society, when we don't sing! The potted history below was originally written by Jeff Bagnall, our former chair, set designer and builder extraordinaire, updated by our current Chair, Sarah Scott, and now by myself.

For many years a shield painted on our proscenium arch proclaimed that TOADS was founded in 1959. During the mid-1980s, one of members (the late Adrian Schofield) undertook some diligent research and determined that the society was at least ten years older. Moreover, its formation sprang from a public meeting as early as 1946.

In those days of austere post-war gloom, interest in 'Community Centres' was actively encouraged by the authorities. Many of the 'Centres' were sponsored by the Education Authority and the availability of Abbeydale Hall for a 'dramatic society' was the only catalyst needed by our founder, the late S Gethin Robinson.

In its early days the society made its own stage and produced many plays and sketches but soon outstripped the facilities available at Abbeydale Hall. In 1949 a public meeting saw the formation of the joint Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society - TOADS. By 1950 it was clear that the disparate interests of the two disciplines would mix as well as chalk and cheese and the inevitable split occurred. Fortunately for us, 'Geth' had the foresight to retain the TOADS title for the dramatic section although it was not until the 1960s that the split was completed when the Grand Opera Society was formed.

More recent research has now shown us that after the formation of a pure drama society (still, of course, called TOADS), the first recorded play presented was called "Young Wives' Tale" by Ronald Jeans, staged at the Union Church Hall on Totley Brook Road in June 1952. That first play was the forerunner to numerous drama productions, many staged in St Oswald's Church Hall on Bannerdale Road, the nearest suitable venue to Totley at that time.

In 1957 St John's Church built the Reverend Archer Memorial Hall on Abbeydale Road South and TOADS decided to use the new hall for their plays. The first production staged at that venue contributed its profits to the building fund.

In 1974 the need for a larger stage at St John's had been evident for some time. The members set to and built a three-foot stage extension, looking for all the world like a self-assembly Bailey bridge with the proscenium arch being replaced in 1986.

In 2009 the stage extension was replaced by a more modern, lighter-weight one, together with a new proscenium arch and lighting beam, all of which are still in use today – or will be when we can resume performing!

A point of interest for Toads occurred in 1999 when we performed a play written by Hugh Steadman-Williams, called "Return Trip". Unbeknown to all of us, except Monica who was directing, the author had watched our production of his play, and invited the entire cast and crew to perform the play in a multi-national conference centre in Switzerland, all expenses paid!

So July saw us all flying to Geneva and then on to an amazing castle high up in the mountains where we performed our play in a wonderful theatre to a multi-national audience. We stayed for 3 days. What an experience!

It doesn't end there, as we were invited the following year, 2000, to perform the play once again. We were very honoured and were delighted to accept.

From our researches into the history of TOADS it became clear that the year 2002 was the time to celebrate our Golden Anniversary. What better way to mark this milestone than to present, once again, "Young Wives' Tale". Whilst the play was

considered dated in a modern context, we felt sure that our period offering was well in keeping with TOADS traditions. Moreover, the production served as a tribute to Geth and to his late wife Lil, remembered by many of our members and audience for her fine performances even when in her eighties.



Mountain House, Caux, is high in the mountains over Montreux, and is where we stayed. The theatre where we performed is actually within the castle.

Sarah Scott took over from Jeff Bagnall as Chair of the society in 2006, and stated at the time "I feel very strongly that we should remember and uphold the traditions we have built up as a society over the last half-century. We have a fantastic membership, with all ages included from 18 to 80. All of us are passionate about producing high quality performances twice a year and very passionate about enjoying ourselves throughout the whole year with a variety of social activities".

This has never been more relevant than now, during the current coronavirus pandemic! As everyone knows only too well, all Am-Dram productions have come to a standstill. Toads has gone a full year without presenting a play, or rehearsing for one.



A scene from the 2002 production of 'Young Wives' Tale'

Yet our wonderful members have kept in close contact with each other via Zoom! Tuesday evenings, our regular Toads rehearsal night, is quiz night. We have also done a Murder Mystery game, again via Zoom, which was great fun, and we have read a play, written by our very own Alan Wade, which again was huge fun. We plan to do more play readings and plan more Zoom activities. We all have our thinking caps on for more future 'events'.

Meanwhile we sincerely hope you are all keeping well and safe. It may be some time yet before we can continue as your very own Am-Dram society, but be assured we will continue as soon as we safely can.

To paraphrase Arnold Schwarzenegger "We'll be Back"!!!

Anne Bettridge

Canine Collections and Recollections

While taking early morning exercise walks in these strange times I've been struck by how "doggy" our area is. As many, if not more, dogs than humans are seen pacing the streets. Rescue greyhounds I've seen reminded me of my first contact with these dogs when I was working on the railway in 1963. This was one Sunday morning when I was on duty at Southall station. A panicking inspector asked me to help locate some greyhounds which had arrived fresh from Ireland on the Rosslare to Fishguard overnight ferry. They had chewed through their leashes and escaped from the parcels office when the porter had unwisely opened the door to clear the fug of his Mick McQuaid pipe smoke. So, we available staff set off on foot along the line in both direct-



-ions, but hardly at greyhound speed. On my own admission, and through simple observation, we were not the most athletic of men. I headed off west in one direction towards the goods yard and the gasworks area. The other posse worked towards the London direction, but to no avail. The sleek hounds were never seen again and probably ended up in the hands of some of the many greyhound owners and trainers in that area. We failed to collect, and so unfortunately did the consignee.

Then in 1968 I was working at the railway station at Slough (of 'Come friendly bombs' fame) where I came into daily contact with 'Station Jim' on platform 5. Station Jim had died in November 1896. He was a mongrel puppy in poor health who had been brought to the station in 1894. He was fitted with a harness containing a collecting box for the Great Western Railway (GWR) Widows' & Orphans' Fund. In his



Station Jim, now encased at Slough

short life he collected about £40 for the fund and he begged, barked, played dead or stood on his hind legs for every donation received. Occasionally he tolerated a railway cap on his head or a clay pipe in his mouth. He spent time peering

out from the booking office - as did I. Accounts suggest he had a reputation for climbing ladders, putting out lighted matches and growling displeasure at the sound of the Salvation Army band. Jim had been trained to move about the station only by using the footbridge and never crossing the running lines. A couple of spur-of-the-moment solo journeys found Jim on one occasion alighting from a train at Leamington Spa and on another at Paddington, but his reputation saw him returned to Slough promptly. After his death, now in the guise of 'Station Jim', he was stuffed and placed in a glass case on Platform 5 at Slough where he remains to this day still collecting for charity 124 years after his death. As for me, how long was I on the railway? 6 feet 4 inches since you ask....

