

Totley Independent

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May 2021: View from Fanshaw Gate Lane toward Totley Moor. Moorwood Lane runs from south to northwest. In the centre of the photo an avenue leads to where Storth House once stood. It is survived by its lodge, also pictured. (Photo: Sue Hare)

Is Akley Bank Falling Down?

Roger Hart writes: Totley History Groups list Akley Bank as 'Oak Clearing', going back to 1561, with a path over 700 years old, which went from Beauchief Abbey to Strawberry Lee. I have only known it for 77 years, as I was born in a house on Marstone Crescent, backing onto the wood. My parents rented the house and so who owned the wood was immaterial to them. The path was difficult to walk along, as parts of the Bank had been eroded even then, and was seldom used. My widowed mother bought the property, but not the freehold, for which she paid a rent to a collector in Sheffield.

We moved back to the Crescent on retirement, but not backing onto the wood. Reading the small print in all of the associated documents in house purchase, I found that the property was classed as being in a flood plain! It affected the insurance rating! Further enquiries revealed that the lady to whom I spoke had no idea what contour lines on an Ordnance Survey map meant.

After explaining, she agreed that our property could not be affected by flood unless Sheffield City was about 35 metres under water, and took the risk off our insurance! It might be worth residents checking their policies!

A friend asked me to look over the house at the top of the path on Akley Bank, with a view to purchase, and he was pleased that the purchase included the woods. On my advice about the responsibilities of owning a wood, especially with a public footpath running through it, he changed his mind. This led me to believe that the woods belonged to the vendor. However, various people had raised the issue with me, but I had nothing definitive to say. Some property owners understood that the freeholder of their properties, and the woods, lived in Canada, but then the felling of trees, involving an eight-wheeled crane blocking the road (see photo on page 3), told us that a section of the woods belonged to Hallam University, who put the land on

the market. One small section belongs to a resident on Grove Road - but to whom does the rest belong?

Fencing was erected at the end of the path which stops at the 'accy', (the aqueduct over the railway). The 'Keep Out' sign is in the same print, and from the same manufacturer, as signs warning that the path is private property, and the sign on the gate to the field opposite the Crown - that land, I am informed, being for sale at present.

Why does the ownership matter? The photo on page 3 shows trees which have fallen, indicating a loss of roots gripping onto soil or rock. Some branches were recently blocking the river, and when I called the Environment Agency, they asked me who owned the wood as they needed to recharge the owner. The other issue is the apparent instability of the bank, the ground at the top of it, which was the path mentioned above, being very close to the properties on Marstone Crescent. One (continued page 3)

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Is Akley Bank Falling Down? (continued from p.1)

tree fell a while ago and had to be sawn and taken away, and shale has had to be removed from the river. I frequently notify 'Streets Ahead' of shale slippage onto the council footpath, often necessitating replacement of supporting flag stones.



Removal of Akley Bank trees



Fallen trees on Akley Bank

Is the owner of the woods the owner of Akley Bank itself, being responsible not only for the trees, but also the land comprising the bank?

Roger Hart

Totley Show 2021

As the position continues to improve we are planning cautiously for this year's Show which is due to take place on Saturday 18 September 2021.

We are watching the position with the pandemic but still feel we cannot plan much more than a month ahead at the moment. By the time the Show is due to take place, all adults should have been vaccinated. The situation may change considerably by the time we get to the end of June 2021, which is when we plan to confirm whether the Show can go ahead or not this year. We are working with the school and will observe any restrictions the school has in place at the time the Show takes place.

No changes are planned to the classes that we had two years ago. We will put a full list of classes and the entry form, along with details about final arrangements for the Show, in the next issue of *Totley Independent* for August/September 2021.

It is likely that we will need more volunteers for the Show this year, in order to help us marshal people through the exhibits in the afternoon. Therefore if you can help by offering us an hour or so on the Saturday afternoon please do not hesitate to contact me - my email address is at the end of this article.

Hope to see you all at the Show in September 2021 and that we all have a lot more freedom by then.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com

Totley Open Gardens 2021

Totley Open Gardeners will be opening their gardens this year on the weekend of 10th and 11th July from 1-5pm. It will be the 19th year that we have been running this event.

