

Totley Independent

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Tom and Christine Steel, pictured on Tom's retirement as Honorary President of Totley Show in 2016

Tom Steel 1933 - 2021

Tom Steel, one of Totley's most well-known and popular personalities, has died after contracting Covid 19 just before Christmas. Many people will have known Tom through his DIY store 'Busy Bee' on Baslow Road, and more recently through his involvement in Totley Open Gardens, and of course the annual Totley Show, of which he was Honorary President until retiring in 2016.

Tom was a Sheffield lad. Born in July 1933, his early life and schooldays were spent in Southey Green. He had two elder sisters – Mary and Joyce. He enjoyed school, and always said that his teachers were nice, although he was not an enthusiastic football player, nor very fond of other sports, because he used to get into trouble with his father if his glasses were broken or bent when he got home from school!

Tom was a young boy during the days of World War II, and like all small boys at that time he enjoyed exploring and found the aftermath of the bombing around the area fascinating. The experience was dampened when he found that, due to the bombing of Sheffield, he had fewer friends in his class at school.

After leaving school Tom served a seven-year joinery apprenticeship, and during this time went on a day-release basis to

Salmon Pastures College in Attercliffe. He went on to work for Stanley Tools for 21 years, as a joiner to the advertising department, and travelled abroad many times to build exhibition stands in France and Germany, often for two weeks at a time.

After leaving Stanley Tools, he moved to Cintride Tools in Bakewell as a sales and marketing manager. During this time, he designed and produced a ceramic tile cutter handle. Tom married Christine, and they had two sons, Geoffrey and John. They lived at Firth Park. He enjoyed his time at Cintride and it was this job that brought him to Totley, on the other side of Sheffield from Firth Park. In Totley Tom bought a barber's shop, and of course turned it into Busy Bee DIY supplies.

Many Totley people will have fond memories of Busy Bee. Tom himself recalled the time when a chap returned a length of wood which he claimed to have bought from Tom's shop, on the basis that the wood was bent and too knotty. It was only when Tom noticed that the piece of wood had a label on it saying "Wickes" that the gentleman left the shop very quickly, and full of apologies! Many customers enjoyed going into Tom's workshop to have a rummage for an O-ring washer or something that would suit their particular job. Usually after a bit of hunting around Tom would find *(continued page 3)*

Important Announcement about Totley Independent - see page 5



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Tom Steel 1933 - 2021 (from p.1)

something suitable. He could make a tricky job easy!

Les Firth, the current President of Totley Show, remembers getting to know Tom and Christine when they first had the shop. He recalls that their help was invaluable for anyone involved in home maintenance: "that was when you could buy tap washers (any size), six or any number required of no.8 screws, 1.25 inches long or any size, would have most sizes to your requirement and almost anything else you can think of."

In February 1987 Tom started to write a regular article in the *Totley Independent* called 'Garden Tips' which would become 'Gardening Tips'. This popular feature continued up to the present day, with Tom signing off first as 'Busy Bee' and later 'Tom Busy Bee'. Most recently, it was the memorable 'Cheerio for now - Tom'.

Jennie Street, chair of Totley Open Gardens, recalls that "Tom was a keen and expert gardener, with two greenhouses filled with flowers and salad crops, a very productive vegetable garden, and a beautiful flower garden. When he and Christine retired, they bought a summer house, and re-did parts of the garden, enjoying buying new plants. They opened their garden in 2002, the very first year of Totley Open Gardens, and it always charmed visitors. They opened every year until 2009, taking a break for some years, but always selling TOG programmes outside their flat during Open Garden weekends."



With his love of gardening he and Christine became involved in the Totley Show, which started in 1985 and was held at Totley County School until 1988. It carried on for 12 years at Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall until it moved to the Totley Primary School, where it has stayed until 2020, when the show was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Tom and Christine were always at the show. They arranged the judging of all the classes in the Show, and looked after the judges as they arrived to judge the exhibits. Tom was a successful and knowledgeable gardener. He regularly entered some of the gardening classes in the Show and often won prizes. He was also a very good photographer, entering in those classes as well, recently winning 'Best of Class' in the Photography section in 2018.

They organized the trophies and medals for presentation on the day of the show, helped with other jobs and provided the invaluable bits and pieces which make the whole thing work - paper table covering, tacks, sellotape, bluetack, hooks for the photos and so on.

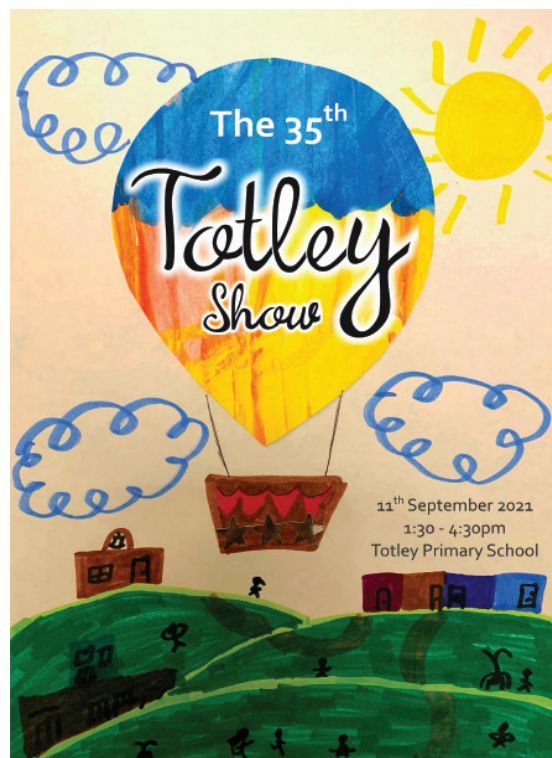
Tom was elected Honorary President of the Show by the show committee in appreciation of all his service, and he remained in that position until he retired in 2016. He continued to enjoy his interests in photography and wildlife and was happiest when pottering around his garden. Always cheerful and helpful, with lots of invaluable advice, Tom was deeply involved in the local community and we will miss him enormously, especially his welcoming smile.

(Written with contributions from the Steel family, Les Firth, Mick Warwick, Jennie Street and Phil Harris)

Totley Show 2021

We held a Competition in respect of a poster for next year's Show towards the end of last year and we are proud to announce the winners for the 2 age categories.

In the younger age group, up to and including 8 years of age, the winner is Zoe Wade. Here's Zoe's poster:



In the older age group from 9 to 13 years of age the winner is Aditi Acharya. Below is Aditi's poster:



Each of the winners will receive a £10 Book token.

Although we hope that we will be able to have the Show again this year, at this moment in time we are not able to confirm that. As was the case last year, no one is able to plan ahead for more than 2 to 3 weeks never mind 8 months. Please note the date of the Show will be Saturday 18 September 2021, if we go ahead. We will try and make a decision around April or May of this year.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Tom Steel. He was the previous President and had been Chair and a committee member for many years, including being one of the people responsible for resurrecting the Show over 30 years ago. His contributions to the Show, as well as his gardening and DIY expertise made him a valuable and much loved character in Totley. He will be very sadly missed by all.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com

Looking Forward: Totley Open Gardens 2021

Despite the gloom of winter and the pandemic hanging over us, Totley Open Gardeners are looking forward positively, and planning ahead.

We are planning to run the Totley Open Gardens event on the weekend of Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July. There will be about 14 gardens opening.

This will give all of us a purpose to our gardening and enable us again to raise money for the local voluntary organisations that Totley Open Gardens has supported for the last 18 years until COVID prevented us opening in 2020. We raise about £3,000 a year, and over the years have donated nearly £40,000. Our main beneficiaries are Cherry Tree Support Services (providing residential support to troubled teenagers), Totley Library, Transport 17, Totley Citizens' Advice Bureau, and Friends of Gillfield Wood.

Obviously there is no guarantee that we will be able to open, since the one thing that COVID has taught us is that there can be no certainty to any plans until it is fully over. But we will work towards it anyhow, and review the situation nearer the date.

We hope lots of Totley people will come and visit the gardens if we do open, and support our work. There is a wealth of knowledge, ideas and inspiration in the gardens, and we especially hope that people who have turned to gardening for the first time during the pandemic will be able to learn as a way of building on their knowledge and skills.

We have a variety of garden types - woodland gardens, quirky gardens, gardens with fantasy elements, gardens with lovely herbaceous borders, vegetable gardens and allotments.

We will also keep everyone informed through Facebook.

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



Totley History Group

Despite any optimism early last Autumn it is now clear that we are still in the midst of the fight against Covid-19. It still seems unlikely that the Library, or any similar venues, will be available to hold meetings for some time and whilst we are still hoping to be able to hold an

AGM in April it is by no means certain that we will be able to. We can only hope that the start of the mass vaccination programme will enable this to happen.

If the AGM in April goes ahead the future of the Group will be the main topic for discussion. Those Committee members intending to retire last year still intend to retire whenever the next AGM is held. One person has come forward with an interest in joining our committee and if anyone else would like more details about being a member of the Committee, please contact me at n.rolfe@btinternet.com. As I have said before in view of this the meeting will be open to non-members and we hope that anyone who might be interested in helping to ensure the Group's future will be able to come along. The eventual date of the meeting will be announced in the *Totley Independent* and on our website, www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk.

In the light of the ongoing situation we are proposing to hold the planned February and March meetings by Zoom on a trial basis. If you are interested in joining either or both meetings please send an email to sectothist@gmail.com and access details will be sent to you. The meetings are:-

Wed 24th Feb at 7.15pm: 'The History and Residents of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe' by Penny Rea

Wed 24th March at 7.15pm: 'The History of Stained Glass' by Ann Beedham

I hope you will be able to join us at one or both meetings.

Norman Rolfe, Chair



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Next Issue of 'Totley Independent' to be Free of Charge!

The coronavirus pandemic has affected everyone and pretty much everything, and 'Totley Independent' is no exception. In the uncertainty of the first lockdown last spring, we produced a free online edition back in April, but after that we returned to print editions because fortunately quite a few of our regular sales outlets remained open – and still do.

However, it's a fact that sales of the magazine have fallen since the pandemic hit. To be sure, this is partly because some outlets have not been able to open, or if they have it's been a matter of open-and-shut (like Totley Library) as the lockdown rules have changed.

We're pretty sure that another major factor has been the changes in people's shopping behaviour: many more people now pay for their shopping by card rather than cash, and indeed some shops insist on card payments. This means it's rarer for people simply to have a handy 20 pence piece to drop into the 'Independent' box. In addition, shopping is more stressful in the current circumstances, and buying a copy of 'Totley Independent' may not be high on their list of priorities. More people are working from home, too, so sales from casual commuter drop-ins at the newsagent and Co-op are not what they used to be.

After much discussion, we feel that we must seek to reach a much bigger proportion of Totley's 1,600 households and 5,000 residents. To help achieve that, we have decided that the April issue of the magazine will be free of charge.

As we do not have the capacity to deliver copies to each household, as is done in Dore and Bradway, we will be placing larger quantities in our existing shop outlets, but making them free to pick up. We are grateful for the continued support of Totley shops in this endeavour, several busy local shops having already welcomed the move.

If this results in more copies going out to local people, the change will be made permanent, bringing us into line with our neighbouring community publications, 'Dore to Door' and the 'Bradway Bugle'.


We have always felt that, as a community magazine, 'Totley Independent' should reach as many local people as possible. Like 'Dore to Door' and 'Bradway Bugle', the 'Independent' is not just another advertising magazine. Whilst advertising is crucially important for a healthy financial position, the 'Totley Independent' is designed to engage, inform and entertain our local community.

We are proud of the magazine's 40-year record in publishing high-quality articles, and we do not intend that this will change.

Recently Spotted.....