These sterling workers, initially known as 'begging dogs' and later 'collecting dogs', did amazing work starting in the latter part of the 19th century collecting for hospitals, lifeboat funds and other local charities. In 1882, a boat train guard based at Brighton had the idea of training a dog to collect for railway orphans, and a suitable four year-old collie dog named 'Help' was supplied by a local clergyman. Help quickly became a canine star and travelled for nine years throughout the UK and twice to France. His engraved silver-mounted collar and medal gave details of where further donations could be sent. Having raised over £1,000 for the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, Help died in 1891 and was stuffed to be displayed in a case at Brighton station where he could still attract contributions.

In 1898 it was reported that the stuffed collecting dog 'Rattler' at Leamington Spa station was still doing worthy work in his glass case after his death. Rattler had started work at Leamington in 1886 having arrived with his master from a small station in Berkshire. At first, he was trained to collect pennies in his mouth which he took to the refreshment room and received a treat in return. His master then thought that Rattler could be used to collect money for the GWR Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and a collecting box was made for him and attached to his collar. Rattler collected £21 in 1894 and £10 before his death in 1895. Railway staff and friends then paid to have him stuffed so that he could continue his worthy work. The frame of the glass case in which Rattler was placed outside his master's office on the station platform carried a poem written by the station cab inspector as follows:

*Widows and orphans, their case I deplore,
Oft in my life I have helped them before,
Old pitiless death took all but my skin,
Lo! Here is my box; please drop a coin in.*

An Irish terrier crossed with an Airedale by the name of 'Tim' stationed at Paddington from 1892 became a great favourite of Queen Victoria and the national press. Once, in 1896 Tim was cornered at the station by thieves and turned upside down in an attempt to get coins from his collecting box to fall out. He bit one of his attackers when released. By 1897, Tim had raised over £325 and was entered into the collecting dogs' category at the Ladies Kennel Club Exhibition at Earls Court. In May 1900 before a journey to London, the Queen asked at Windsor station that Inspector Bush with Tim should be brought to her Royal train saloon coach when her train arrived at Paddington. The Queen was duly met at Paddington by Tim with his collecting box on his back and a photo of himself in his mouth. Queen Victoria rewarded this enterprise with a pat and a sovereign in the box. It is not recorded if she accepted the photograph. The following month, the press reported that "Mr Astor the millionaire" had given Tim £200 as a reward for his hard work.. The same



year Tim was on duty with the crowds at Paddington to greet the City of London Imperial Volunteers returning from the second Boer War. The soldiers had a mascot monkey which came face-to-face with Tim, but Tim reportedly gave the animal a wide berth and some angry stares. Despite increasing rheumatism, Tim worked until his death in 1902 and collected a total of well over £800 (over £100,000 at 2020 values).

Visitors to the York National Railway Museum may be familiar with an Airedale collecting dog, 'Laddie', in a glass case in Station Hall. Laddie collected money at Waterloo station for the Woking, Surrey railway servants' orphanage and home from 1949 until 1956. He retired and lived at the Woking home until his death in 1960 when he was stuffed and put in a case at Wimbledon station where he continued to raise money before becoming a museum piece. A succession of dogs named 'Jack' had worked the busy platforms of



Laddie, now resident at York

Waterloo. The first 'Jack' started work in 1894 but was stolen in 1899. He was later found with 60 other dogs after a police raid on a den of dog thieves in Chelsea before being returned to his duties after a good feed of beef. He was to collect around £450 during his lifetime and Ascot race days were particularly profitable. Back at Waterloo, Jack gained a collar adorned with silver medals for each £100 collected in 1905 and broke records after the visit of the French fleet to the Isle of Wight and on a celebrity tour of the south coast. He was said to be able to distinguish between the sounds of coppers and silver falling into his collecting box, and the greater amounts got a more enthusiastic bark and a handshake. One-time Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald en route for America was approached by a descendant of Jack (also named 'Jack') at Waterloo in April 1927 and was persuaded to put a half-crown in the collecting box. Jack, whose eyesight was failing, had a deputy called 'Jessie' who in 14 years had 53 puppies as well as raising £5,000 for railway charities.

Jack was eventually retired to a glass case in which his coat faded from the light and needed to be re-dyed black by the taxidermist doing an overhaul. He now resides at the Bluebell Railway Museum in Sussex and still performs charity work. Another star dog at Waterloo was the St Bernard, 'Mariegold of Clairvaux' who not only collected over £4,000 in her lifetime but starred in press advertisements for Bob Martin's Conditioning Powders (one a day)!

One railway company got off to a bad start in 1905 when their unnamed collecting dog at Northampton refused to work after its lunch at noon: the dog only collected £10 that year. Similarly, 'Twister' at Merthyr in South Wales was both obstinate and lazy with a lifetime total of £9 which wasn't even enough to cover the costs of his food and the dog licence. On the other hand, 'Roy' at Euston worked until retirement in 1924 giving one bark of thanks to Royal and civilian patrons alike. He raised over £3,100 for the Railway

Benevolent Fund in his lifetime. Porter Edwards, who was 'dog man' and Roy's handler, attributed his success at cadging money out of people to Scottish ancestry! Roy refused to retire to the comfortable home found for him and ran away to his old place of work seven times. Officials gave in and Roy saw out his days quietly back at Euston. He was succeeded by sheepdog 'Rags' who was reported to have gone off message very early on in his career by standing on his hind legs to beg for biscuits at Euston station's many booking office windows. He eventually saw the light and returned to collecting the levels of donations achieved by his illustrious predecessor.

In September 1898, the mysterious death of 'Charley' the much-respected white terrier collecting dog at Windsor station prompted a post-mortem examination. Some of Charley's donors had thrown coins at him which had been accidentally swallowed. Charley's stomach was found to contain six pennies, eleven halfpennies and various stones. Then there was another mystery at Kingswear, Devon in January 1905 when the station collecting dog 'Jim' disappeared. Some days later he was reported as having boarded a ship which had brought coal from Tyneside. He was found on the ship after it had sailed back for more coal. After a brief cruise to Tyneside he was returned on the ship's next voyage. Jim was still working in 1909 when the Prince of Wales, the future King George V, left Kingswear by train after visiting Dartmouth. The Prince sent a coin for Jim's collecting box – one would hope it should have been a sovereign at least.