There will be about 18 gardens taking part, with a great variety of styles. There are gardens full of colour, a woodland garden, gardens with lots of shrubs, very colourful gardens, quirky gardens, gardens with sculptures, gardens growing fruit and vegetables, two allotments and children-friendly gardens.



Entry for the event is by programme, with a charge of £5 per person. Cash only accepted.

All monies raised will go to support the local community organisations that TOG has supported over the years - Cherry Tree Children's Services (35%), Transport 17 (25%), Totley Scout Hut (25%), and Totley Library (15%). We also accept donations to help us raise a good amount. Since TOG began in 2002 we have distributed nearly £40,000.

Two gardens will be selling cream teas, and there will be plants, books and other things for sale in other gardens.

If you have just taken to gardening since lockdown, put the dates in your diary and come along to see our gardens - you will find inspiration, ideas and information everywhere.

All visitors will be asked to respect social distancing, and masks will be required for visitors using the toilets that will be available in four of the gardens.

For more information please contact me either on 07527 929592 or jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

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Transport 17

In the last edition we gave our volunteers a voice and many of them talked of looking forward to being back in their respective roles. As we progress further with the Government's 'Roadmap', getting the wheels turning at Transport 17 is looking increasingly realistic.

We have been really lucky in having Fiona Smith to support us in delivering some aspects of our administration. It was through her contacts with the lunch clubs that we were able to get a feel for when - or if - they were hoping to resume a service. Virtually all the clubs were enthusiastic and positive about opening in some form at some point. Most are looking towards re-opening in June/July when all restrictions are lifted. There was a lot of uncertainty attributable to a lot of unknowns. They all said they needed to know what Transport 17 were going to be able to offer, to help them make realistic plans. It will be fantastic news for all the people who have missed the opportunity to get out and socialise and are looking forward to getting back together again but equally, for many this will be quite a daunting step and the number of people wanting to return is uncertain. It is going to be so important that we can provide a service which people feel safe and comfortable with, and which can help to build confidence in getting out and about once more. Fiona is going to attend the Voluntary Action Sheffield Zoom meetings for the lunch club providers so that we are as up to date as possible with the situation.

There is quite a bit of preparation needed to resume our services and once again we have to thank Fiona for her assistance with this along with a number of members of the Management Committee. We are in contact with the Community Transport Association and other local providers such as Sheffield Community Transport with regard to what we are required to do to provide a safe service. As for all organisations there is Covid Guidance that needs to be taken into consideration and applied to our policies and procedures.

All our volunteers need to be contacted to check whether they are happy to start back, and also to check their availability. A number of our drivers went through the training, which they have to undergo on a regular basis, at the beginning of May and obviously we will have to work with all our volunteers so that they are adequately prepared to deal with any new procedures essential to operating safely. Mike Roberts is making sure that the buses are ready to roll which will involve safety checks and appropriate services.

We already know that our bank of volunteers is reduced, as a number have retired or moved away since we last operated and we need to work at bringing new people on board. We need volunteers for all aspects of our work, whether it be working on the buses, supporting administrative tasks, fund raising or the management committee. As before, if you think you might like to help us out and would like more information or would like to register your interest please leave a message on 0114 2362962, e-mail admin@transport17.co.uk or visit www.transport17.co.uk. We would love to hear from you.

We have continued to strengthen and extend our relationship with People Keeping Well and through that, with Age UK. Joanna Woodward has been so supportive and her help and advice cannot be underestimated. We are looking at ways we can be involved in facilitating some of the activities organised through that network, which seems to grow at each meeting. It is so good to see the wide range of opportunities there are for people to engage in and meet socially with others.

We have not been involved in any fund-raising activity for such a long time but we are now beginning to submit bids for grants to help with running costs and thank Rosie Fry and Jenny Nuttall for their help in this. As regards fundraising events we haven't anything planned currently. Dorothy Firth has already done a lot of groundwork for a local walking treasure hunt but with all the work involved with us re-opening, this hasn't been taken any further just at the moment.