This notice was recently received via email by a reader. Note Hermes' thoughtful explanation for us simple souls who apparently can't be expected to grasp the complex logistics of parcel-delivery

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Abbeydale Park Bowling Club

This is the time of year when our club starts planning for its forthcoming season. Unfortunately we have to accept the fact that Covid will again disrupt our activities this year. At the moment it is not possible for the club to make any sort of plan for the 2021 programme but whenever possible, we will do all we can to enable some play and welcome new members whilst following government instructions and the guidelines put forward by the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Crown Green Bowling is an outdoor activity which provides an opportunity to meet people, forge new friendships and keep fit. The club benefits from a well-kept green and well-equipped pavilion in beautiful surroundings. Our club is primarily a social bowling club. In ordinary times, informal sessions are run each day in the morning, afternoon and evening (playing groups are made up by members as they arrive) and friendly inter-club matches take place during the season as well as internal competitions for the many trophies bestowed on the club. The season usually starts in April and finishes late Autumn. Previous experience is not necessary and if possible, within the constraints of social distancing, we do our best to offer free instruction and organise practice sessions.

The club is in the process of creating its own website <http://abbeydalepark.bowls-club.co.uk> which we hope will be running very soon. More information will be available from the website as and when we are able to put together some sort of programme.

If you require any further information please contact Liz or Iain Shand on 0114 236 0226 or shandhome@hotmail.com.

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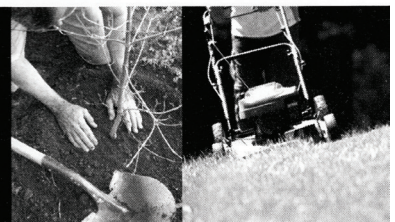
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On the Beat

Happy New Year to all *Independent* readers, particularly those who actually read this column!

I actually think I need to stop writing these columns as every time I sit down to start one at the moment it seems new announcements are made as to what we should be doing/ where we should be going etc. I am still interpreting the latest raft of restrictions but if anyone is having difficulty please contact me and I'll try and answer your questions or find someone who can. It seems to boil down at present to trying to stay in as much as possible only leaving the house for essential purposes.

This ties in with some of the things I was going to mention anyway, regarding reports of youths gathering in various areas across Totley. I know it is difficult but if your child is leaving the house in an evening, please make sure you know where they are and who they are with. They should only be mixing with one other person and preferably not leaving at all. I've had reports recently of gatherings around All Saints Church and the Totley Hall Park as well as on the Green Oak/ Aldam estate and we have been trying to give the area as much attention as we can.

Since having Totley returned to our remit at the end of last year, Bradway has also now been added into our patch. As stated in the last issue, two of us PCSOs now cover an area which also includes Dore, Whirlow, Bents Green, Ringinglow, Millhouses, Greystones and Ecclesall. Please bear this in mind when wondering why you might not have seen us as much, or when making requests for our attendance at non crime/ASB related events. The most common sentence I hear must be the one that begins "you should have been here last week/ month etc.", unfortunately we can't be everywhere at once!

I've also been a little surprised over the last couple of months to see people posting their advisory speeding letters or notices of prosecution for speeding on the local Facebook page as if this is something to be proud of or amused by. I know there has been some debate on the page regarding the regular visits of the camera to Baslow Road and the speeding advisory exercises we have been carrying out from this team. The mobile camera was brought up at the request of the community and has found sufficient evidence of regular speeding to become a common sight. The camera is not staffed by police officers, and the fines do not come back to the Police. At the end of the day a vehicle can be a lethal weapon and speed limits are set to try and mitigate this risk. The posts that appear warning others of the times the van is recording also surprise me. Would you warn people who are about to commit assault that the police may be round the corner? I'm not sure.

Over Christmas the main crimes across our area seem to be thefts from sheds and garages, and items being taken from motor vehicles, although we have also had a couple of residential burglaries. If you have not yet done so please ensure your car keys are not left near the front of the house when you leave your vehicle - signals can be picked up from key cards or remote central locking keys to unlock your car by devices which makes the thieves' lives very easy. You can also buy faraday wallets which act like the RFID contactless card blocker wallets, or place your keys into a tin box or even wrap them in foil to make them inaccessible to these devices. For the house consider staggered timer lights, TV simulators, leaving radios on, anything to put a little doubt in a burglar's head about whether anyone might be in the house or not. If you have alarms which you can isolate to downstairs when you go to sleep, please use them, if not ensure house keys are not left in or near to doors and nothing of value is left in sight of uncovered windows. If you have large areas of glass

you might want to look into security film, a clear self-adhesive film which makes the glass harder to break.

As ever if you wish to contact me you can do so on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or my colleague on paul.harran@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or via the work mobile 07787 881945. Please do not use this to report incidents - 101 or 999 or the online portal should be used for this.

Thanks for reading!

*Adrian Tolson, PCSO 8136
South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield South West Neighbourhoods Team, Woodseats Police Station
Tel. 07787 881945
southyorks.police.uk*

Letter to the Editor

Hi there!

Regarding idiots parking on double yellow lines outside the post office: love the disabled, no problem, but it's the useless idle lot that really gets up my nose. I'm a driver and a walker and often walk past the row of shops there. Love the speed camera on the rise too. Yes - fine a lot of them! Perhaps we can get our PCSO to issue fines for the ones parking on double yellows. Give me a badge and I'll do it!!

While I'm on one - I walk Bertie, my daughter's black poodle, through Gillfield Woods regularly. His garden backs into the woods so he thinks it's just an extension to his garden. I meet some lovely people - and snow, rain, mud, sunshine - nothing deters we dog lovers. But - it's the idiots (how I love that word, it's so right) who leave their poo bags anywhere. Please don't be so inconsiderate. Who do they think is going to clean them up? Don't even bag it unless you're going to dispose of it properly- get a stick and flick it into the undergrowth.

There, I feel a lot better for that.

Lorna M. (Name and address supplied)

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Heeley Art Club

Online Gallery to Celebrate 125th Anniversary

Sheffield's oldest art club has unveiled an online exhibition of early 20th century members work after it had to postpone its 125th anniversary exhibition until 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Heeley Art Club has recently been given a leather-bound book of 42 original works by members, which was presented to Sydney Marsden, the president, on his retirement in 1923. These wonderful works by Sheffield artists will now form part of the club's exhibition in 2021. For now, the club has uploaded the contents of the book on to its website offering a fascinating glimpse at scenes of South Yorkshire's past.

Heeley Art Club, named because many of the original members lived in Heeley, is now based at Millhouses. It is one of the oldest art clubs in the UK, having been in existence since 1895, providing members with a source of mutual encouragement and criticism. The original members were all amateurs dissatisfied with the Sheffield Society of Artists, dominated by professionals running the society for their own benefit.



W.B. Hatfield, 'A Walk in the Woods'

After a modest start in Thirwell Road Wesleyan School, the club quickly moved to Meersbrook Vestry Hall. Over the years the club has had various locations. A room in North Church Street was convenient for the local tramps' hostel, which provided models for a shilling a time.

Over the years the original aim has changed little. The meetings still encourage both the study and practice of pictorial art. The fortnightly meetings are well supported by loyal and enthusiastic artists, and exhibitions are well attended.

At one of the first exhibitions, the walls were crowded with pictures, at prices from five shillings. Dealers were queueing for the doors to open. Exhibition walls are still crowded but with prices that have gone up just a little!

Many of the club members have, over the years, achieved a degree of prominence. Charles Ashmore was famed for his illustrations to Harold Armitage's 'Chantreyland'. When asked why he sold his pictures for as little as ten shillings he said that it was twice what he could earn as an engraver and much pleasanter to do. A road alongside Graves Park is named after him.

In the early twentieth century two members, Arthur Lismer and Fred Varley, emigrated to Canada. They became

founders of the 'Group of Seven', an influential and now much collected group celebrating the Canadian landscape. The Group of Seven — sometimes known as the Algonquin school — were Canadian landscape painters from 1920 to 1933, originally consisting of Franklin Carmichael (1890–1945), Lawren Harris (1885–1970), A. Y. Jackson (1882–1972), Frank Johnston (1888–1949), Arthur Lismer (1885–1969), J. E. H. MacDonald (1873–1932), and Frederick Varley (1881–1969). Believing that a distinct Canadian art could be developed through direct contact with nature, The Group of Seven initiated the first major Canadian national art movement. The Group was succeeded by the Canadian Group of Painters in the 1930s, which allowed female members.

Another collectable member was Frank Saltfleet, whose works now feature regularly in the sale rooms. Herbert Slater, owner of the H M Slater cutlery company, was a first-class watercolourist and a member of the club for 65 years. He was active as a painter and was the club president up to his death in 1978. A wooden seat near the foot of Jacob's Ladder, Stoney Middleton, is dedicated to him.



Herbert Hill, 'Landscape with river and heather'

Other early members include W. B. Hatfield, Tom La Dell, J. B. Himsworth, H. Hill, W. Rawson and Sidney Marsden, to name just a few. Apart from Arthur Lismer and Fred Varley, past members have achieved prominence, including Charles Ashmore, Stanley Royle, Frank Saltfleet and Herbert Slater.

The book of original works also contains a watercolour by Herbert Hill who painted many views around Totley, Bradway and Norton. His artist brother W.H.Hill was not a member but lived and painted in the Green Oak area of Totley.

Dates and venues of the club's exhibition are yet to be confirmed, given the constraints imposed because of the pandemic, but you can view the historic works and pieces by latter day members, by going to heeleyartclub.co.uk.



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Happy New Year

As we entered December things looked to be getting better. Northern's new Class 195 trains were running almost hourly on most stopping services along the Hope Valley. What's more we gained a new stop at 8.39 towards Manchester, non-stop to Edale in 18 minutes. That's a great start for walkers with a wide range of opportunities towards Kinder and Mam Tor. There are many options to return from Edale via Castleton and the valley floor, or walk along the tops to Lose Hill or Win Hill and catch a train at Hope or Bamford.

There's an attraction in itself at the Penny Pot Cafe below Edale station. They've used 2020 to install the most intricately constructed fence portraying local features in wood. Well worth a visit and they're normally open from 9am until 4pm every day. Service is currently takeaway only. The new trains are quicker, longer, smoother and more comfortable than the Pacers that have soldiered on for over 30 years – and they have wi-fi and USB charging points.



Part of the Penny Pot Cafe's fantastic fence showing Edale church

There is a little more positive news for us as we start 2021. Major service reductions came into effect on many routes from 18th January with some seeing cuts of 50%. We appear to have been very fortunate as ours are virtually unchanged. The Northern stopping service remains hourly. TransPennine services remain hourly but are cut back to Manchester Piccadilly only.

A number of longer routes have been split into two separate halves. East Midlands will only be running from Liverpool to Nottingham, but should also remain hourly. All these changes are temporary. A fuller review is under way with more changes likely from May.

It's always best to check train times carefully before leaving home. Crew levels may still be impacted at short notice by unplanned Covid related absences.

Our latest survey of commuter trains in early December recorded 14% of January passenger numbers. Then we needed 6 carriage trains. Now we don't. It's hard to justify two long fast trains an hour so we may see reductions in the length and maybe the frequency of some of them.

Hope Valley Capacity Improvement Scheme

No, it hasn't been confirmed yet. More delay. The December aim passed. January will too. Currently we understand it hasn't been cancelled and it could be approved in February. On the other hand it might not! Network Rail haven't got finance approved by HM Treasury. There appear to be four likely options.

1. Immediate approval.
2. Sent back to be redesigned to save maybe 10-25% on costs - and delay at least another year.
3. Defer for a year to reconsider in the autumn when more Covid effects are known.
4. Cancel altogether.

Maybe it really will be announced in February, another crumb for the north. Unfortunately if it does get approval in February it will be very late to finalise the details of construction. That means all the little details we'd hoped to be able to influence and possibly have improved may not happen. That includes adequate cover and visual design.

We know someone will have to pay for anything extra. Without knowing what is going to be provided we can't know what else is needed. When we do we'll need to see exactly what can be provided, by who and how it can be paid for. Our fear is that we won't have time to consider the need, agree what is needed, and pass round the begging bowl to pay for it, very quickly.

That's not something the railway community is very good at achieving. Even if we had a large pot of local money to hand (we currently haven't) it may be difficult to get it applied.

The truth is that the passenger numbers used to justify the scheme were from nearly 8 years ago when a need for 4 fast services an hour was suggested. That was later reduced to 3. In 2021 demand has changed again, but by how much, and for how long?