On the South Eastern Railway in 1909, a fox terrier sent from Yorkshire arrived to be collected at Bexley station by the gentleman who had ordered it. However, when he saw it he refused to accept the dog and said it could be sold off. No buyers were forthcoming so the station staff took it upon themselves to train the dog which they named 'Spot' to raise funds for the Railway Convalescent Home at Herne Bay. A collecting box was made up and fitted and Spot worked the company's lines. He was rewarded with a silver-mounted collar and was enrolled as a member of the Brotherhood of Hero Dogs.

Competition was rife at Leeds station during the celebrations on the occasion of the coronation of King George V on 22nd June 1911. The North Eastern Railway fielded their retriever 'Gyp' with brown leather saddle and two collecting boxes bedecked with red, white and blue ribbons. The Midland Railway arrived with their collie 'Carlo' complete with a framed picture of the new King on his back and his collection bag in his mouth. Carlo took great exception to the frivolity and noise and became difficult to handle. However, he'd settled by the following year long enough to pose for a portrait of him in a green coat with a handler working for the Association of Railway Servants' Orphan Fund. This picture is now in the National Railway Museum collection.

Where is Sheffield in all this you might ask? Well, it seems that while collecting dogs may have paid occasional visits, our station appears never to have had its own collecting dog. But it did have a celebrated cat 'George'. His reputation for catching rats – up to five or six a night on average – was well-known beyond the city boundaries. Somehow, he was able to recognise and meet the trains with a restaurant car and the travelling chefs usually obliged with a snack. In the lean times when no restaurant car express was due there was the station refreshment room where he was always welcome. Sadly, in October 1930 George, in a moment of forgetfulness, cashed in his nine lives and was run over and instantly killed by the St Pancras to Glasgow express as it was entering Sheffield station. He did not suffer and his railway colleagues with all due ceremony arranged for his cremation in the firebox of a locomotive at the station.

There were many other collecting dogs such as Bill, Lassie, Prince, Rover, Gip, Smut, Buller, Spot, Taff, Vic and Nell who may not have achieved great levels of fame and publicity, but who nonetheless padded the platforms of the land and used their persuasive powers for excellent reasons. All of them begged, barked, offered paws and did other tricks in the name of charity. There's no doubt about the extent of the canine contribution made to railway welfare funds over many decades of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Mike Peart



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Totley to lose its pay-phone box?

Sheffield councillors have received a communication from British Telecom that they propose to remove a number of payphones (the phone box and the equipment) across the city. The proposal is to remove 25 payphones in total.

One of the payphones whose future is in question is in Totley, a few yards from the Co-op at the junction of Baslow Road and Mickley Lane. The BT notification states that this payphone is used for, on average, just 9 calls per month.



A consultation has been launched over the proposals, involving councillors and the Local Area Partnerships. BT is collating views on the permanent removal of these phone box services, and they have already put notices in the payphones.

This initial consultation is about raising awareness. It simply lets the public and councillors know of BT's proposals. It is done purely to obtain the public's views so that the decision makers are aware of those views when coming to their draft decision, which is sent to the Secretary of State and BT and is known as the First Notification.

Draft decisions are then published and consulted on via Citizen Space again, in the second consultation. The outcomes from that are then considered and determine the final decision which is then reported to the Secretary of State and BT and is known as the Final Notification.

Anyone wishing to comment should do so via email to sheffieldplan@sheffield.gov.uk or by writing to Area Planning, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2SH. You need to quote the telephone number of the payphone - 0114 236 0956 - or the location.

The deadline for comments on the initial consultation leading up to the First Notification is **16 December 2020**.

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society

I know it would be nice to write about something cheerful, and later on I will do my best, but unfortunately I have some extremely sad news to pass on. The Society lost one of its most talented and stalwart members on October 21st when Judy Savournin passed away (not Covid 19).

Judy was very well known locally and indeed across the city having taking leading roles with many local operatic societies but it was Dore G & S where her heart was and has been a member for the best part of 30 years. She had a tremendous stage presence and shone in every role she took as well as stealing the show at almost all our concerts. She was a natural performer and was a powerful and pitch-perfect contralto. When she was young she auditioned for and was accepted by D'Oyly Carte Operatic Company but did not go with



Judy as Dame Carruthers in 'Yeoman of the Guard' (2019)

them, but chose to marry John with whom she had a daughter, Jo and a son, John both of whom are keeping the performing life active - John professionally with his own theatre company and Jo, a cardiac nurse at the Northern General, as a hobby at which she excels. D'Oyly Carte's loss has been our gain.

I first met Judy and John in 1989 when I joined Dore G & S Society and got to know her really well when some members of our society joined with some from Teachers Operatic and Dronfield Gemini to put on *Pirates of Penzance* in Sindelfingen (near Stuttgart). Ann (the wife) and I went along to help fill the coach up and to have a short holiday but plans altered when three of the cast had accidents and broke their legs preventing them from performing (it's a long story). They were all to have been in the Policemen's chorus so a call went out to the hangers-on for help.

As luck would have it I knew enough of the chorus numbers to get by and got roped in and ended up doing the three

shows and two concerts that week. It was a great way to get to know everybody and Judy and her family have been friends ever since. We will all sorely miss her and send our love to her family. With Covid in full swing we will not be able to attend her funeral which adds to my sadness. John Highfield has had lovely obituary printed in *The Star* which is available on-line.

To other things now, not that I have anything to report on the musical front but Mark, another stalwart member, is a keen cyclist and phoned me the other day to proudly say that he has now been on a ride which has taken him through all three levels of covid control tiers in one ride. We all have to find pleasure where we can and he will soon be able to boast that he has covered stage 4 as well! I was browsing the net and discovered that Scott Joplin, that famous ragtime composer (*Maple Leaf Rag*, *The Entertainer* etc) also wrote an opera called *Treemonisha*. Slightly unusual as you can hear his ragtime style all the way through it but the overture is worth a listen on You-Tube.

Ah well, Ann and I are off to go for a walk, at least we are staying reasonably fit even though indoors all we seem to do is sit, eat, drink, read and surf the web. Hopefully we might bump into friends on a similar mission and have a catch-up chat - Shhhh... The thing I have found most annoying up to this latest shut down is not being able to do anything spontaneously any more. If you want to go for a meal you have to book; if you want to go to a stately home you have to book; if you want to go to visit any attraction even outdoor ones you have to book. Now, of course we can't even do these activities. Roll on freedom.

Stay safe and talk to your friends and family to stay sane. Have as good a Christmas as you can. Keep smiling.

Derek Habberjam

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Neighbourhood Watch

Following the relaxing of the general lockdown, it appears a number of the local youngsters had taken to anti-social behaviour (ASB) to release the pent-up energy that has been stored up for the past months.