Phil Kirkup has been really busy during the lockdown doing a massive job that has been on the list for such a long time. He has put together a 'History of Transport 17' as Reported by the Totley Independent' using the Totley Independent website's back issues section. He has looked through every edition since 1984, copied and labelled up every reference to Transport 17 to create a file of articles for an archive. It has however created an additional task in that we now want to extend this, going back to the very first edition of the Independent when Rev. Alan Jockel recorded his views on the community and tracking developments which eventually resulted in the establishment of Transport 17. Phil has very kindly agreed to tackle this and I know we are going to end up with a fantastic resource. Thank you Phil - it is something you and we can be very proud of.

Finally, we have only recently heard that one of our longstanding and popular volunteers, Tony Bradbury, sadly passed away quite suddenly last November. We apologise for the late acknowledgement of this. He volunteered as a passenger assistant for some 20 years, joining us at the age of 60 when he took early retirement from the printing industry.

Sometime later when Colin Price, another long standing and well-respected volunteer, joined Transport 17, he worked with Tony as part of the team supporting St Marks in Broomhill and at St William of York, Ecclesall Road (although initially this was a club in the community centre off Greystones Road). The St Marks people were very sorry when Tony retired, and we believe presented him with a gift as a token of their appreciation. Colin missed him greatly when he had to give up Transport 17. Tony could also be relied on to help out on other runs as was required. He had a great empathy with the aged and especially those who are infirm as his wife had been very ill and spent her last days in a nursing home at Beauchief.

Tony and Colin Price worked together for 10 or more years and good colleagues became great friends. Tony shared Colin's interest in old motor cars and they travelled together for several years in Colin's old Rover 100 (pictured below) to the RAF museum in East Kirkby, Lincolnshire as Tony had been in the RAF, notably involved in the Berlin Airlift. Tony was also an ardent member of a model boat club who met in Millhouses Park on Sunday mornings. It was very much a social occasion with coffee, breakfast and much chatter, but they had some very serious competitions.



Tony Bradbury



He was a very kind and gentle man, thoughtful and patient. He lived on our patch initially at Grove Road but moved to the Crystal Peaks area for convenience in retirement. He was an inspiration in how to do the job well, quietly and patiently. He never lost his temper and was always good tempered and good company. Transport 17 were lucky to have him. Thank you, Tony.

Sandra Longley, on behalf of the Management Committee

Ask Your Pharmacist

Travel And PCR Testing

This will be a strange year for holidays trying to guess which countries will be which colour at a projected time in the future. Being flexible will help, but this isn't always possible.

Recent announcements have made it clear that hassle-free holidays will not happen this year. An understandable desire to keep on top of Covid (and stop spread of new variants) means that travel will necessitate proving you are Covid negative, even if you are vaccinated. Conditions imposed will depend on your destination - we're all aware of red, amber, green countries.

Destinations are categorised by the Department for Transport (DfT) according to the status of the pandemic locally, considering vaccination and infection rates, and prevalence of variants of concern.

While passengers returning from green-listed territories will not need to quarantine, they will need to take a PCR test on or before day 2 of their arrival in the UK. Those from amber destinations must self-isolate for ten days and take PCR tests on days 2 & 8 - they can end self-isolation early with a PCR test on day 5. Passengers from red-listed countries must submit to hotel quarantine for ten days (costing £1,750). You will also need a PCR before travelling. Most countries insist this is within 72 hours of travelling, but some insist it be only 48 hours.

Last year, we saw a huge demand for a PCR service. Given how much these can add to the cost of a holiday, it's not surprising so many people wanted the assurance of a local service from a reliable, professional provider. This proved to be a very successful service with hundreds of satisfied patients. We're very proud that we ensured every single patient got their results in time. Given the numerous horror stories we've heard of people being let down (usually online services) and the challenges of Christmas post, we're delighted that we didn't let down even a single patient.

Demand for this service is proving even higher this year; not surprising as we're all desperate to get away. We're delighted to announce that we are confident we can provide an even better service this year. We have worked very hard to find a partner who can provide them at a lower price and are delighted to be able to pass this saving on to you.

Tests are now just £95 each!