More mundanely, Network Rail's surveyors supposedly checked the extra supports placed midway along the canopy on 15th December but at the time of writing they're still there!



Train leaving Hope with Lose Hill in background

Looking into 2021

Crocuses and daffodils are appearing, although a lot of the crocus bulb have been carefully dug out and eaten by grateful small animals! Cherry blossom may be here to welcome the next *Independent*.

In the absence of passengers for trains the need for an enlarged car park has passed and is not likely to return before 2023! This offers new opportunities.

- Come to Dore & Totley and watch trains, learn geography by plotting where they go
- Park and go for a jog along Abbeydale Road.
- Park and try the Sheffield Round Walk through Ecclesall Woods or to Beauchief Abbey.
- Gentle introduction to jogging with short circuits round the car park.
- When they're allowed to open, enjoy a meal at the Summer House or Rajdhani Restaurant.
- When it's safe to do so we may organise or promote regular walks from the station.

Let's be positive. Covid will not go on for ever. We will be able to travel again. Dore & Totley is a wonderful park and ride site for trips into the Peak District with so many opportunities to climb, walk and cycle. We should be able to do that by the time the days are getting warmer and longer.

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

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'Jaws' found in Gillfield Wood

I was wandering around Gillfield Wood on December 7th when I came across something very unusual. I am usually looking up in the trees for birds at this time of year, but having just climbed over a stile to gain access into the wood my eyes were to the ground as I negotiated a fast flowing, full stream descending into Totley Brook itself.

And then I saw it. A largish fish, a Trout, 36cm (14 inches) long. It was on the edge of the side stream that enters Totley Brook. It was just in the water, right on the edge, lodged against the bank, inches from the main flow of water of the brook. Due to heavy rain beforehand, water was flowing rapidly in the brook.

My thoughts went immediately to the fish being dropped by a passing Heron or perhaps brought to the spot by a Heron. But I dismissed that thought because it appeared to be a perfect specimen, with no damage by beak or hook as far as I could tell. And I have not come across Herons in this exact part of the wood before, a little bit too enclosed. It is a fairly quiet part of the wood and not near the main path.

I could not see the side stream being deep enough to enable the fish to travel along it. So, I just wondered if the fish had been in the main brook and got caught in the side bit due to the rising and falling levels of water and it had just been unable to get itself out of the situation.



Now, I have seen small shoals of small Brown Trout in the brook before but nothing like the size of this specimen. I had my own thoughts as to what had happened as I knew a little about the life cycle of these fish but I decided to pose a question or two to a very good friend of mine and Friends of Gillfield Wood, Stuart Crofts. Stuart is a national expert on aquatic life, a specialist on Caddis Fly and a member of Sorby Natural History Society. Stuart's response was as follows:

"An interesting observation indeed. However, this is quite a common sight at this time of year. And you will be amazed at how small the beck and side streams can be where dead fish such as these can be found. Although it is not usually very long before they get picked up by a crow (or similar hungry scavenger).

Your trout is a 'spent' female and she has simply died after spawning. She will have moved steadily upstream during the last few weeks under-cover of darkness until she reached the area where she was quite likely 'born' several years ago. There is every chance she has made the same journey three or four times before at this time of year and after spawning would have returned to her 'home range'. But, on this last trip, she will have been weaker from natural ageing and because spawning takes such a huge amount of effort she has not had the strength to recover this last journey.

So where was her home range? Well clearly we will never know, it could be close by or she could have travelled a few miles. As trout grow beyond the size of the small fish that you have seen previously they get more secretive and often become nocturnal and piscivorous (often feeding on bullhead) and again you would be amazed at some of the

places they can hide away and the large size they can attain.

Brown trout are incredibly adaptable and not all reproduce in these becks and small streams. If they live in larger rivers they can spawn there (often called "main stem spawners") if conditions are suitable and they can even spawn in some lake situations but there is still much to learn about that.

I have said that this is a female based on the fact that there is no obvious kype on the bottom jaw. Males in full spawning condition, at this size, would often have a very obvious kype (a hook on a male's lower jaw) but of course in nature there is always some variation and nothing much is cast in stone!"

Since Stuart replied I have been advised that fish of this size have been seen in the brook north of Mickley Lane by Laverdene Avenue. And someone else has recounted catching fish of a similar size in Oldhay Brook when he was a boy and taking them home to fry. It is funny how one bit of information generates further observations of interest; and yet in all my years in Totley no-one had ever mentioned fish of such size in Totley Brook.

I hope you find this incident and the response from Stuart of interest. May I finish by wishing you all on behalf of Friends of Gillfield Wood a very Happy New Year. And just in case you are taking your children or grandchildren down to the brook to fish you may wish to consider..... A Bigger Net !!

Chris Measures, Chair, Friends of Gillfield Wood

Councillors' Update

Happy New Year and we all hoped that we would by now be in a much better situation but with the return to lockdown it feels a bit like groundhog day! The bright spot is that vaccinations have started in earnest and by the time you read this many of you will have had your first dose.

There have been changes at Sheffield City Council with a new leader and Kate Josephs taking up her post as the new Chief Executive. At the time of writing Council elections are still scheduled for May, together with an election for the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. There will also be a vote on how the City Council is run. At the moment we have a 'strong leader and cabinet' model and the choice will be either to retain this system or revert to a committee system. The latter would involve more Councillors in the decision-making process, rather than just the 10 members of the cabinet who make most of the decisions at present. So election day will be busier than usual!

Planning Applications remain a major feature of our casework. We were delighted when the application for 22 houses in the green belt on Long Line was refused. Had it been accepted it would have set a very dangerous precedent, threatening the future of the green belt around the city. We were disappointed that plans for a very large care home on Twentywell Lane were approved in spite of a strong case being put forward by local residents and local Councillors. We felt this would be an inappropriate development on such a sensitive site. There is another controversial application for a large apartment block on Dore Road in the pipeline and, although the site might be suitable for some housing, the proposal for an apartment block is out of keeping with the surrounding area. We are working with the residents on this one as well as we feel the proposal would have a massive impact on the neighbouring properties.

Support for small business is also a priority for us and we thank everyone who continues to support local shops in and around Totley. They are a vital part of our community and will help us through the current lockdown, just as they did before. The latest round of grants has been announced and more details can be found on the Council website.

Finally our surgeries remain suspended but you please contact us by email if we can help with anything. Stay safe and see you soon.

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Queen Victoria's Rail Travels To Our Part Of The World

It took 43 years for Queen Victoria to take the train to Sheffield. In the earlier years of her long reign it was a case of so near but yet so far - Chesterfield and Doncaster had already been ticked off. But there's no doubt that the Queen took to trains early on and became a seasoned rail traveller in Britain and Europe for the rest of her life.

In the same month as Queen Victoria's first trip by railway in June 1842, the eccentric and reactionary Tory MP for Lincoln, Colonel Charles de Laet Waldo Sibthorp asked a question in Parliament about the "*grave exposure to risk of the Royal person*" when travelling by train. When the monarch used this form of transport, some of the country's newspapers also suggested she was being reckless and that such railway journeys should be wholly abandoned or only very occasionally resorted to. As far back as 1832, Sibthorp had described railways as "*a fanciful invention which may be here today and gone tomorrow*". Nonetheless, the coach used by the Queen for her first railway journey from Windsor to London had previously been tried out by the Dowager Queen Adelaide and then by Prince Albert. It had red and white silk drapes, paintings by Edmund Parris of the four elements, Fire, Air, Earth and Water, and Louis XIV style sofas. Its first passengers had complained of a rough ride and the coach was quickly converted from four wheels to eight wheels to a design by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Queen Victoria was known to prefer travelling at no more than 40 mph and on one of his first journeys, Prince Albert had asked railway officials not to go so fast next time!

The Queen's first train was hauled by a 24-ton locomotive 'Phlegethon', named after one of the five rivers of the underworld, built by Fenton, Murray & Jackson of Leeds. At Paddington, the station had been readied for the arrival. Railway officials and a large body of Metropolitan Police arranged barriers on the platform with a crimson carpet placed across the length of the platform. An audience of elegantly dressed ladies who were friends and family of railway directors were allowed onto the platform. Of this first experience of travelling by train on the Great Western Railway (GWR), the 23 year-old Queen Victoria wrote, "*We arrived yesterday morning, having come by the railroad from Windsor, in half an hour, free from dust and crowds and heat, and I am quite charmed with it. The saloon we travelled in was very large and beautifully filled up. It took us exactly 30 minutes going to Paddington, and the motion was very slight and much easier than a carriage, also no dust or great heat, in fact it was delightful and so quick.*" The first Royal carriage on the GWR was replaced in 1848 with a new eight-wheeled carriage fitted with a lavatory. It is believed to have been the first railway vehicle so equipped. This new vehicle had a disc and crossbar signal projecting through the roof to convey commands to a man sitting in a shelter known as an 'iron coffin' on the locomotive tender looking back over the train. This man would then shout 'Slow' or 'Stop' to the driver as communication cords were 16 years in the future.

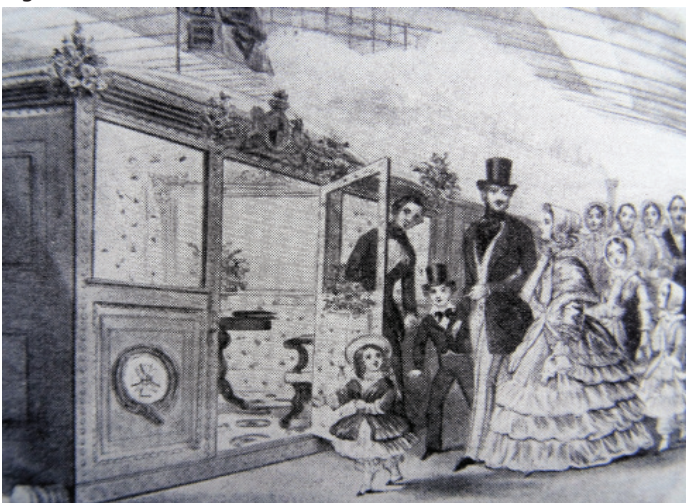
In 1842, the Dowager Queen Adelaide had a 'bed carriage' with its own mattress built for her by the London & Birmingham Railway; possibly the first sleeping car in this country. In 1843, Queen Victoria toured the Midlands travelling in the coach which had been specially built for her, again by the London and Birmingham Railway. It is believed to be the first ever heated railway carriage as it had a small oil boiler fitted under the floor to heat water pipes. On this occasion the Queen travelled through Tamworth and Derby before reaching the end of the line at the time at Chesterfield from where she took a carriage to visit the 6th Duke of Devonshire, William Cavendish, at Chatsworth. Incidentally, Cavendish was the man responsible for the prolific and now widespread 'Cavendish banana'.

While King Charles 1st had visited Doncaster by coach in 1645, four years before he literally lost his head in Whitehall for treason, horse racing at Doncaster in 1806 attracted the Prince of Wales (later King George 4th) and the Duke of Clarence (later King William 4th) who also suffered a bumpy coach journey. The new railway line which we now know as the East Coast Main Line was almost completely opened by 1851 when Queen Victoria and family were due to spend the night in Doncaster when en route for Balmoral.

Cross station. "*We had a most beautiful and comfortable saloon*" wrote the Queen in her diary "*and the whole line is a particularly easy one!*" Her carriage was built of oak and mahogany, lined inside with Indian silk with walnut furniture upholstered in silk. The outside of the carriage was lined with a gold border with a gilt crown and coat of arms over each doorway and painted onto all the doors. There were green silk curtains at the windows. The day before the royal visit, the train was taken for a trial run to Peterborough and back driven by Archibald Sturrock, Superintendent of the Great Northern Railway Locomotive Department, the man who later went on to found and chair the Yorkshire Engine Company in Sheffield. The return trial journey speed was an average 45¾ mph - very good for the time and in excess of what the Royal passengers wanted.