Whilst we have all been frust-

-rated by the restrictions, none of us, I suspect, have found a need to go out and cause wanton damage or even threaten other residents.

Many of us owe a vote of thanks to Julie Gay and her band of fellow litter pickers for clearing up all the rubbish that appears on a regular basis all around S17 with the parks and recreation grounds in particular. I suspect many of us had their first illicit beer or cigarette in our early teens in a park but not to the extent that is apparent from the number of cans, bottles, gas canisters and balloons littering the parks. However, the trend of smashing the bottles in the children's play areas cannot be tolerated. Not only is this a potential safety hazard for the children but also the many dogs that accompany families to the parks. Please try to ensure your children are not responsible for anyone being injured by their actions and to take their rubbish away with them.

Whilst this has been a problem over the summer it has to be remembered that the anti-social behaviour is only being carried out by a few and the majority of our local youngsters are a credit to everyone.

SYP in the shape of PCSO Ken Blake has been active in Green Oak Park in response to reports of a number of youths acting in a threatening manner towards other children and associated ASB. This appears to have had an effect and just goes to prove that visibility of local Officers has a positive outcome, and we welcome more action in the future.

Since I started this article our NPT have had some realignment in the PCSO's areas. PCSO Ken Blake has now lost Totley while our PCSO Adrian Tolson has taken over responsibility for Totley as well as his Dore, Whirlow & Bents Green area.

There is still a measure of discontent at the irresponsible drivers who continue to drive at excess speed along Baslow Road and Abbeydale Road South. The camera van is to be



seen on a regular basis and over 45% of those caught are local residents. Whilst the numbers caught are increasing the likelihood is that it will be seen even more so you have been warned. Drivers must be aware of the dangers for pedestrians particularly the elderly who may be trying to cross to the shops, doctors, or library. Although the road is dual carriageway for most of its length it invariably has one lane being used for parking and lacks enough safe crossing points - hence the need to keep to the speed limit.

Not many elderly pedestrians can get out of the way of

someone doing 30mph let alone some of the speeds recorded along this road. Most of the time you will not get to your destination any sooner and you will possibly be lighter in your pocket.

One of our main areas of crime has been theft from vehicles early in the morning, often in batches of six or seven vehicles having items stolen from them in a close area. All of the areas in the S17 area are being affected with many of the vehicles not even being locked. At least one rogue was caught in the act recently after someone saw him on their CCTV and a neighbour managed to apprehend him with three bags of stolen items. Unfortunately, this is a rare occurrence and whilst we commend the resident for his brave actions it is not recommended that we all take similar action, especially us older residents. It is thought that there may be another two or three rogues participating in this activity so please ensure you take all reasonable security precautions.



Another problem area is where residents are having renovations or other building work carried out. Trade boards, scaffolding, skips, and materials identify these potential targets and particular care should be taken around these properties. Most weeks SYP are reporting theft of materials and tools from vans and properties, again these incidents often happen early in the morning around 5am. Whilst these incidents have been happening in the early hours, the darker nights are here now. It has been proven that the rogues are about from 4pm onwards looking for houses without any lights on, potentially indicating that the property is unoccupied. Think about putting a timer on a table lamp in a couple of rooms to give the impression you are home even in the new lockdown.

NHW National recently sent me details of eighty-four S17 residents who had signed up to join NHW on the "Ourwatch" site over the last few years. Only about fourteen were previously known to me and had applied to join the old "Dore & Totley" group. They have all been assimilated into our S17NWA group and we welcome them all. Can I suggest everyone reading this sign up for the SYP Alerts which give out frequent warnings and advice? You can join from the SYP website. <https://southyorks.police.uk>.

Have you considered joining NHW and helping to keep our area safer from crime? It costs nothing and may save you money on your property insurance! A membership form is available online from our website along with lots of information on a variety of subjects: <http://www.s17nwa.co.uk>

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Organic Wildlife Gardening

It has been a very difficult year and for some a very sad one. It has shown us how vulnerable we are when nature strikes back. Many scientists believe that it has been caused by the way we live and there is no doubt that many human activities affect nature adversely in various ways.

The Soil Association has estimated that, if all farming in the UK was done in an environmentally friendly way by using organic methods, at least 1.3 tonnes of carbon would be captured by the soil, which would be like taking one million cars off the road all at once. If everyone gardened organically that would make a huge difference too. Carbon is released from the soil by digging, so the less we disturb the soil the better and, if you are weary of digging all the beds over in the autumn, you have no need to feel guilty any more as you will be doing the right thing.

I watched a recent edition of *Gardeners' World*. It showed several different gardens from around the British Isles. One showed huge banks of flowers either side of a footpath and the presenter thought it was wonderful. However, I was not impressed. There was a bee - but only one - and I am fairly certain that all the flowers were cultivated.



Hemp agrimony, favourite of the small tortoiseshell butterfly

Another garden was in Scotland. The house was on a hill with a huge lawn, below which a large flower bed bordered a strip of water. As with the first garden, the plants all appeared to be cultivated and there weren't any pollinators around. The garden was also filmed from the other side of the water and it actually spoiled the view of the beautiful Scottish countryside beyond.

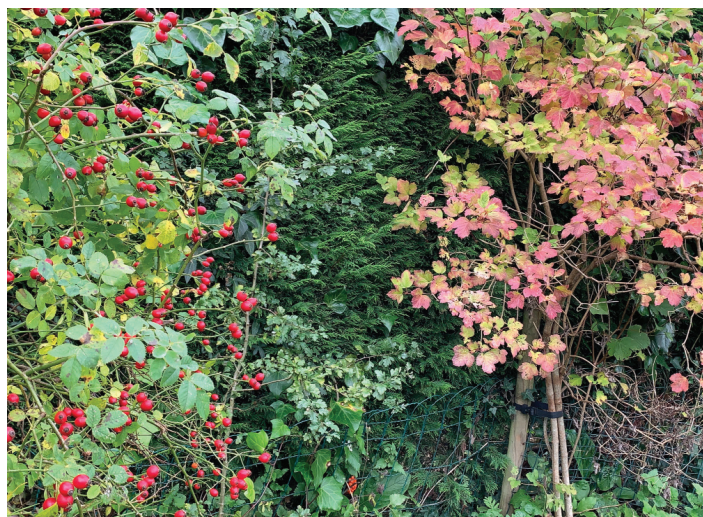
The third garden was full of potted succulents - 1,259 of them - and nothing else but the many water butts which were needed for all the watering. The owner of the house was obsessed with them, and loved the variety of leaf shapes. Succulents are amazing plants but, to me, it seemed a shame to fill an English garden in this way.