As well as a hugely competitive price, we're delighted that this company provides reliability. Our greatest concern is to ensure the best service for our customers. This company was the third to be approved for PCR testing and has completed more than 2 million tests so far. They have invested £2.5million in a state-of-the-art lab to complete tests and have a huge capacity. This experience provides us and you with peace of mind.

As many travellers have found, relying on the Royal Mail or Couriers is risky. Therefore, we have arranged a dedicated driver from the lab who will collect samples from us daily and deliver from pharmacy to lab. The driver will serve only our pharmacy and has no other stops on the way. There will also be a back-up courier at the lab in case of breakdown. This ensures reliability of delivery. You have the added security of being able to contact or visit us with any concerns - unlike so many online firms. We will also help you work out what is the best time for you to have your test to tie in with the regulations.

This dedicated delivery service means results are usually received within 6 hours of the lab receiving a sample. This means that we can arrange same day results.

We have also been asked about tests for day 5 early release, and days 2 & 8. As we have faith in our new partnership, we are delighted to be able to now also offer day 5 release tests. These are also just £95 and results can be the same day. Day 2 & 8 results are different, and as yet, we have not found a partner that we trust enough. We are working hard to be able to provide this service - keep an eye on our website totleypharmacy.co.uk and facebook.com/TotleyPharmacy for updates.

If you are interested in any of these services, please visit totleypharmacy.co.uk/covid-19-testing-services-in-totley to make a booking or send us a query.

Tajinder Singh, Totley Pharmacy

Letter to the Editor....

It is interesting to see what some people have done during the pandemic for the benefit of others.

There has been a lovely display of daffodils along the verge, on the left hand side of Baslow Road, from just past the end of the houses as you leave Totley, up to the Bus terminus.

Having made a few discreet enquiries we understand, from the local farmer, that they were planted in September 2020. There were a few hundred flowers so it will have taken the person who planted all the bulbs quite a few hours.

Can we just say on behalf of Totley residents and anyone else who has driven on Baslow Road out into Derbyshire, in April 2021, a heartfelt thank you, for cheering us all up.

Tina and Mick Warwick

....and a Poem from Lockdown

Let me tell you I am not a Domestic Goddess,
Never was and never will be but since lock-down my house has never been so clean.

In fact I've always thought, and I know it's judgemental of me
That people who love cleaning must be off their trolley!
So at first I thought, sort clothes in the wardrobes. That definitely needs doing.

I got the hang of that, great so I kept on going.
Then I decided to get down and get dirty and give everything a good scrub.

Brushes and clothes and lots of lather in my bucket and a rub-a-dub-dub.

Tops of doors, skirting boards,
ledges and architraves.

Getting in those corners and round those bends to where all that dirt lives.

I've missed a bit, here give me the Jif

Don't want unpleasant odours or a nasty whiff.

In nooks and crannies there's spiders and flies,
Behind the sofa where a wood-louse dies.

Up the step-ladders, those awkward places to reach
Will soon be spick 'n span with Cillet Bang and bleach!

Out comes the long-handled broom for coving and ceiling.
Gazing up at cobwebs isn't very appealing.

Now Dyson has become a very good friend of mine

And I like to get him out from time to time.

With his whirr, vroom and bzzz he accompanies me singing
We make such a noise I can't hear the phone ringing.

You must remember Kiwi and Cherry Blossom.

Or are they from a bye-gone age most people have forgotten?
Not me, you can see, all my shoes and boots are like new,
you'd think I'd just got 'em!

Cleaning the leaves on my plants is therapeutic in one way or another,

The before and the after my plants all recover.

My cheese plant's so healthy, I polish his leaves with mayonnaise.

I read it once somewhere when they were all the craze.

And do you know who's under my sink? Yes it's Mr Sheen.
He's special, like no other, makes everything come up SO clean.
I give him a little squeeze, press his nozzle. What a spray!

I love the thrill of it all, I just get carried away.

He's my naughty secret, my guilty obsession.

He's a must for the dust. The rust goes bust. It's my lust to be his possession.

To get into tricky places where really no-one sees.

I have to get down on my knees.

I'm so grateful that I can get down there

So whilst kneeling I say a little prayer.

Thank-you God.