On the day itself, the Royal party travelled from the Isle of Wight and took lunch at Buckingham Palace before boarding the new train at Maiden Lane. It then ran with brief stops at St Neots, Peterborough, Boston, Spalding and Lincoln where loyal addresses from the corporations were read by local dignitaries at each station. The city of Lincoln had been decorated as if for a royal visit, but Queen Victoria did not alight from her train and the people of the city were extremely disappointed. It was strongly suspected that the Queen had recalled the MP Sibthorp's opposition to her travelling by train, along with his opposition to Prince Albert's pet project of the 1851 Great Exhibition which had opened in May, and his vote in Parliament to reduce Prince Albert's annuity - reason enough!

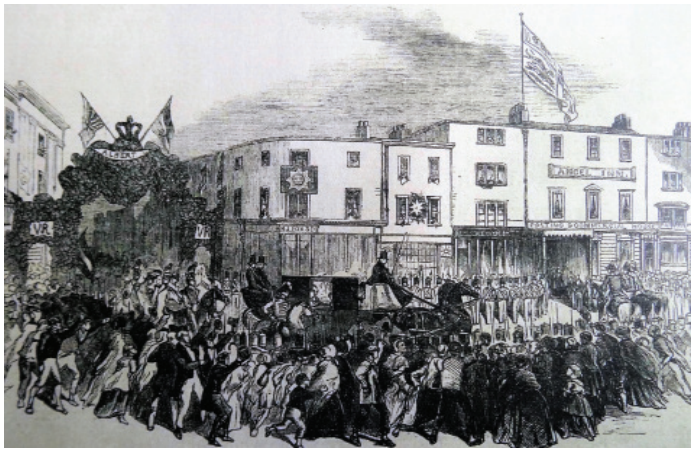
Doncaster was reached at 6.30pm and the Royal train was met by the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Harewood along with the Mayor, Recorder, the Vicar, magistrates, aldermen and town councillors. 4,000 spectators and children from the Sunday and charity schools were grouped in the station yard where they could see the Royal coaches pass through two triumphal arches and into the town. Among the large cavalry presence was a detachment of 30 of the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's own), known as the 'Cherrypickers' or 'Cherrybums' from their crimson trousers, who came over from Sheffield to provide a guard of honour. Sheffield police provided 10 officers for security duties along with detectives from Manchester and Birmingham. The Royal party drove through cheering crowds to the Angel Inn which had been fenced off and was ringed for the evening and night by over 100 infantry soldiers. The Queen found the hotel "*quiet and clean*" and, accompanied by the 25th Regiment band playing outside, had her dinner at 8pm before retiring to bed. Meanwhile, the dignitaries and menfolk had a celebration dinner at the Mansion House before a grand display of fireworks at the



The Queen, Albert and children boarding the train at Maiden Lane in 1851 for the journey to Doncaster

There was a line from Doncaster to Sheffield at the time but Queen Victoria didn't use it. The 1851 visit was made with the Royal train composed of a new engine and eight coaches starting from Maiden Lane, London, the predecessor to King's

nearby South Parade which turned out to be something of a washout because of the weather.



The Queen's arrival at the Angel Inn, Doncaster

The following day, the Queen wrote in her diary, "We rose at 7.30 after a fair night's rest on a hard bed!" She was back at Doncaster station before 9am and the Royal train set off for Edinburgh. The offer of lunch at the York Mansion House had been declined as the Queen wanted to reach Holyrood and take a carriage drive around the Old Town and to Arthur's Seat with her children before the evening. The Queen noted in her diary that she had passed not far from Leeds and that she had a fine view of Durham and its cathedral. She thought that the views of the blue sea from the train between Newcastle and Berwick were beautiful (they still are). After the night at Holyrood, the following day the Royal train was taken to Aberdeen which at the time was the nearest rail head to Balmoral. Prince Albert had bought the Balmoral estate unseen three years earlier.

Up to and after Prince Albert's death in 1861, Queen Victoria became a frequent rail traveller between Gosport (for Osborne House on the Isle of Wight), Windsor, London and Ballater (the nearest station to Balmoral). She was said to generally prefer the West Coast route when travelling from the South to Scotland. More railway companies provided their own Royal coaches although one replacement was rejected as the Queen thought it was "too pompous" preferring the decor in her previous carriage. It became routine for the Royal train to be preceded by a pilot train which ran about 10 to 15 minutes ahead. Once the pilot train had passed, all adjacent passenger and freight trains had to stop and the only trains which were allowed to pass the Royal train in the opposite direction were mail trains. Day and night, railway staff within sight or lamp signalling distance of each other were stationed all along the trackside, and level crossing gates and points were locked to prevent any mishaps. Only once did Queen Victoria have a narrow escape from a rail accident at Forfar, Scotland in 1863 when a goods wagon was inadvertently shunted onto the single line track as her train was approaching, but she was unaware of the incident. Apart from official visits, the rail journey to Balmoral was made in the spring and autumn of each year. The Royal train was stopped at stations along the route for meals as Queen Victoria did not like eating when the train was moving. At the same time during stops she could use the railways' telegraph system to send important state messages. In later life, Queen Victoria rewarded the senior railway managers who organised her many journeys with silver tea and coffee sets.

It was on 21st May 1897 that Queen Victoria, nearly 78 at the time, finally came to Sheffield for official engagements. Her diary records that "The town is not very large and contains no good buildings except the new Town Hall". She had taken the Royal train from Windsor leaving at 11.25am travelling via Banbury and Derby where the two engines were changed. The Royal train was stopped at Ambergate where tea and other refreshments were served to everyone on the train. The head of the Midland Railway's hotels and refreshment rooms was in charge of the arrangements. Tables covered with white cloths were laid out on the station platform with the refreshments which were passed into the train. Ambergate station building itself was decorated with bunting, foliage and flags, and it was arranged that the

Queen's saloon stopped at a place where she would have a



Sketch made for the 'Illustrated London News' of the Queen driving from the station to Sheffield Town Hall

good view of masses of bluebells and the Derbyshire countryside. This stop also gave the Queen the opportunity to put on her "smart clothes" as she noted in her diary. Sheffield was reached at 5pm where the Queen was met at the Midland station by the Duke of Norfolk (Henry Fitzalan-Howard) who was Mayor of Sheffield at the time. The Queen was then presented to local dignitaries before joining her landau carriage in a procession with military escort of the 2nd Lifeguards which took the Royal party from the station to the Town Hall. She noted in her diary that "In the poorest quarters the cheering seemed loudest" and that she passed through "several arches with charming inscriptions" and decorations which she described as "general and pretty".

Without needing to get out of her landau, the Queen officially opened the new Town Hall using a detached lock with a golden key placed on a cushion which had a blue silk cord running to the Town Hall doors. These were slid back once she had turned the key. Old Lord Fitzwilliam, as she called

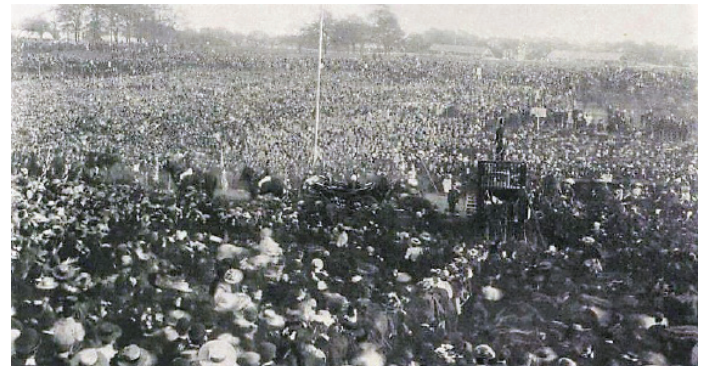


Photo from 'Illustrated London News' showing the Royal landau and crowds at Norfolk Park

him, was summoned for a brief chat with the Queen as she had recalled visiting "his place" (Wentworth Woodhouse) with her mother 62 years previously. She was then driven to Norfolk Park where 50,000 children were gathered, the more tuneful of whom sang a hymn followed by the National Anthem and *Rule Britannia*. The final part of the visit took place at Cammell & Company's Cyclops steelworks in Savile

Street where the Queen received a bouquet of orchids from the Mistress Cutler. From a distance the Queen watched, through darkened glass against the glare, 35 tons of steel being rolled into armour plate. This was for the Dreadnought battleship HMS Ocean which launched the following year and, unfortunately, was sunk off Gallipoli by artillery fire and hitting a mine during the Great War in 1915. A special platform had been built by the railway line at Grimsthorpe from which the Queen was able to board her train to continue her journey to Balmoral. The Queen's train then took the Hope Valley route to Manchester and on to Preston where a dinner lasting no more than 15 minutes was served on the train. The train left Preston at 10pm and ran overnight to arrive at Ballater, 635 miles from Windsor at 8.20am.

Queen Victoria's final journey was in her funeral train which left from Paddington to Windsor on 2nd February 1901 hauled by a locomotive named 'Royal Sovereign' draped in purple. Her white-draped coffin had been brought across London by gun carriage procession from Waterloo station, then eight sergeants from Guards' regiments bore it to the train. King Edward VII hurried the German Emperor and other mourners along as the schedule was running twenty minutes late.



The 'Royal Sovereign' at Paddington station during the 1901 funeral train proceedings

Military bands played Chopin's *Funeral March* until the train had left Paddington and was out of sight. Twenty-one miles of railway line from Paddington to Windsor was guarded by railway staff of all grades who were stationed 25 yards apart and within earshot of each other for the entire route. The weather was extremely cold and the hawsers for the gun carriage to be used at Windsor had frozen solid. The horses intended to pull the gun carriage from Windsor station to St George's Chapel were also affected by the intense cold and had become restive and possibly dangerous. It was therefore decided to have the gun carriage pulled by seamen using communication cords taken from railway carriages berthed in sidings at Windsor – lateral thinking at its finest! Even the railway was involved with this last part of the journey.

Mike Peart

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Christmas is over, the mince pies and wine have added their burden to the number of grams (I should say kilograms) which I must now lose and we have all got to prepare for another disrupted few months coping with this awful disease. At least we had a reasonable time at Christmas, a good day on the day itself with a few of the family, several not too strenuous walks and a nice if cold day in Buxton with others in the family we could not accommodate on Christmas Day. I hope all your plans went as well as you had hoped.

There is very little to report on the G & S society. We had a couple of excellent Zoom get-togethers where a few of us had nibbles and a glass or two. It was nice to 'meet up' and felt like we'd had a night out. As you might imagine, we have no plans as yet for this year although we are determined to try and put on a concert as soon as conditions allow. Meanwhile plans are being made for the 2022 show when we will celebrate 50 years of shows by putting on that best loved of all the G & S romps – *The Pirates of Penzance* – so whatever you do keep a slot for April 2022 free so as not to miss it. We will certainly miss Judy Savournin now she is no longer with us. It will not be easy to find someone to fill her shoes. I expect that Jo, her daughter, will practice and give it a go but even with her talent it will not be easy and she knows it.



The late Judy Savournin in the role of Dame Carruthers with Mike Spinks as Sergeant Merryll from 'The Yeoman of the Guard', our last show in 2019.

It's no wonder this new variant is so widespread with the way Boris opened the gates and let all the Londoners leave in a mass exodus to spread the mutated version of Covid 19 just before Christmas – heaven knows where we will all end up! As an 81 year old I have had to be meticulous in organising our activities but I am not going to lock myself up completely and become a vegetable – though I will be very careful. Being this old may have its benefits – I have heard that I am in line for the vaccine in early January and hopefully will have had it by the time you read this but I will still have to take care until we have this thing beaten. There are still many unknowns including whether you can still be infectious even after being inoculated. One thing I would ask is that when you are walking please make an effort to keep your distance and don't expect everyone else to move out of your way. Do your bit to help others stay safe.

Don't despair. Keep in contact with all your family and friends and keep watching this space but most of all make sure you stay safe.

Derek Habberjam

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Organic Wildlife Gardening

While we have continued to wrestle with Covid-19, the TV programme *Our Planet Now* on Sunday, 6th December 2020, clearly showed that nature is striking back at the way we are living. Carbon dioxide levels are at an all-time high and rising. 2021 is a "make or break year" and we must cut emissions.