None of these gardens supported wildlife as they could have been doing and I suspect the other gardens shown were no better, but I found it too depressing to watch any more. I

cannot understand why professional horticulturists are ignoring the poor state of nature in this country and cannot see that the way they encourage us to garden is part of the problem.

Winter is here but spring bulbs could still be planted unless the ground is very hard. Native ones look lovely in English gardens especially under trees and, as with all wild flowers, they support wildlife in the best way. However, avoid buying crocus, tulip and snowdrop bulbs as they are not native although, if you already have the original and natural looking variety of snowdrops in your garden, you will find they are determined to stay - it's hard work to get rid of them! Natives include daffodil, wood anemone, lesser celandine, bluebell, cuckoo pint, snakeshead fritillary, ramson (wild garlic) and Star of Bethlehem. Flowering later are lily of the valley which likes a dry woodland habitat, and Solomon's-seal. I have most of these in my garden and hope to have all of them in time and to increase the area they cover.

Trees are very important for wildlife. They not only support so many organisms when alive but also as dead wood. The stumps left from the felling of my diseased alders have sprouted and insects are burrowing into the bark and also into special holes made by the woodman. All the logs and branches are being made use of as wood piles, and could be used by hibernating frogs, newts, small mammals and hedgehogs, though we do have a well hidden hedgehog house as well. Interestingly, the wood of alder does not rot in damp environments, actually becoming stronger when wet.



Dog rose berries and autumnal leaves on guelder rose give a splash of colour

Trees provide shelter for birds and insects including bees, butterflies and moths, some relying entirely on one particular species of tree. They are best when planted at the far end of the garden where, along with similar neighbouring gardens, they can form a wildlife corridor for birds and other wildlife, enabling them to move around under cover. Ideally, they should be no less than two metres apart and it is also better if they are not too near to the house for various reasons. Late autumn to early spring is the best time for planting trees, and whips will normally produce a stronger tree than larger saplings. They are best sourced from British specialist growers who supply native trees from indigenous seed stock and also give good advice on all aspects of planting and future care. Make sure that they are not imported as that has caused so much trouble in recent years.

In my garden, I have several trees and shrubs, including the three featured below. Alder buckthorn is loved by the brimstone butterfly, the flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees, and the fruits are popular with thrushes and other birds.

Downy Birch has an open canopy under which spring flowers will grow, and it supports 300 species of insects. The leaves are food for aphids, which attract ladybirds, and also the caterpillars of many moths. The seeds are popular with siskins, redpolls and greenfinches, and woodpeckers nest in holes.

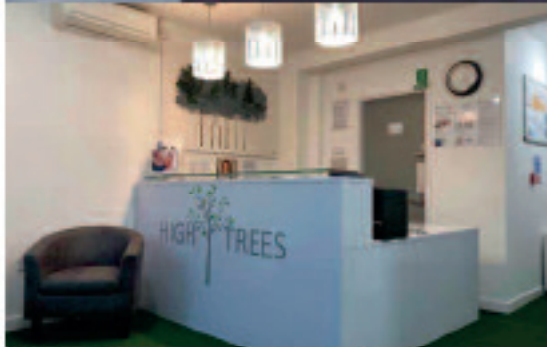
(Continued p.25)

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Organic Wildlife Gardening (from p.23)

Bird cherry is a lovely tree. It provides an early source of pollen and nectar, and the cherries are eaten by blackbirds, thrushes, badgers and small mammals e.g. wood mice and dormice. The leaves are food for many species of moth such as the orchard ermine, brimstone, and short cloaked moth. While well worth growing, this tree is toxic to livestock especially goats.....if you happen to keep them!

My alder buckthorn and downy birch are new whips and I am keen to see how they develop, and the bird cherry is looking really good after three years.

With the onset of darker evenings, I have been reminded that nocturnal wildlife in our gardens can be discouraged and confused by lighting and it is better if we close our curtains during winter and turn off lighting especially at the back.

Finally, and on the subject of trees again, I must say that I did enjoy the article on Gillfield wood by Chris Measures in the last issue. It is quite a long time since I walked there but, as I read the article, I felt that I was there again. I was so pleased to read that local people are helping to improve and care for this wood. I also enjoyed Chris' 'Walk With Nature' around Totley. It was good to hear that wildlife is thriving there and also brought back many happy memories of hiking in Derbyshire..... many years ago!

Marian Tiddy

Friends of Dore and Totley Station

In two months, what's changed? Another lock-down! Great, however that means more time for walks near home, maybe in Ecclesall, Ladies Spring or Poynton Woods, all surrounding the station. Stop off on the new bench in the car park to watch the world go by, or maybe take a seat on the platform and watch trains. We seem to have become a magnet for Thomas the Tank Engine enthusiasts from toddlers to those a great deal older.



One of the new trains at Edale

From December our services at Dore & Totley should be almost back to normal, including restoration of the hourly Sunday stopping service. It's possible that Manchester Airport direct trains are not going to be restored, terminating at Piccadilly and requiring a change. At the moment all operators are trying to run all timetabled trains but there may be cancellations if train crew have to isolate at short notice.

Over the last few weeks our volunteers have planted over 600 daffodil and 1,000 crocus bulbs and it won't be long before we'll see the first green shoots heralding a bright new year.

Is it safe to use trains? Yes, as long as we all use common sense, wear masks, spread out and don't travel if we have the slightest suspicion that we may have Covid, or been in recent contact with someone who may have. Most trains have plenty of space for distancing.

Hope Valley Capacity Improvement Scheme The plans include redoubling the tracks through the station with a second platform and a high pedestrian bridge including lifts.

There will be a third track built below Poynton Wood from the West View Lane bridge up to Dore West Junction where trains can turn off to go south. That will allow freight trains to be held between the Hope Valley and main lines without holding up passenger services, as happens too often now.



A new train below the West View Lane flats.....

As we might have expected with this very long saga, Network Rail still haven't got finance approved by HM Treasury. Maybe it will have been announced by the time you read this - another crumb for the north. They're still hopeful it will be confirmed this year and have a timetable for the work based



....and the same view showing what the new track, after landscaping, should look like

on an assumption that it will be. It includes details and timetables for all the work. (The line blockades at night, specific weekends, and bank holidays make that imperative.) Assuming that it is agreed it should go as follows:

2021 sundry odds and ends tidying up routine jobs in the area, contractors assessing the sites in more detail.

2022 January - March, setting up construction sites on the railway triangle, at Bamford, and possibly in the station car park and at West View.