Lorna Marshall



Totley Scouts

215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group

We are back!!!! Our face to face meetings have resumed again after a long year and we are so happy to see all our young people again. The children are really pleased to be back and it is great to be Scouting once more.

All the sections are full and most have increased in size since returning. We have lost a couple of leaders however, so we are in quite desperate need for some new volunteers to come along and join us to help run our meetings. In particular we need a Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Leader, an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and some help with Cubs. If you think you would be interested in joining our busy and vibrant group please do get in touch. We can give you more information and you would be welcome to come along and see what we are all about.



Due to the Covid guidelines still in place we are trying to hold most of our meetings outdoors, although indoor meetings are allowed and that is what we do when the weather isn't on our side.

The sections have all got great programmes planned for the next few weeks and we are all keeping our fingers crossed that the weather warms up a little and stays dry for us.

In particular, we are looking forward to getting our fundraising moving again. Our poor hut is definitely looking shabby now and we are keen to get plans for a new hut moving again now that restrictions are easing.

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 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.

Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader
hallamadccubs@gmail.com

Totley Scout Group Fundraising Tote Bag

Would you like to purchase one of our lovely reusable tote bags and help us raise vital funds for our new scout hut appeal?

These lovely tote bags are made from 100% cotton and feature a contrasting handle in black. They are hand embroidered in a deep purple with the wording 'I'm supporting my local scout group' and feature the name of our group.

The tote bags cost £10 and 50% of the money will go straight back to the group and into our fund for the new scout hut.



If you would like to purchase one of our lovely bags please contact Sue Bridgens on sue@thewindswepttree.co.uk or you can send a message through our website on our contact us page www.215thtotleyscouts.co.uk. Alternatively please call 07802 588649.

Thank you for your support!

Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

Hello everyone! I hope that this finds you all well!

I am very happy to tell you that TOADS are hoping to produce a play in November! As you can imagine after all this time, we are raring to go! More details soon.

Meanwhile TOADS have been meeting via Zoom every Tuesday evening for quizzes, chats, play readings, reminiscences etc. During one of these events Jeff Bagnall, who many of you will know as our front-of-house manager, ticket secretary, set designer and builder, and all-round general factotum, regaled us with back-stage stories. It was so interesting that Jeff has to given me permission to present it to the local publications. His tales are in this issue – see page 11.

I hope you enjoy his memories as much as we did.

Anne Bettridge



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In the street and covered the
factory chimneys I could see them
from about a third of them, but
three would have been lost from the
air had not been the smoke of
smoke (Oswell 1977)

Images of Sheffield

2. Fightin' Talk

"Sheffield, I suppose, could justly claim to be called the ugliest town in the Old World... Once I halted in the street and counted the factory chimneys I could see; there were thirty-three of them, but there would have been far more if the air had not been obscured by smoke."

This is the quote in the middle of the picture. It comes from 'Wigan Pier' by George Orwell. It's probably not an image that sits well with the modern Sheffield. My Mum tells me that when she was younger the factories used to close for two weeks in July to allow for cleaning (factories and workers alike one might assume). Apparently the air quality in parts of the city improved exponentially for that fortnight. Perhaps it's become difficult for us to imagine how a city could become so subject to the ebb and flow of one aspect of life, people and place harmonised to the sound of a hammer forge, as Sheffield was not so long since. It's interesting that these days many people still take their holiday around that time of the year but nothing seems to change in the city, as it did back then.

I wonder if the air quality improves in parts of London when bankers take their summer breaks?

Photo and text: Simon Deeks



All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

Every little helps

The subject of litter is guaranteed to get people talking. Recent media coverage of the mess left behind in local parks and on beaches sparked much debate. Make no mistake littering is anti-social and dangerous and something that most of us are appalled by. Here in Totley, we have a wonderful team of volunteers who regularly pick up litter and their hard work helps to make our local area so much nicer to live in. It would be even more wonderful if there was no litter and they were not needed at all.