Soil absorbs carbon dioxide, but it is easily released when the soil is disturbed. We gardeners need to take it very seriously and disturb the soil as little as possible. The only time that soil needs to be disturbed is when one is planting or removing plants, but with good planning this could be kept to a minimum, and even virtually nil. Digging a pond would cause considerable loss, but over time the support even a small one would give to wildlife would make it worthwhile. However, digging over beds, as many people do, is not good. Far better to leave that job to the worms who, together with the other soil wildlife, will produce a much better soil texture and with no loss of carbon dioxide.



Wild garlic blooming in April: striking in a shaded woodland corner

Planting trees (which absorb CO₂), shrubs and perennials, all of which would be permanent, could be the best plan for most gardens, with natives being by far the most favourable option for our wildlife which really does need our support. However, native annuals and biennials also play their part and if grown from seed or as plugs between other plants, and allowed to seed, the natural appearance of the garden will be enhanced as time goes on. If they become over-invasive, they can be taken out or moved (very carefully!). Popular though they are, bedding plants must be one of the least environmentally-friendly garden plants, needing planting in spring and digging up in the autumn, and they contribute little if anything to the environment.

Along with the trees that I mentioned in my last article, oak, silver birch and hawthorn are three more that are good choices for gardens. English oak supports more wildlife than any other British native tree, including many insects which are a food source for birds. The flowers are a food source for the purple hairstreak butterfly caterpillars and the rich leaf-mould supports invertebrates such as stag beetles and also fungi like oak bug. Bats roost in holes and crevices in the bark and birds can nest in the crevices. The acorns, of course, are food for squirrels, badgers, and deer and, hopefully, slowly but surely and with the re-introduction of pine martens, the native red squirrels will return to every suitable woodland in Britain.

The oak is a very big tree when mature, so will not be suitable for very small gardens, but with careful pruning would be a bonus in many gardens. I am hoping mine will be here for years to come.

Sessile oak tends to grow in hilly areas and supports similar wildlife to the common oak. The bark also supports moss, lichens and liverwort, and both varieties support more than any other British native tree.

Silver birch is a lovely tree for gardens, and supports around 300 insects and several species of fungi including Chanterelle mushrooms. Woodpeckers and other birds nest in the trunk, and the seeds are eaten by siskins, greenfinches and redpolls.

However, while well worth planting and very beautiful, they are not as long lived as many other trees.

Hawthorn also supports over 300 insects and is the food plant for many moth caterpillars. The white flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators and the haws in autumn, which are rich in antioxidants, are food for migrating birds such as fieldfare, redwing and thrush, as well as mammals. The thorny foliage is good nesting shelter and a safe place to retreat to when the sparrowhawk pays a visit! I love these trees, they look so natural in the British countryside, and lovely in gardens too.

The Midland hawthorn with pink flowers also provides good shelter and the haws are a food source for small birds. It also provides shelter for small mammals and nest sites for birds.

In my garden, the summer meadow strip could not be cut as it was always too wet with the almost daily rain, so it is doing what comes naturally, although it was disappointing that we were not able to use our new traditional scythe as was the custom years ago. The wild flower seeds planted last autumn were mostly showing by December and should be ready for planting in April in the various meadows - spring, summer and a pathway through the two.

Years ago, and at a different address, several neighbours were very annoyed at the state of a nearby garden. It had not been touched since the first occupant had moved in and was a 'meadow'. I now know that it would have been much more wildlife-friendly than all of ours put together. In fact, many knowledgeable scientists are now describing most gardens in this country as biological deserts!

Planning ahead for late spring and summer, there is plenty of choice of wild native flowers. The following is a small selection of the 86 that bloomed here last year and are all attractive to pollinators and other wildlife: white deadnettle, red campion, bugle and nettles (which were out of the way, and very good for wildlife, as are dandelions which can be controlled by removing some of the seed heads), lady's smock, wild garlic (with its edible leaves), yellow archangel, wood cranesbill and foxgloves (biennials which provide easy access for bees and are very popular), bird's-foot trefoil, oxeye daisy, red and white clover, marjoram, nettle leaved bellflowers, betony, yellow toadflax, musk mallow, the beautiful meadow cranesbill, and the very popular small and field species of scabious. Finally, the long-flowering greater celandine that blooms from May to September in sun or semi-shade, has small but very pretty flowers.



Wood Sorrel coming into flower - one of my favourites

Seeds, plugs and advice can be sourced from native wild flower producers and at least one is near enough to visit. A brochure is always helpful (although do check that the plants you choose are native as some may not be), but a visit, ideally in the summer, is a good trip out as they have fields of colourful wild flowers - quite a sight - and a lovely cafe! Hopefully, the pandemic will be coming under control and this, and other excursions, will be possible by then. Here's hoping.

Marian Tiddy



Transport 17

There seems to be something ominous about writing the Transport 17 article - the last one saw Lockdown 2 commencing and now we are launched into the third!! However this time there is some sense of optimism at the end of the tunnel. Reflecting on the programme of vaccinations the other day it seemed quite ironic that we could end up with all our passengers vaccinated and able to get out and about once more but our volunteers unable to return because they are awaiting theirs!!

It is hoped that you were all able to enjoy some of the special moments which make the festive season so dear to us - it was almost the Christmas that wasn't.

So now to 2021. In a letter to our volunteers, clubs and shareholders we thought it would be Spring 2021 before the buses would be needed again. We hope this will be the case but who knows? A full year without any service! Who could have predicted that?

Despite all that, there is still news to pass on. Mike Roberts and Denis Dacey continue to keep the maintenance programme for the buses up to date so the buses will be ready to roll when needed. MOTs have been passed, they all have new batteries, brakes have been replaced where necessary and fuel purchased, so they can have regular runs to maintain them all at a cost of over £1000. We were delighted to receive a generous donation of £500 towards this from Dore Village Society. A huge thank-you to them.

We are fortunate that whilst we have not had any income from our Clubs since April 2020, we have also not had many outgoings. The landlord - Andrew Morton - has been generous in not charging us rent for the last six months and the grant payable from SYPTE has continued. However we, like so many others, have missed out on fund-raising activities. This time of year usually sees us putting together our programme of events for the coming 12 months. Last year we managed to have the March coffee morning but at the moment as the future continues to be so uncertain all plans are on hold. Dot Firth has been doing more work on the 'Totley Treasure Hunt' and once we are able to we will get this up and running.

As we mentioned in the last article, we are very lucky to be a Co-op Local Cause for 2021 so if you haven't already done so can we urge you to select us as your chosen cause so we can make maximum benefit from this opportunity. You can do this by going on line at www.coop.co.uk/membership or by phoning 0800 0234708. This will make a huge difference to us whilst we are unable to raise funds in the usual way.

We were also pleased to be successful in our application for £500 from Age UK for a new printer/scanner/copier for the office which will help us immensely.

We have received donations from the following: Mrs Seville, in memory of her husband Richard Seville who was a member at St Johns Lunch Club, £230; Mr and Mrs Cotteril, £40; Heather Belbin, £100; Mr and Mrs Kirkup, £200; Dore and Totley URC, £420; and the Totley Independent £450. We are incredibly grateful for this generous support and would like to say a big thank-you to them all.

Towards the end of December we managed to hold our AGM via Zoom technology with the purpose of signing off the accounts for 2019. Interestingly we had as many attendees for this on-line meeting as we did for our last one in March 2019 when people attended in person. We are pleased to say that at the 31st December 2019 we were in a sound

position financially. Hopefully we can hold an AGM with its usual agenda for 2020 accounts with people there in person later this year.

We were very sorry to hear the sad news that Stella Jockel had passed away, aged 88. Stella was Alan Jockel's second wife and she worked with him to support Transport 17 right from its inception in 1984. After Alan died in 1985, she continued this support and up until very recently was an active supporter of our events. We were thrilled to bits with an amazing donation she made in 2019 which will go a long way towards the purchase of a replacement bus for us. In the last couple of years, as her mobility declined, she has been able to make use of the service herself to go to a lunch club at the URC at Totley Rise. Another thing Alan initiated was the Churches' Council for Community Care (S4Cs) which included the Good Neighbour Scheme. Stella was also involved with that.



Stella Jockel

Born in 1932, Stella grew up and lived in Wadsley Bridge. She loved singing and sang in the choir at Christchurch, Wadsley Bridge where Alan was vicar for many years before he moved to All Saints, Totley in 1975. She became a family friend to the Jockels. Sadly Alan's first wife Barbara died of cancer shortly after the move to Totley.

Stella married Alan in 1980 and became step-mum to his three children Deborah, Cate and David although all were living away from home, at University or starting careers. She joined the choir at All Saints singing alto and became the choir mistress. She was also a member of the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus for over 61 years.

Stella trained as a teacher in Cheltenham. She taught at Carbrook and Shirecliffe Junior schools as well as going on a teacher exchange to Canada for a year. She took early retirement from teaching at the very young age of 50 so that she could spend time with Alan which enabled them to have some quality time together before Alan was diagnosed with cancer a few years later and died in 1985. They travelled a fair bit, something which Stella has done a lot of over the years, following on from her year in Canada, much of it with her friend Jean.

Deborah, the eldest of Alan's children, died in an accident in Iceland in 1986. Cate and David both went on to have two children each, all of whom are now in their 20s. Stella took on the new role of being a brilliant grandma, always delighted to spend time with them at any age. Stella was an

amazing lady, gentle and kind and she will be missed by us all.

We would like to thank Denis Dacey (pictured below) for his contribution to the All Saints Virtual Carol Service just before Christmas. Denis felt it would be an opportunity to raise awareness of Transport 17 and might act as a prompt to people to consider volunteering for us. I'm sure you will have noted over the past few months that we have lost a number of our volunteers so once the wheels are turning again we



will be under pressure to find replacements and we will be talking about this more in the coming months.

We have been approached by the *Totley Independent* to utilise some of our office space to distribute the magazine when it's printed. We are really pleased to be able to help out with this and look forward to the new arrangement.

It just remains for us to wish you all the very best for 2021. I think everyone was hoping for something better than 2020. It certainly doesn't seem to be like that just now and the daily updates do little to inspire confidence. However things were never going to change instantly. At least we know the vaccination programme is on its way, which has to be good news. Days are hard at the moment, it's so important we all think of each other and celebrate the fact that we are all heroes for coping with the difficulties that face us just now. I guess we have to dig in, get on and look forward.

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

Totley 'Shop Local' Raffle

Thank you to everyone for shopping local this December. Over 600 free raffle tickets have been given out to customers. Councillor Colin Ross made the draw, and all the winning numbers are listed below. If your ticket is listed please contact Collette Duke at collette.duke@sky.com or send her a text message on 07723 073415.

Scrivens Greengrocers
Orange 22 (56,603)

Rendezvous Cafe
Orange 54 (54,774)
Blue 6 (56,603)
Pink 76 (56,603)
Green 17 (56,603)

Totley Deli
Pink 40 (37,709)

195 Hairlines
Blue 63 (56,603)

Top for Jeans
Pink 31 (45,774)

Seasons
Green 24 (37,709)

Pomade hairdressers
Orange 22 (45,774)
Shepley Spitfire
Green 2 (56,603)

Rajdhani
Pink 30 (56,603)

Hair Bar
Green 80 (56,603)

Liberty Foods
Pink 5 (37,709)

Totley ironing parlour
Blue 53 (56,603)

Totley Pharmacy
Pink 27 (45,774)

Dore Cafe
Blue 82 (56,603)



Colin Ross making the draw, pictured here with Collette Duke

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all of the local business for donating these fantastic prizes. Keep supporting local business by shopping local!

Collette Duke

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Totley Library

Lockdown

Having reopened the Library on 4th December the Christmas break came upon us very quickly and we were able to open for one session on the 4th January for book returns before we were plunged into yet another lockdown. As before the restrictions allow us to revert to an 'Order and collect' service and to offer continued Public Network access. However, the guidance stressed that customers should not enter the Library and we could not see how we could 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 the older generation and vulnerable people being asked to take extra care of themselves. Activities are in hand to see if a backlog of previously reserved books can be made available for collection but apart from that the decision was made, again reluctantly, to close the Library completely for the foreseeable future. Depending on the potential length of the lockdown and possible changed circumstances further consideration may be given to offering an 'Order and collect' service at an appropriate time.