2022 April - June 2023 15 month contract period to provide entire scheme to be operational from July. New timetabled trains could start from December.

More mundanely, Network Rail's surveyors still have to check the extra support placed midway along the canopy before the temporary supports can be removed. Mañana!

Looking to 2021 Covid won't go on for ever. Slowly we'll adjust and avoid the greatest dangers. Those crocuses and daffodils will appear, then the cherry blossom. Take a short train trip up the Hope Valley and have a long or short walk.

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

An Ancient Piece of Woodland on the Edge

Gillfield Wood stands on the edge of two county boundaries, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. It stands on the edge of the Peak District National Park and on the edge of the expanding City of Sheffield with all the challenges and threats that brings.

It is a very special piece of woodland, particularly to the community of Totley who walk it, run it, dog-walk it and, dare I say, cycle through it. Individuals enjoy it, families with children enjoy it, schools enjoy it. It brings that sense of tranquillity, that sense of being away from the hustle and bustle of life, away from houses and traffic. For me, when exploring Gillfield Wood, it is always an opportunity to connect with nature.

No matter where you find yourself in this wood, our wood, there is always something to hear, see, watch and study and one of the beauties of being in the wood is that you can see through the trees to the fields beyond on either side, which in itself gives out a feeling of space and freedom unlike larger and more dense woodland. Or ones that have gardens and fences bordering them.



A lie-down by the brook (Photo: Sue Hare)

This is where a number of woodland species make their presence known throughout the year, from Robins to Wrens, Great Tits to Blue Tits, Coal Tits to Long-tailed Tits. Coal Tits have been seen diving into nest holes at the side of streams and footpaths, an insignificant tiny hole in a bank, to feed their young. And Goldcrests are ever present, especially without the harsh winters hitting their numbers, so it is not unusual to hear them calling from the tops of larches or from ivy covered tree trunks as they search for tiny morsels of food. So too is the Nuthatch ever present, emitting a variety of calls to make their presence known. They nest in the holes in trees but can now be found using one or two of the many nest boxes that have been erected in the wood. They encase the entrance holes with mud and have been seen, in their endeavours, collecting damp mud from the side of streams to take back to their chosen nest box.

This is where one does not have to move off the main footpath to see Woodpigeons, Magpies, Jays and Mistle Thrushes at the nest, either building the nest or feeding their young. And Great-spotted Woodpeckers, when they have been feeding their noisy young, have entertained many walkers in the wood; the young poking their heads out and calling from the nest holes excavated in Silver Birch or Larch. And believe it or not, Sparrowhawks have nested and reared young on more than one occasion by the side of the main footpath. On one occasion the well-grown young were out of the nest looking down on the passers-by below. This magnificent bird of prey has successfully bred each year in many other parts of the wood as well.

This is where Tawny Owls call and hunt and raise their young, and the young can be seen sitting out on bare branches calling for food at dusk. It is here where I have heard the adults calling sometimes during the day but mainly at dusk, and standing quietly, I have had both male and female

interacting near to me, only for the male to fly by my face; at only arm's length away, it twisted and turned to avoid me. I am not sure who was more surprised!

This wood is where I have listened to Blackcaps singing, having arrived from their wintering grounds in Africa. They choose our wood to breed in - how good is that! And in between two territorial Blackcaps was another warbler singing; a Garden Warbler. An opportunity for me to compare songs: the scratchy song of the Blackcap, against the pure melodic song of the Garden Warbler. And in the background, the constant song of the Chiffchaff, 'chiff, chaff; chiff chaff'.



Springtime in the wood (Photo: Chris Measures)

Dusk is a favourite time for me to walk through the wood, the silence only broken by a calling Tawny Owl or a barking Roe Deer. At times like this I have watched a group of young Badgers running down the main path towards me and then in panic go scrambling down the embankment to the side. Moles are active under your feet; so many molehills along the sides of the footpath and within the woodland itself, while Common Pipistrelle bats fly high and low along the path in front of you, in search of the food items they need. And this is when the Song Thrush can be at its best singing its heart out. It is pleasing to know that this fairly secretive dainty bird has a number of territories within and at the edge of our wood, when it seems so absent from our gardens these days.

This is where the brook, Totley Brook, is by your side at the east end of the wood, and as you gradually and almost unnoticeably climb towards the west end, it falls away to your left so you are looking down on the meanders as you get to the middle of the wood. But you are always aware of the brook's presence; it is has that reassuring and relaxing sound as it works its own way down from west to east, passing over pebbles, stones and rocks, squeezing through fallen trees and dropping over small waterfalls in its pursuit of the River Sheaf. Quality water with numerous species of aquatic life present, including the odd shoal of small Brown Trout.

This is where I have seen a pair of Kingfishers perched in a quiet area, on tree roots sticking out of a shallow bank at that edge of the brook. They were presumably checking out a suitable site for nesting that early in the season. I have then watched them flying low over the water's surface in a flash of colour, calling as they went. It is the brook where Grey Wagtails also appear, searching the bubbling shallows for tiny invertebrates to feed on. A delightful bird, particularly the male, with its contrasting black, white and yellow colours.

It is here by the brook that a whole range of wildflowers grow, many species of which are indicators of ancient woodland. It is so important these areas remain undisturbed especially as there is so much of the other woodland flora to enjoy in the form of the wonderful displays of Bluebells, Wood Anemones and Wood Sorrell. Additional tracks continue to appear in the wood. At one time these were put down to Badger movement but now that larger mammal, the Red Deer, is making its presence known with wide tracks scarring the woodland floor. It is hoped the general public will stick to the main paths

and not cause further erosion in the wood by going off-piste to follow these broad muddy tracks caused by the deer.

This wood is where chance encounters with nature can always be had, such as a Buzzard drifting slowly and silently through the canopy with wings outspread to perch in a nearby tree; such as a Red Deer stag resting quietly in deep ground cover minding his own business; such as a scarce Lesser Spotted Woodpecker appearing amongst a flock of tits as they work their way through the wood. Too many encounters to mention but, each in their own right, lift the spirits.



One magnificent tree among many (Photo: Chris Measures)

Even the entrances to the wood produce excitement, where butterflies flit amongst dappled shade - butterflies such as the Speckled Wood and Gatekeeper. The woodland edges and rides produce bees and hoverflies and dragonflies; the Southern Hawker can often be seen working these edges and the rides.

And during the winter, birds such as Goldfinch and Siskin appear overhead in parties, feeding noisily on the cones of larches.

These are just my memories, not old but recent. So much more to recount; another time perhaps, but I do just wonder what our wood was like prior to the felling of all those trees in the 1940s. It was then a true ancient oak woodland. So much has happened to it over hundreds of years; bear in mind it is mentioned in the Doomsday Book.