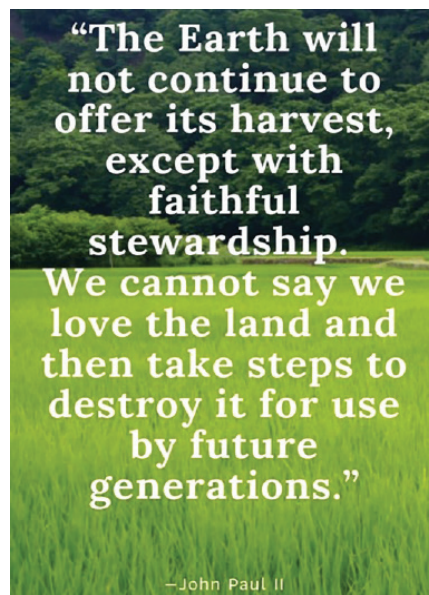
Environmental issues are a hot topic at the moment, locally, nationally and internationally. The past year of global lockdowns has demonstrated the need to step up our efforts to reduce the impact our daily living has on both resources and the environment. None of this is new and many people have long been keenly aware of how our consumption of resources has resulted in pollution and climate change. The restrictions we have been living with for the last year have given many more of us the chance to think about what we really need rather than what we want. It remains to be seen if the world reverts to its old ways as life starts to return to "normal".

At All Saints over the past few weeks we have had a series of teaching about the environment and the impact we are having on it. As Christians, we believe that we are stewards of God's creation and as such, should live in a way that sustains and treasures the earth for future generations. The Bible has much to teach us about the bounty of creation and God's gracious provision.

That is not to say, however, that people of other faiths or none are any less concerned about living in harmony with nature. Indeed many champions of environmental issues would claim no faith allegiance at all. This is an issue for the whole of humanity.

There are no easy answers and many contradictions in the way we live our lives. As individuals we each need to decide what (if anything) we need to change to reduce the impact we are having on the environment. Many do not have the

luxury of choice. Sadly, some sustainable options are way beyond the means of millions of people. And whilst we may not drop litter and are outraged at those who do, there might be other simple changes that we could make to the way we live. It may be a small thing, but as the saying goes "Every little helps."



As yet no date has been set for the church to reopen but services are available online every week at <https://www.allsaintstotley.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 email 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



Totley Scouts lottery

We urgently need to raise funds to build a new hut in the next couple of years. Could you help our fundraising by joining our lottery?

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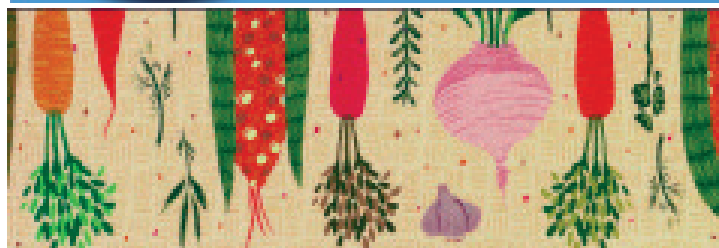


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Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

It's not just about acting, you know!

by Jeff Bagnall

Some of you will know me as 'the man who builds the scenery' or 'that bloke who stands at the door for every play and constantly moans that you haven't left the promised tickets for customers who have had to blag their way in' but one or two of you will know that I have been known to act as well - but only in extreme circumstances.

Take *For Better, For Worse* in April 1991. This was a complicated setting involving one scene set on the apron with curtains masking the main stage which was the set for the rest of the play. The apron scene was deliberately kept simple and represented the lounge of a house: everything on the apron had to be struck in a short break. The main scene



'For Better, for Worse' (1991)

was an empty flat which was let by a dodgy estate agent to a young couple. Subsequently all the furniture was brought in by two removal men and this included a bed, a pouffe, a standard lamp, two tea chests, a step ladder, a settee, two armchairs, a dining table, a kitchen cabinet, a wardrobe, a sideboard, a bookcase and two dining chairs. All this furniture had to be kept in exactly the right place backstage and in the dressing room so that it was ready to come on in order. A choreography list was pasted on the wall outside the kitchen and no less than 11 members of the cast and crew were involved in moving bits and pieces on and off stage etc. etc. And, of course, the entire process had to be reversed at the end of the play so that the stage was set for the following evening. So a lot of organising and building work was required by yours truly, capped off by a request from the director (or first removal man as he was known) in the form of a politely worded request 'would you be prepared to play the second removal man?' Fortunately, very little dialogue was involved and revolved principally around repetition of the phrases uttered by 'the boss'.