Defibrillator The defibrillator acquired with help from the British Heart Foundation has now been installed on the outside wall of the Library close to the main door. We hope it will be an important community asset.

Donations Substantial donations have been received recently from Dore and Totley United Reformed Church and the Totley Independent for which we are most grateful.

Plant Sale Outline plans are in place to hold a plant sale in May but it is too early to know whether or not this will be able to go ahead.

Totley Library Lottery Since it began in June 2016 the Lottery has been the main source of our fundraising income and, to date, has raised nearly £25,000. We are more reliant than ever on this source of funds and we are always looking for new participants as, inevitably, there is a turnover of those taking part. 25% of the monies received are paid out in two prizes each month (see below) and currently the first prize is £127 and the second £32. If you would like to join the Lottery please send an email chair@totleycric.org.uk and an application form will be sent to you.

New Volunteers Needed More Than Ever Totley Library for the last 6 years has been run by volunteers and has gone from strength to strength. Until March last 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. Last July it was one of the first libraries in Sheffield to open with an 'Order and Collect' service and one of the first to re-open their doors 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 with 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.

Running the Library is of course not just about Trustees and we would also welcome new volunteers who are interested in being

involved in other tasks e.g. front desk and book processing tasks, preparation of displays, cleaning, gardening, property maintenance etc. Training will be given to all new volunteers.

Like many voluntary organisations we have concerns that not all our volunteers will want, or be able, to return, so if we are going to be able to get the Library up and running as it used to be we must attract 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.

The Future With the mass vaccination programme commencing we can all hope that COVID restrictions will be eased gradually but of course we do not know yet when that might be. We are looking forward to reopening and then to increasing our opening hours. Welcoming back our loyal volunteers will entail a significant programme of refresher training whilst also delivering enhanced training to incoming new volunteers. There will be significant challenges to come and clearly there may be some restrictions for some time but we are confident that Totley Library will once again become a vibrant and active part of the local community.

Latest Lottery Winners In the November draw the first-prize winner was Patricia Brooks, and the second-prize winner was Brenda Fryer. In the December draw, Brendan Cheshire won first prize, and the second prize was won by Celia Stubbs. Congratulations to all!

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

We continue to provide the following services;

- An Order and Collect service at all council-run libraries
- Online eLibrary available 24/7 for library members
- A programme of online events
- Home Library Service

The **Order and Collect Service** is for those 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 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

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Totley Brook Road, S17 3QS

Little did we know that our church building would be closed for a year, but that is looking most likely. We continue to meet via zoom for services, Bible study and social events. All the details are on our Sheffield URC website.

The Christmas messages we put on the church railings got a lot of attention. When they started looking bedraggled we took them down and they were missed! So more messages will be appearing and if anyone would like to add their own message please write it down and put it in the postbox outside the main entrance to the church hall. Alternatively you can email a message to me, Elaine Ferguson at elaineferg32@yahoo.co.uk



With many, many Totley folk we were saddened to hear of the death of Tom Steel. He was a good friend to many and will be missed so very much.

Our first message to our community is "Keep on smiling through". May God bless everyone.

Elaine Ferguson



Happy New Year from all at Totley Primary!

Here at Totley Primary, as with all primary schools across the land, the start of the Spring term did not exactly go to plan! Since the very last minute announcement of Lockdown 3 on Monday 4th January, school has been closed for the majority of pupils, apart from those whose parents and carers are critical key workers or who are vulnerable. The impact of this is that around 300 children have been and will be learning remotely at home every day for the foreseeable future.

Much work has been done to improve our remote learning offer since the first lockdown of Spring 2020. We now employ the interactive platform of Google Classroom, which allows teachers to set work for children and, as children upload / submit their endeavours, for constructive written feedback to be given. In addition to this, teachers are holding 'live' video registration sessions every day so that children can see and talk to their classmates, as well as allowing staff to check in on the wellbeing of children and families.

Children are taught via video lessons, some created by teachers, others sourced from the Oak National Academy and other providers. These are then followed up by live 'seminar' style sessions, where children meet in small groups with their teachers who check and deepen their understanding, pick up on misconceptions and assess what next steps in learning may be. Although we are still in the early days of this new approach, feedback and engagement have been very positive. The Mercia Learning Trust, of which Totley Primary is a part, has been incredibly supportive in the loaning of laptops to families lacking in devices at home and also

the rapid provision of free school meal vouchers to those entitled to them.

There is no doubt this has been a uniquely challenging time for schools, not helped one bit by the recent wintry spell, but the resilience shown by children, families and our incredibly devoted staff team, has been fantastic. A new routine, aided by technology, is now starting to emerge which, as well as supporting learning, is helping even socially distanced friends stick together.

Best wishes for a happy and safe 2021 to all of our local residents from everyone in the Totley Primary School Community.

Take a look at our revamped website for further information about the school, included a new and updated information video for, among others, prospective parents. www.totley.sheffield.sch.uk



Thanks to all of the staff who helped TPS stay open to key workers and vulnerable pupils during the recent cold snap!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

'Totley Independent' Community Donations

We're pleased to announce that at the Totley Independent Community Interest Company has decided that donations this year will be £1350, to be split as follows:

Totley Community Resource and Information Centre (Totley Library): £450

Transport 17: £450

Totley Scouts, towards the cost of the new scout hut: £450

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Ask Your Pharmacist

Covid 19 - Into 2021

The start of a new year is traditionally a time for optimism and renewal, for identifying new opportunities and resolving to seize them. For many this year, such optimism will be in short supply. Unfortunately, it seems we will still be wearing masks, keeping our distance and washing our hands long into the year. While we may be frustrated with these recent behavioural changes, if they help us protect vulnerable loved ones and allow us to see them, surely they are a sacrifice worth making. Although these steps may not offer total protection, space, physical barriers and good hygiene all help against infection spread.

While last year may well be the most frustrating you have had, not all is gloom and doom for the new year. The most obvious source of hope is the presence of a vaccine, although as I write this, there is doubt about how quickly the roll-out can happen. Once enough high-priority patients are vaccinated, we can return to a degree of normal life, hopefully by Easter. We can at last look forward to theatres and stadiums reopening, live entertainment resuming, and a year's worth of postponed parties, weddings and other celebrations finally taking place.

Another positive to have come out of this is the incredible community response, with neighbours looking out for each other and informal support groups being formed. Locally, this response has been phenomenal with so many volunteers helping our community; hopefully it will continue long into the coming years. Such social connections can have huge benefits for people's mental and physical health.

It has also been pleasing to see the reinvigoration of our local shopping network. At a time when local supplies have been so important and reassuring, our local butchers, grocers etc stepped up magnificently. My family and I were certainly grateful to be able to get our supplies efficiently and safely locally. Local pubs, restaurants and shops who offered take-aways deserve a huge thanks for offering some culinary escape in the depths of lockdown.

The value of such shops locally has been highlighted last year, but even in normal times, they offer so much. As well as having somewhere to shop within walking distance, they provide a focal point for social interaction – and haven't we come to learn the priceless value of such meetings last year.

I'm sure I speak for all our local independent businesses in thanking you for your incredible support last year. I'm sure this is also the case in asking for your further support this year and over the next few years. We are already seeing the decimation of high streets,

and this is a process that will be accelerated. In such difficult times, your support is essential if your local independent businesses are to survive. Unlike national chains of supermarkets and pharmacies, we cannot write off losses in a store against profits from other stores. We have all found internet shopping useful during the pandemic, and it will clearly play a larger part in our future lives. However, it can never replace the truly personal service and advice you get from local independent businesses. This is especially important with healthcare. I know the slick marketing tricks of the national pharmacy chains and internet pharmacies promise convenience, but please remember that real healthcare is about so much more than just convenience. Also consider whether you would like to trust your and your family's health to companies who have been reprimanded for false and damaging advertising this year (these include internet pharmacies and some of the high street chains). We have had to bail so many patients out last year when they were let down by internet pharmacies.



Usually this time of the year is when most people are struggling to maintain the usual New Year resolutions of wanting to lose weight, exercise more, drink less and quit smoking. Many of you may struggle to find the motivation for such actions this year when we have so many other restrictions on our lives. However, the adverse effect of being overweight on Covid health outcomes has reinforced how important it is to maintain an optimum weight. Of course, exercise plays a major part in this and in generally improving health. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will be able to do enough exercise this year to effect sufficient weight loss. So, diet assumes even more importance this year. Also, we are having to shift a few extra lockdown pounds this year.

For many people, alcohol has been a regular friend during the pandemic. While it may offer a pick-up, too much alcohol is not only harmful but also contributes a significant number of excess calories.

If you decide to improve your health by losing weight, and would like some advice, please pop in to talk to us. We can advise on changes you can make to your diet. This also applies if you would like to discuss reducing alcohol intake

and how this can improve your health.

If you would like to lose a large amount of weight, or lose it rapidly, we have the perfect solution for you. For over a decade, we have offered Total Diet Replacement as a tool to lose weight. While we have helped many people lose weight this way, it has only recently entered the mainstream, as we start to appreciate how harmful obesity is to so many aspects of health. This programme produces weight loss of 1 stone per month, and even better, this weight loss remains consistent for many months (the most we have seen lost is 5 stone). Total Diet Replacement can be challenging if the family is going out for a meal or at get-togethers, but since these are not likely to be happening any time soon, now is the BEST time to try this programme. It really can fundamentally alter your whole life! It is so effective that it can put diabetes and heart disease into remission! Pop in to see us – we will not only provide with you with the supplements, but we will hold your hand through the whole programme and offer regular advice and guidance. If you would prefer a quick chat about this first, email us on totleypharmacyrepeats@hotmail.co.uk

We have all learned last year of the value of Vitamin D in improving your health. At Totley Pharmacy, we have long championed the judicious use of vitamins and supplements to improve your health, so we are well placed to advise you on which supplements are best for you. Vitamin D is not the only supplement that can improve your immune system.

As well as advising you on the above matters, we remain at your service through this crisis and beyond for any healthcare concerns you may have for yourself or your families.

Taj Singh, Totley Pharmacy

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Who said 'Sleet'?

The beginning of December found me walking across the top of Blacka Moor Nature Reserve amongst the Heather and Silver Birches. It was really atmospheric: the mist was down low and the visibility was poor. Not a sound, and it was a bit on the chilly side.

I had checked the weather forecast before venturing out and had noted that it had mentioned sleet for our area, not snow. Sleet with rain, but here I was, covered in white. Surely the weather forecast was wrong - this was snow falling. It was clinging to my fleece, not melting on impact. And it was still three weeks to go before Christmas.

The following day, December 4th, the same weather forecast for Totley: 'Sleet'. I decided to take my wife out in the car and park at the top of Moss Road so we could overlook the edge of Totley Moor and the landscape below - dry-stone walls, fields, trees and woodland. A lovely spot.



Successfully parked with our mugs of hot coffee, and of course digestive biscuits to hand, we were nicely settled to spend a comfortable hour enjoying the view. But then the white stuff started to fall. "Sleet or Snow?" I wondered. The wind-screen wipers were put to work but within minutes it was white out. Definitely Snow!! Oh, Met Office, you got it wrong again for our lovely Totley.

So, with our editor of the *Totley Independent* in mind, I took this photograph for the magazine and I thought of its readers who just might like to see a 2020 snow scene. So if this photo and this article make the cut, I wish you all a very Happy New Year even if we didn't get that white Christmas.

Chris Measures



All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

All You Need is Love

According to which version you read, the Bible mentions love over 500 times. Many of these passages have become familiar and are often used as inspirational quotes. A popular reading at weddings is 1 Corinthians:13. It sets out what love is (and what it is not). It is quite a daunting list for a couple as they exchange their vows! However, this passage is not about romantic love, the kind of sentiments expressed in Valentines cards or love stories. This is about Agape love. Agape love is the highest form of love; pure, selfless, unconditional love that intentionally puts another's needs above ones own. It is the same love that God demonstrated by sending Jesus to restore our relationship with Him. Love is at the heart of the Christian faith, both our love for God and the love of God for His people.