Gillfield Wood means so much to so many of us. Surely they will not build on the land connected to its southern boundary walls. Any encroachment over the Topley Hall Fields will see a dramatic impact on the wood as we know it. It would change the wood forever. I hope our bit of green belt remains, I do sincerely hope so.

Green Belt

People Keeping Well

South West Sheffield Activities

We run a wide variety of activities, courses and groups across the South West of Sheffield enabling people to get out and about, find new hobbies, stay active and have fun. This is part of the Sheffield People Keeping Well programme.

The South West Sheffield PKW Partnership area covers the following areas: Dore, Topley, Bradway, Endcliffe, Fulwood, Ranmoor, Greystones, Nether Edge, Bents Green, Brincliffe, Ecclesall, Whirlow, Abbeydale

Please note that most of our current programmes are being run on online platforms such as zoom. If you need assistance in accessing these platforms we have provided a simple guide for you to use. If you need help and someone to guide you through it please don't hesitate to contact Joanna Woodward on 0114 250 2850 or via email at joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk

PEOPLE KEEPING WELL
PKW
IN THEIR COMMUNITY

The Activities Timetable is printed overleaf on page 28.

To access or book to join any of these sessions, see who the session is provided by and then contact the relevant team on the these details listed under the timetable

- Community Wellness Service (CWS): call 0114 5537807
- The Carers Centre (TCC): email jan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk
- Sheffield Mencap and Gateway's (SMG): Carers Outreach Project Workers Katie on 07447 391437 or Ellie on 07735 316347 or email: cope@sheffieldmencap.org.uk. Please note, these sessions are for unpaid carers and the person they care for (created for adults with a mild or moderate learning disability/autism)
- South West Sheffield People Keeping Well (PKW): Contact joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk or call Age UK Sheffield on 0114 250 2850.

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Saturday 12th December Canada, USA, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy

Wednesday 16th December Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland

Friday 18th December Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg



For more information visit www.postoffice.co.uk/last-posting-dates

People Keeping Well Activity Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chair Aerobics: 1.30pm via Zoom. Provided by CWS	Singing Teapot Choir: 2nd & last Tuesday of the month via Zoom - 10.30am- 11am. Provided by PKW	Dore and Totley Carers Café: 10am via Zoom on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Provided by SCC	Short Stories: 2pm via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Listen to a story or bring your own to share. Provided by SCC	Carers Café & Quiz: 10am via Zoom on the 2nd Friday of every month. Provided by SCC
Monday Coffee Morning: 1st & 3rd Monday of each month via Zoom. Delivered by specialist staff at SMG .			Virtual Christmas Choir: 7-8pm via Zoom. Fun & inclusive choir for adults with learning disabilities and their carers. Delivered by SMG	Sporting Chatter: 1st & 3rd Friday of every month at Bradway Community Hall, numbers restricted. Contact PKW to book.
				Gentle Circuit: 12.30pm via Zoom Provided by CWS
				Falls Prevention: 1.30pm via Zoom Provided by CWS
				Gardening with Caroline: 10.30am via Zoom Fridays from Oct 23rd for 6 weeks provided by PKW .

Fostering in Sheffield

When she arrived, our second foster baby was weak and pale and poorly. She had a viral infection along with severe feeding problems, and life was tough. But she was tough too, and she'd soon start smiling again once she'd been sick after nearly every feed.

We got on with the job, met her various doctors and nurses and advisers and together we helped her to get stronger. We found her a milk she could digest and she put on weight.

We knew a little about her background, but didn't see her mum for some weeks. Her dad was attending most of the 'contact' sessions arranged at the special neutral contact centre, where he could meet his daughter for an hour or two, and they got on well. It looked like she might have to go for adoption, however, which could take some time given her health conditions.



Mum with baby — picture by Emily

I wondered what had happened to mum. What does it feel like to have your baby taken away after several months? How would you cope?

And then, baby's social worker told us her mum was going to come to a contact session. The social worker had been in touch with her regularly, and it was clear mum's situation had changed for the better.

The key word when foster carers meet their child's birth family is 'professional'. You need to be supportive, straightforward and non-judgemental. But you also need to ensure the child remains safe and loved and happy. In this case, there were no problems at all. Mum was also supportive, straightforward and very grateful that we'd been helping her baby.

We got to know baby's mum as she reintroduced herself to her child. It turned out she'd been looking after her little girl very well during her first months of life, helping her with her feeding regime, cleaning up the vomit every day, attending her appointments.

But then, she and baby became very ill at the same time. Baby was brought to us, and mum went to hospital in a critical condition.

She recovered, and as baby started getting stronger and more determined, so did her mum. She began seeing her daughter three times a week at the contact centre, and then attended hospital appointments with us. To any outsider, she would have come across as a normal loving mother of a one year old.

Dad supported baby going back to live with her mum, and after several months of monitoring and meetings and doing the right thing for herself and her baby, the court made its decision.

There were two more weeks of baby seeing us and mum together almost every day, and eventually our foster baby moved back to live with her mother, and we said goodbye. It doesn't always end this way, we've been told. Sometimes birth parents try and fail, and sometimes they barely try at all.

But for us and for this mother and her beautiful, brave little daughter, this was a great result. People say foster caring is 'rewarding'. Frankly, that description doesn't come close.

David Bocking



Well, we are still living in interesting times! As we enter a new lockdown, we continue to do everything we can to keep all our TASS family safe. We are following all the best practice protocols advised

by the government to reduce the risk to all the children and staff in school:

- handwashing very regularly, ie on arrival at school, each time the children leave and re-enter the classroom, and before leaving to go home
- children are kept in a class bubble throughout the day including segregated playtimes and eating lunch in their classroom
- all areas are thoroughly cleaned by our dedicated team of cleaners daily, and during the day classroom staff sanitise tables and chairs after lunch and wipe down all high touch areas with appropriate wipes regularly



Building a chair for a bear in the Woodland Workshop

- children are restricted in the resources they handle, eg pencils, and sharing is discouraged
- all toys are washed daily
- any shared resources are kept strictly within a bubble
- we have a staggered entry and exit from school and all classes use separate doors to enter and exit the building
- other adults cannot enter the building except in exceptional circumstances when they would not have contact with the children
- staff wear face coverings when moving around school and in communal areas
- communal activities eg assemblies happen over zoom to individual classrooms
- all staff meetings with external services and training happen virtually
- communal activities, eg assemblies happen, over zoom to individual classrooms
- there are regular signs to encourage social distancing and hand washing
- we have asked parents to wear face coverings when they pick up their children.