Moving on 18 months and I was faced with a request to play the Lord Chief Justice in the preface to *Night Must Fall* by Emlyn Williams. Again this was a scene played out on the apron with the judge sitting behind a large desk to give the judgement on a case which was the core of the production. The director was horrified when I refused to learn the part but if you have ever been involved in a court case, and I hasten to add that my part was as a juror, you will know that a judge always READS his judgement, so as to avoid any errors. As I was also stage manager for the production my costume was a waist-up job, high wing collared shirt, sumptuous red robe and a full bottom wig (often mistaken for a Dolly Parton because it was a cheap hire and you only get what you pay for) with my working clothes below as they would be hidden. In an idle moment a member of the cast was heard to observe that 'we all know what those judges wear under their robes' and mention was made of suspenders and stockings amidst much merriment from the company.

Now said member of the company was playing a very serious part of a lady in a wheelchair and she had to be just offstage at the beginning of the play proper so one evening on his way to the judge's chair, the learned judge discarded his jeans, played the prologue then exited past the lady in the wheelchair pausing only to throw the robe aside in full flasher mode to give her quite a start. Touché, Lovely Anne.



'Night Must Fall' (1993)

I was persuaded to tread the boards again in 1998 as Edward, a faded actor with a drink problem in *Kindly Leave the Stage* - a part which required that I churn out great chunks of King Lear. I got that part through merely sitting in at early readings and reading the part. The director was impressed and insisted that I had done Shakespeare before. 'Not so' said I to which he rejoined 'but you read it so well'. I pointed out that anyone can read long chunks of the bard's work if they only pay attention to the punctuation. Trouble was, I got the part which was fine until he asked that my make-up should make me look 20 years older. Thank you my dear wife for showing me how to apply that make-up and thank you Sarah for spraying my hair grey every night. It took three lots of shampoo every evening to get rid of it. And it was all fine until an over-zealous stage manager tried to clear a sticking main tab by pulling the cord very hard - apparently you could hear the runners popping off the track in Millhouses. Picture the scene: it is the main interval, an elderly actor (in full costume and make-up) enters with step ladder, climbs said ladder and proceeds to sort out the curtain and its track. It was probably only about 10 minutes but it felt like a lifetime. It looked OK so down the ladder to test the curtain which thankfully worked. After a second test to make sure all was OK the audience broke into spontaneous applause - you will be pleased to know that I took a bow before exiting Up Stage Right for a well-earned cup of tea.

I don't remember which year it was but I was certainly still at work, so it is over 25 years ago. It was in the days before we had the sophisticated lighting equipment which we enjoy today, all of which, incidentally, was researched, specified and acquired by Mike who so ably operates the equipment these days. I am talking of the days when the Stage Manager had a slightly different job. Not only would I have to make sure that everybody was ready for their entrances etc. but the lighting man would often say 'I can't be there for the production but it is not a difficult lighting plot so you can do it from the side of the stage'. Our quite small lighting control board would be perched on the side of the stage where it was operated by the Stage Manager through the hole for the curtain cords - in those days the hole was about 15 inches square. OK, we can cope with that. The Stage Manager was also responsible for sound effects and incidental music which was produced on a tape deck mounted on a box under the apron - I would record each separate instance on a blank tape with a lot of dead run out after the required noise sequence. Everybody prayed that I would remember to turn the tape off before it produced embarrassing noises.

Anyway, for whatever play we are talking about, the director commented that the incidental music was very nice but could I just fade it down as the curtains are opening. The dilemma we now had is that you need two hands to operate

the curtain with no means left to operate the controls on the tape deck and I suspect that I probably mentioned this fact quite forcibly. Undaunted the director decided that she would operate the tape recorder herself and it is an abiding memory that at the start of the play and after the interval I had to operate the curtain by standing with my legs wide apart whilst a lady of uncertain age knelt on the floor between them and operated the tape deck. Whilst that may sound a little funny there was a funnier corollary. Apparently after the initial request I was heard backstage chuntering on about the demands made by directors. In this case, operate the curtains, control the lights and make the sounds effective. I am told that I opined that if I stuck a broom in my backside I could sweep the stage at the same time. The very next day a kind member of the cast presented me with a small gift and suggested that it may ease my problems which is why, to this day, there resides in my garage a small jar of Vaseline petroleum jelly.