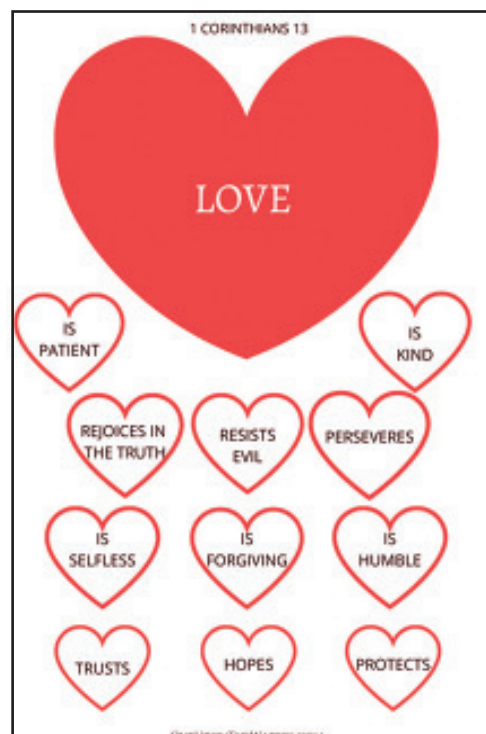
Certainly, over the last nine months of the pandemic, this Agape love has been much in evidence in our community, even if we haven't recognised it as such. There have been countless acts of kindness and selflessness, often carried out anonymously. There have been people who have picked up litter or tidied up the mess left by others. Some people have helped local businesses with deliveries. Groups have been set up to ensure that the most vulnerable get the help they need. Our library volunteers have provided a service in spite of the restrictions. Individuals have looked out for neighbours or made phone calls to the lonely or isolated. By wearing masks, socially distancing and respecting other people's space and safety we show that we care for others as much as ourselves. There will be countless other instances not widely known about but no less important.

As we enter another long period of lockdown it is vital that as community and as individuals, we continue to follow Jesus's instruction to love our neighbour as ourselves. May we all find hope and comfort in the knowledge that someone is watching out for us.

Following the announcement of the lockdown from January 5th, the PCC made the decision to suspend services in church until further notice. They will be available online at www.allsaints-totley.church

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, Totley All Saints Church



Memories of Totley Co-op

I was passing the Co-op on Baslow Road not long ago and my thoughts went back to that shop many years ago when I was in my youth. In those days the building stood well back from the road but eventual road widening changed that and in time the emergence of the supermarkets changed the Co-op and to my mind a lot of what was unique about the Co-op went with those changes. No longer that personal touch given by the counter staff, home ordering, and delivery, etc., The Co-op Society had inevitably to change and so we see today their own style supermarket doing its best to live alongside the giants of the trade. How different it all was in the 30s and 40s.

When a young boy I was occasionally asked to fetch the odd item from the Co-op, to which request my dear mother would add that immortal tag line "Don't forget my Divi number!" So I would go on the dash to the shop, and here I must point out I had no busy roads to cross from our home on Aldam Road to the S & E on Baslow Road. Being young at the time I sometimes gave the wrong number mixing up the five figures in the wrong order. However, my mother soon saw to it that I knew it by heart. Like many offspring in those days, if you had an errand to the Co-op you had not to forget your mother's Co-op number and along with so many of my generation, that number has lived with me down the years. The Divi was all important, each Co-op member had their own registered number and every time you paid for your goods the amount spent was recorded along with that number on the little receipt given to you, a percentage of that amount being credited to your Dividend Account, a useful source of savings and a more personal transaction than stamps.



Totley Co-op, built in 1931, as it used to be

The Branch was divided into three separate shops, the largest being the Grocery Department; the Butcher's Shop was in the middle with the Greengrocery at the top end. Being so young, the whole place had a magical attraction to me; I was fascinated by the overhead wire tracks attached to which were containers transporting your money to the Cashier's office. If you were shopping in the Greengrocery your money made quite a trip, out of the shop it would go, through a hole in the wall into the Butchers shop, and out the other side into the Grocery Department and its destination at a lofty position in the far corner - the all-important Cashier. In the Grocery Department you would see a constant to-and-fro of money containers criss-crossing below the ceiling to the various counter points within the building. I was transfixed with the sight. I longed to pull the cord that set the container on its way - but no, that was done by the counter staff, and how I envied them.

Moving on a few years, Mr Barker, the Manager of the Butcher's Department, a friend of my parents, was on the lookout for an errand boy to deliver on Saturdays to customers in the district. He asked my mother if I would be interested - I certainly was! I would be earning some pocket money; I would have a shop bike to ride; and although only part-time, I would be working at the Co-op. For a time there were two of us delivering from the shop and we would vie

with each other for the best bike. One was a real "bone shaker" with dodgy brakes, the other was brand new - a beauty!

In the winter months I would go to the shop before daylight particularly if I was playing in a football match that afternoon. Having so much to deliver I had to make an early start, carefully loading in order the parcels of meat, etc., into the large wicker basket on the front of the bike. Then off I would go, fully laden, the weight of it making control difficult at times, but I managed. Later my mate left the job, going to work for another butcher I think, so I had full use of the new bike most of the time apart from when the Assistant Manager wanted to use it.



Totley Co-op as it is today

The territory was quite widespread, testimony I suppose to the quality and service the Co-op gave. I delivered anywhere from "the top of Totley" as we called it, on the one side, to the area around Dore and Totley Station on the other. Further afield, after calls on Bradway Bank, I had two deliveries in Bradway Village then down Twentywell Lane to the cottages at the side of the Castle Inn. Then round the back to a little house in the disused brickyard and out the other side along a track to a lone house where lived a delightful lady, Mrs Gibb, a friend of my mother's - both being members of the Totley Co-op Women's Guild.

One occasion I had to deliver to a farm off Abbey Lane at Parkhead where lived the Mountfords, friends of Mr Barker. Mrs Mountford, I can see her now, a typical farmer's wife always kind and jolly would offer me refreshment after my long trek and very welcome it was too! Later when Mr Barker left I no longer had to make the journey.

Mention of the Co-op Guild brings back happy memories; many of my friends having mothers who were Guild Members. And in pre-war days we youngsters attended occasional social events with them. One we always looked forward to was the Co-op Gala held every summer in Graves Park. We had a great time helping out (or hindering) with the stalls and taking part in the organised games, etc., There was always plenty of "pop" to drink and things to eat. How we enjoyed those warm summer days and did the sun really shine so much? We made the journey there and back by bus and tram, a long and very happy day for all.

Occasionally in summer we were taken by train to Unstone Station, then a long walk up the hill to Apperknowle to a house owned by a kindly lady on the edge of the village, it stood on its own down a narrow lane and possessed a lovely garden, all winding paths and hidden nooks - pure magic. We youngsters thought we had found fairy land and on top of that we were served afternoon tea. Later, back down the hill and home on the train - how we all enjoyed our day out.

At Christmas a party was given to Co-op Guild members and their families, it was held in the Co-op Hall on Napier Street, Sheffield, not far from the much-loved store, the S & E Arcade, now just a nostalgic memory. We sat down to a "Party Tea", after which entertainment (a panto of sorts) was performed, followed by party games and to end the night

some rousing carol singing, and then back on the bus to Totley - happy, happy, days.

Now, returning to the butcher's errand boy - they say the bane of the postman's life is the dog, well we had cause to be on our guard too! Because if dogs were around they quickly picked up the scent of raw meat and we had to watch out. Customers' dogs were rarely a problem, knowing the weekend joint was about to be delivered they were kept indoors. It was the neighbour's canines or the odd stray you had to be wary of. I remember one particular call, a house on Sunnyvale Road, walking the path from the road to the side door I was often accompanied by two of the most ferocious "husky" type dogs you ever saw - I say accompanied, fortunately they were on the other side of a stout fence and I was glad of that, they thumped and clattered that fence howling away - it was a relief to hand over the delivery to the customer. I am sure that if ever they had got out I would have thrown the meat their way and run like heck to the bike. I cannot say that I have ever been afraid of dogs, but those two were something else!



*An old photo of Green Oak shops, as they were called.
Totley Co-op is on the right*

On one call however I paid little attention to the customer's small dog, sometimes snapping away as I walked up the path, because I was looking forward to the glamorous lady of the house opening the door to me, she was a 'knock-out blonde' and just exchanging a smile and a few words with her really made my day. On the down side I once left an order on the doorstep (at some calls it was arranged I leave the order in an outhouse etc.) this call had no such arrangement and after getting no response to my knock I risked it and left it at the door, and of course a dog found it and bang went the Sunday joint - I am sure the lady was compensated for the loss and I no doubt got a telling-off from the Manager. I can remember however the reception I got the following week when I once again called at her house. She tore into me (rightly so) for being so stupid, I was near to tears by the time she had finished. That taught me a lesson - I never did it again.

One manager at the shop had a little stepson around five or six years old and if he was around the premises would pester me for a ride in the basket. I would plonk him in the empty basket making sure he was safe then off we would go down Mickley Lane the little lad shouting 'faster, Bob, faster' - how he loved speed! A born speed merchant you might say. However, aware of my responsibility I never went too fast. In later life that lad owned his own Motor Business in Sheffield.

One winter's morning I did go too fast and parted company with the shop bike for the one and only time. In thick snow I had just left the shop with a full load, when turning off Mickley Lane into Laverdene Road I hit a patch of ice! The bike slipped from under me and shot sideways along the road with me following close behind. At least half of the contents of the basket flew through the air and landed in a deep snowdrift. A lady living nearby (Mrs Levick) witnessed the calamity and rushed out to me convinced I was badly hurt - fortunately I was just shaken up and soon recovered. I then realised I had to search for a number of orders in the snow drift, but with the good lady's help they were soon found,

and I continued on my round - much slower, I might add.

In Totley at that time there were at least three other butcher shops: Walkers, Tyms, and Thompsons. Mr Walker ran his shop at the top of Main Avenue and the other two had farm connections. Lawrence Tym on Baslow Road (I see the name lives on today) worked Totley Hall Farm and Thompsons had a shop on Totley Rise with farm buildings on Back Lane; their family farm was at Lydgate, Holmesfield. Colin Thompson I remember could often be seen wearing a clerical collar, why I cannot recall, maybe he was a Lay Preacher; I am sure many mistook him for the Vicar.

An advertisement for one of Totley's butchers, 1959

Butchers' delivery boys are a thing of the past now and largely due to supermarkets and their pre-packed meats; so are butcher's shops, yet there are still a number in business giving that personal touch many customers appreciate and long may they do so. Looking back, how enjoyable those times were at Totley Co-op - a feeling of one big happy family running through all three departments. I remember the satisfaction it gave me doing that worthwhile little job earning my first pocket money and being part, however small, of the service the Co-op gave to its customers.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) had shops widespread the length and breadth of the land in all the towns and many villages, under the 'Wheatsheaf' banner they provided goods and services literally 'cradle to the grave', being so much part of so many people's lives - not so much a shop, more a way of life. Pre-war and for a number of years after, the Co-op Society traded alongside the small retailers in perfect harmony.

Yet I cannot help thinking how things have changed. So many small shops which have tried to maintain the tradition of the friendly local store are being beaten by today's "cut throat" system. It is so sad to see the old values and that quality of life slipping away.

On a lighter note, could it be I wonder, inside the Co-op on Baslow Road in dead of night, the sound of money containers can still be heard threading their way through the building? - who knows! Oh, for the good old days of the Divi receipt. Now, what was our number again?



*Robert H. Carr
(First published November 1999. Reproduced, with permission, from Totley History Group website)*

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, Totley, Bradway, Endcliffe, Fulwood, Ranmoor, Greystones, Nether Edge, Bents Green, Brincliffe, Ecclesall, Whirlow, Abbeydale

Below is the current timetable of activities. **Please note** that all our activities are currently being run on virtual plat-

forms such as Zoom. Please contact the activity provider if you require assistance.