To support any children who have had to isolate because of contact with Covid within our Academy Trust, DSAT (the Diocese of Sheffield Academy Trust), we are providing a Virtual Teacher Programme of online home learning. If a teacher is isolating, they are linking with school via Zoom to deliver their lessons and in the event of a class bubble having to close we have arrangements to deliver online home learning via Microsoft Teams – we've all had to brush up our "tech" skills!

Because we can't go out on any trips at the moment, staff have been creative in organising special themed days in school and we will be doing our best to support less fortunate

others through Children in Need, The Archer Project and The British Legion.



Children in Emerald Team enjoying the first Merit Treat of the year albeit within their bubbles.

Despite all the change and disruption, our amazing children are taking it all in their stride!

We'd also like to say a huge thank-you to all of our families for the support they are giving to their children and the school. It's hard to put into words how much we appreciate it.

If you want to find out more about our school, then please visit our website or email us at enquiries@totleyallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk. We'll be so happy to talk to you!

Karole Sargent and Trudi Brown, Proud Headteachers

Remembrance Day 2020: the War Memorial, Totley



Where is Totley?

Sounds like a simple question, doesn't it? Dorothy Prosser's excellent article in the October/November *Independent* about Totley's village police station showed Grange Terrace. At the very far end of the photo on the corner of Totley Hall Lane and Baslow Road is Totley's post office. In my younger days it was run by John Perkington's parents. A stranger could be forgiven for thinking this is all there is to Totley. But there are other Totleys. Walking down Baslow Road past the school and the Totley Grange Estate, you come to New Totley – given that name in the 1930's. Was it to attract house buyers? The Green Oak estate was originally built after the war with prefabs for those made homeless by the blitz. My parents' house in Burngreave was bombed and we moved into a lovely bungalow with a spacious garden on Green Oak Drive after living in cramped conditions with relatives.

If you cross from the old post office over Baslow Road and walk down Hillfoot Road, then bear left onto Chapel Lane and down the footpath past the old Methodist chapel, you'll come to Totley Bents. This is the area around the Cricket Inn and the recreation ground. The field can be soggy and 'Bents' is said to refer to somewhere with reeds or rushes or an 'open, grassy place'.

Heading down Baslow Road is Totley Rise, generally thought of as the Baslow Road shops and 'bricky row' but the term has been used to cover a larger area. Totley's parish boundary is the Old Hay Brook which runs alongside Totley Rise Methodist Church, under Baslow Road, and joins Totley Brook alongside the railway tracks to become the Sheaf. My photo shows the lettering carved into the Old Hay Brook bridge parapet showing the parish boundary and the mileage to Sheffield and to Bakewell.

So, if you cross the bridge you enter the Parish of Dore. I was intrigued when some time ago the council erected a large metal sign in the centre of the dual carriageway just before you cross over the railway bridge on your way towards Totley saying 'Welcome to Totley'. The sign is in Dore! Perhaps it's there because at one time addresses on roads leading off Abbeydale Road South, such as Totley Brook Road, Busheywood Road Devonshire Road etc. were called 'Totley Rise'. The reason for this was that the only way to get by road from these locations to Dore village were via Hillfoot Road and Old Hay Lane or up Dore Road. These roads were dead ends, so the mail for these addresses went to Totley Rise Post Office instead of Dore.



Wouldn't it be nice if the carved letters on the bridge parapet could be made clearly visible again? I imagine gold leaf is expecting too much, but a lick of paint would suffice. Perhaps Totley History Group and Dore Village Society could paint their respective halves in a joint ceremony!

Mick Savage

Totley Scouts

So we are now in lockdown again and sadly it's been 8 months since we have been able to do any face to face Scouting with our young people. This hasn't stopped us though, we've still been earning badges, playing games, baking, learning and having lots of fun all via our weekly Zoom meetings.

We have a regular group of enthusiastic Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who regularly meet up via the amazing world of technology to keep Scouting very much alive in Totley.

The Beavers have been working hard to finish some of their challenge badges and have done some wonderful work on their Green Cross Code and learning how to keep themselves safe on these dark winter nights, we had great fun problem-solving and doing a Lego challenge and this week we coloured in Poppies and talked about Remembrance Day.

Our Cubs have been equally busy and the children have been working hard to gain their Navigator Stage 2 badge. This is nearly complete with just one more challenge to be completed at home. We made mug cakes, had a Cub Lego challenge and had a Halloween cake-decorating competition just before half term.

The Scouts have also been doing some interesting challenges with a 'Minute to Win It' challenge night. They decorated and made jam-jar lanterns and we started the half term holidays off with a Halloween Scout Bake Off. The Scouts had to bake and decorate a cake with a Halloween theme in two hours. There were some really fantastic creations and some budding bakers amongst them.

Sadly our hut is looking rather sad and unloved at the moment and has been the victim of some vandalism and fly tipping whilst we haven't been there. Due to lockdown and social distancing our fundraising efforts have also had to take a back seat and we now desperately need to get things moving again so that we can keep pushing ahead with our plans for a new Scout Hut.

There are a couple of ways that you are able to support the Group and our fundraising efforts. Firstly, we were absolutely delighted to find out a few weeks ago that we have been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund this year. If you have a membership card for the Co-op you can choose us as your local charity, and we will be able to benefit from purchases you make at both the Co-op on Baslow Road and the Co-op in Dore with absolutely no extra cost to you when you use your membership card. We would be thrilled if you could support us in this way and it will make such a difference to our fundraising efforts.

Secondly, you could join our monthly lottery. Tickets cost £5 per number, per month, and you can purchase multiple numbers. At the beginning of every month we will draw a ticket and you could be in with a chance of winning £100. If you would like to be part of our Lottery please email Fran Arnold on totleyscoutsdraw@gmail.com and she will arrange to get a lottery form to you and give you further information.

We send our best wishes to you all during this time and hope you all stay safe and well.

Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader

S17 Covid-19 Community Support Group

Hello S17!

There are still many in our community who are at risk and for whom life is still very far from normal. So we would just like to reassure you that we're still here and actively supporting this community whenever the need arises.

If you have symptoms or are self isolating, and need help with shopping essentials or delivery of medication then we have volunteers in the community who are there and able to help.

You can reach out to the contact on the leaflet that was put through your letterbox in March or contact us by the following means:

Mobile: 07738 947920

Email: help@s17covid19.co.uk

Facebook: S17 COVID-19 Community Support Group

Website: www.s17covid19.co.uk

Liz Nicklen

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