To access or book to join any of the sessions above, see who the session is provided by and then contact the relevant team via the details listed below:

- CWS- Community Wellness Service – 0114 553 7807
- SCC- Sheffield Carers Centre - email Jan- jan@sheffield-carers.org.uk
- SMG- Sheffield Mencap and Gateways - Carers Outreach Project Worker Katie Ward 07447 391437 or contact Ellie on 07735 316347. Email- cope@mencap.org.uk. Please note these sessions are for unpaid carers and the person they care for (created for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities/autism)
- South West Sheffield PKW (People Keeping Well)- Joanna Woodward (Community Development Officer): Joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk or Age UK Sheffield on 0114 2502850
- Josee- josee.rollet@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 07852 291830
- Caroline Cook Horticulturist - info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk www.gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk or telephone Age UK 0114 250 2850
- Kathryn Reaney - reaneywrites@gmail.com 07854751932

In addition, here is the website link to our timetable and all services offered by Age UK Sheffield:

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sheffield/activities-and-events/pkw/>

Joanna Woodward

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gentle Circuits 10am every week-Delivered by CWS - Provided by PKW	Singing Teapot Choir: 2nd & last Tuesday of the month - recommencing March 2021. 10.30am- 11am. Provided by PKW	Carers Café: 10am via Zoom on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. Delivered by SCC	Short Stories: 2pm via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Listen to a story or bring your own to share. Delivered by SCC	Carers Café & Quiz: 10am via Zoom on the 2nd Friday of every month. Delivered by SCC
Monday Coffee Morning: 1st & 3rd Monday of each month via Zoom. Delivered by specialist staff at SMG .	Zumba Gold – 10am every week- Delivered by CWS - Provided by PKW	Strength and Balance: (can be chair based)-10am every week- Delivered by CWS - Provided by PKW	Gentle Circuits 10am every week-Delivered by CWS - Provided by PKW	Sporting Chatter: 10 am on 1st & 3rd Friday of every month - Provided by PKW
Cosy Creatives – Online Creative writing sessions- Every Monday 2-3pm-Delivered by a trained Art Therapist- Provided by PKW	Dore and Totley Rosemary Memory Café: Weekly 3pm-4.30pm- online chat, quizzes, live singers and more for people living with Dementia and their carers- Delivered by Josee- Provided by PKW			Mindfulness - 10am every week- Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW
Non-Covid Memoir Writing – 10 week courses –Every Monday at 12pm-2pm- Delivered by Kathryn Reaney – Provided by PKW				Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing 10.20-11.30am every week. Delivered by horticulturist Caroline Cook- Provided by PKW

Walking the Dog....

A play in one act for the TOADS with added rhymes

Gillfield Woods.

(Also known as Jilly Field Woods)

(And Irvine Gill's Woods)

(And The Woods)

Rony, Sally and Jack are out walking. The Vicar, An Old Head, a Head Eater and some schoolchildren are waiting for their cues in a queue behind a tree.

Rony Time now for an old Totley playground rhyme about a dog!

Jack Stop!

Rony Scab and matter custard...

Jack Stop him someone! He's trying to be vulgar as usual.

Enter The Head Eater

Head Eater I am Someone. I am the Head Eater of the *Totley Independant* because I am the only grown-up in Totley who knows how to spell 'Independant.' But however Independant we are we do not tolerate vulgurity Rony!

Rony There is nothing vulgar in celebrating ancient Derbyshire rhymes as chanted by our own grandparents in our own lost Totley playgrounds. As William Wordsworth (whose great grand-daughter Sally once lived in Totley, even if she called it Dore and went to the High School and is not my Sally) once put it - Scab and...

Jack He's doing his scab again! Stop him, somebody!

Enter An Old Head

An Old Head I AM NOT SOMEBODY!

Jack Ow! Ow!

An Old Head I AM AN OLD HEAD!

Jack Ow! Ow! Ow!

An Old Head AND YOU MUST ALWAYS CALL ME SIR OR MADAM!

Jack Yes sir or madam. But please can you stop Rony being vulgar?

An Old Head WE DO NOT TOLARATE VOLGURITY AT ALL SAINTS!

Jack Ow! Ow sir!

An Old Head WE LEAVE VOLGURITY TO THE OTHER LOT ACROSS THE ROAD.

Jack Yes sir, so can this well behaved girl recite for us instead sir? Only she's called Sally sir and she is from down South where nobody ever needs to be vulgar.

An Old Head CARRY ON THEN SILLY!

Sally I'm Diana Dors, I'm a movie star, I've got the girly whirly knickers and a see through...

Rony Scab and matter custard, Green snot...

Sally He always interrupts me as well sir. It's his most annoying habit. Except when we are in the Library and he always tries to....

Jack Yes now they are both being vulgar and they are always vulgar with me sir, and being vulgar isn't allowed in a church school.

Enter The Vicar

The Vicar Indeed, er, no. By and, er, large. Quite so. Er...

Exit The Vicar

Rony The trouble with vicars
Is they don't wear kni-

Jack He's trying to be rude again! Do another of yours Sally!

Sally (clapping) My name is Elvis Presley,
Girls are sexy,

Sitting in the back street
drinking...

Rony Scab and matter...

Jack We dogs don't do poems because they would only be doggerel. Get it? Ow!

An Old Head YOU ARE TRYING TO BE CLEVER! YOU DON'T GO TO SCHOOL TO BE CLEVER !

Jack Ow again!

Rony Scab and matter custard

Green snot...

Jack Stop him!

Re-enter the Vicar and school children

The Vicar Thank you Sinners. My turn now I think.

If you stay for school dinners, Sinners,

Better set them aside

A lot of kids didn't

And a lot of kids died.

Kids Amen.

The Vicar Thank you, Sinners ! And here is my next turn -

Ma's out, Pa's out

Let's talk rude

Pee po belly bum drawers!

Kids Amen. Ow!

Rony Scab and matter custard,

Green snot pie...

The Vicar Thank you Sinners. I have not had so much fun since I put my cassock on back-to-front on the twenty-third Sunday after Sexagesima.

So, in the spirit of that, here is another revered

Totley childhood chant entitled Here's Bert Shirt -

Here's Bert Shirt

With his tail hanging out

But here's Herbert Hodgkiss

With his b...

Rony Scab and matter custard

Green snot pie

All mixed up...

An Old Head I THINK WE'D BETTER CALL IT HOME TIME!

The Vicar Amen!

Kids Ah women!

Jack I'm off as well. You lot are all more barking than me.

Head Eater I certainly am. I am the Head Eater of the *Independant* and have been publishing this sort of stuff since 1947.

Sally First round on me at the Fleur!

Exit all except Jack and Rony who has been turning out this stuff since 1947 even if he was 80 last Christmas Eve.

Rony No fibs, no fabs,
I've lost me mabs.

Rony looks round to see if anyone is going to stop him this time.

Rony Scab and matter custard
Green snot pie
All wrapped up
In a dead dog's eye.

I thank you ...Ow! Jack, stop biting. Ow! Ow!

Re-enter The Vicar

The Vicar Amen.

Curtain

**Rony and Jack Robinson
with help from Sally Goldsmith**

More about Totley

from Raymond Smyth



gave full information on the occupants of houses, together with the layout of their houses. Baslow road is on the top of the sketch and is called "Public Highway". I find it fascinating to browse this sketch along with the particulars provided as it contains a lot of lost information.

I was interested to read the article by Mick Savage in the December 2020 issue of the Totley Independent in which he described a walk through Totley pointing out interesting features along the way. I would like to fill in a few more details about passing down along Baslow Road from the Old Totley crossroads at the Cross Scythes pub. Very quickly one comes to Main Avenue on the right hand side of Baslow Road. Main Avenue was constructed around the start of the twentieth century and was to be the entrance to a Garden Village. Garden Villages were very much in vogue around the country at this time, with the construction of Bourneville, Port Sunlight, Welwyn Garden City, etc. Building was started down along one side of Main Avenue with a series of so called Villas, and also on Sunnyvale, to be called Park Lane. Unfortunately, the development was not completed and the whole area was divided up and the freehold ground rents, houses, building plots and other land was auctioned off in 1913. The diagram (left), provided with the auction particulars, shows the layout of the area for auction, although the layout of some of the proposed roads did not fully materialise. The houses that were built are shown, along with some particulars of the occupants, together with the building lots for sale. The auction details that were provided

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Totley Scouts

A very Happy New Year to everyone from all of us at 215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group. Sadly, it's not been the start to the new year that we would all have liked as lockdown 3 is now upon us, but with the vaccines now being rolled out we can all look forward to better times ahead.

Obviously, this has meant that, as a group, we are still unable to have our face to face meetings so all of our sections are back to our weekly zoom sessions. The leaders have been working hard to come up with inventive ways of delivering each sections programme and we are all looking forward to seeing the children again.



During the end of last term, we worked on our Navigator Badge, the Naturalist Badge and had some great Christmas parties. We made bird feeders, baked shortbread, played games and learnt about how to identify different trees and plants. The Scouts enjoyed an evening learning how to use CAD programmes and designed their ideal campsite. There were some great ideas and inventive ways to improve the camping experience.

As we are now all stuck inside once more and the children are having to do home schooling we thought it would be nice to share some of our favourite activities that you could do when out on your daily exercise or whilst in the house on those wet, dull winter days.

How about getting busy in the kitchen and make a mug cake. You will need a large microwavable mug, a microwave and the following ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons melted butter or oil
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla (or peppermint) extract
- 1 tablespoon choc chips (optional)
- 1 large mug

(change all tablespoons to dessertspoons for normal sized mug)

Instructions

1. Add dry ingredients to the mug and mix well.
2. Crack an egg and add it to your mug. Be sure to mix it well to avoid any pockets of flour in the corners. Pour in the milk, oil and chocolate chips (if using), and mix well. Add the vanilla extract.
3. Pop your mug into the microwave & zap for 3 minutes on maximum power (1000 watt). Wait until the cake stops rising and sets in the mug.
4. If necessary, run a knife around the sides of the mug, and tip the still warm cake out of the mug and onto a saucer or eat straight from the mug. Be careful that it's not too hot!

Why not make an indoor den and sleep in it for the night! You could use tables, chairs, the sofa, blankets, sheets etc. Bring along your favourite teddy to join in the fun and make it extra cosy inside with plenty of pillows and cushions!

Go on a nature walk and make a journey stick. Journey sticks are tactile ways of recording a journey and remembering it later on. You can personalise your stick with special decorations, and add to it each time you go on a walk. Or, you could have a new stick for each journey you go on. Once you've finished you can use your stick as a prop to help you tell stories about your journey and ask your family and friends to do the same. Use paints to decorate and personalise a stick of your choice (optional). Once dry, coat with a mix of PVA glue and water to seal the paint. Go on a walk and take your stick with you. Find natural items such as leaves, feathers, small stones and seeds, and attach them to the stick using glue, tape and/or string. You could collect the items and attach them once you're home if this is easier. Remember to only collect fallen items.


We always appreciate any support that we receive for our group and, in particular, our fundraising efforts for a new Scout Hut. There are a couple of ways that you are able to support the Group and our fundraising. 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 all our best wishes during this lockdown and hope you all stay safe and well.

Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader





**FREE
FOR LOCKDOWN 3**

**ONLINE ZOOM
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Free Online Great Get-Together Superjam Parties

We are delighted to confirm that following funding from Age UK Sheffield and People Keeping Well, free online Great Get Together Superjam Parties have been arranged.



Jessica Mary Brett

Each event comprises an hour of wonderful live music and we will also be raising awareness/funds for Prostate Cancer UK. These events are ideal for all the family, particularly the elderly and those who are living with dementia. They offer invaluable respite for many families/carers.

The next events will be on Saturday 27 February, at 2pm, with singer Jessica Mary Brett, and Sunday 28 March, at 2pm, with musical duo Stevie Moore and Patricia Lynn. Dates to be announced for April and May – see next issue!



Stevie Moore and Patricia Lynn

If you have any queries, please contact:

Kathy Markwick
Freelance Community Consultant
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