I suppose that one of the ways in which I have made my mark at TOADS is the time and effort which I have put in to create scenery and scenic effects so that our players have the best possible backdrop for their acting. Over the years I have had assistance from many others and I like to think that I have learnt new techniques and methods from all of them whilst occasionally injecting my own ideas. Chief among those would have been Paul Pratt, Daniel Hines and Richard Brook and latterly, largely through earnest discussion as the 'kitchen committee', Mike and George. The word perfectionist has been bandied around over the years but if I have been fastidious and/or over-zealous in my quest for authenticity and realism I trust that the Society has benefitted from my efforts. So where do I begin now?

It is 2002 and we are presenting *A Class of their Own*. Whilst discussing the set with Monica, who was directing,

she mentioned that she would like to have a proper country kitchen you know, a Belfast sink with draining boards and an AGA. Oh, yes, the sink would have to have running water



etc. I started with the Belfast sink and the unit to support it. Daniel agreed to do the plumbing which included a header tank above the scenery which, of course, had to be refilled every night. So that was one problem solved but we still had the AGA to sort out. I did some research and started to think on the lines of approaching AGA for some illustrations I could use. By chance I met a friend who asked me how the new play was coming on so I told him of my woes about the AGA. 'Oh', he said. 'would it help to come and look at ours and perhaps take some measurements'. I jumped at the chance and discovered that his AGA was one of the small ones ideally suited to our stage so measurements were taken. A couple of days later I was busy doing some preliminary drawings when the doorbell rang to disclose my friend with the AGA. 'We had a film in our camera which needed developing but hadn't been used up so we took some pictures of the AGA for you'; those are the kind of friends you need. I got on with my work and the play was a success as usual but it was only at pay-in night that a comment was related to me. Apparently a member of the audience spoke to a cast member and remarked 'How on earth did you get that AGA on stage, they are bloody heavy?'. I believe that the cast member had the presence of mind to retort 'Oh, Jeff just carried it up onto the stage'.

Also in 2002 we presented *Young Wives' Tale* for our 50th Anniversary. The play was set just after World War II and demanded a set in keeping and lots of fixtures, fitting and properties of the period. A museum (Sheffield Heritage Museum on Ecclesall Road - unfortunately now defunct) helped a bit, as did my friend with the AGA who supplied me with a small box containing a quantity of round pin plugs

and sockets of various sizes. What we couldn't easily source were baby's nappies, a clothes horse and an ironing board. Nappies were easy, I found the towelling in a shop in Attercliffe and the ladies of the company hemmed them into squares. What we didn't foresee was that the young lady playing the wife had only ever been used to disposable nappies - a quick lesson folding nappies from some older members of the company sorted that one. The clothes horse



'Young Wives' Tale' (2002)

was knocked up in an afternoon but the ironing board was a bit trickier. Using some basic measurements from a modern board the required item was made and suitably 'aged' but the real fun was watching the actress trying to erect and/or dismantle said ironing board. If you have ever seen one of those comedy sketches where somebody tries to set up an old-fashioned deck chair you will know what I mean.

We digress now into the world of door handles. The set is all finished, the technical run through is under way when the action pauses. Director calls out to actress, why haven't you come on? Actress replies that she cannot open the door. Director shouts to Stage Manager, she can't open the door, Stage Manager says have you turned the handle to which actress comments 'Oh, does it work?'. On another occasion an actress had a magnificent exit through a pair of double doors up-stage centre. She gave her line, flounced through the doors, turned and grasping both handles, forcibly slammed shut the double doors. 30 seconds later the actress appeared before me with both hands full of door knobs, 'Er, they came off! Fortunately, the people still on stage were able to exit as on this occasion we had used ball catches and the handles were dummy and fixed separately on each side of the doors.

These days when we have telephones on stage we are fortunate to have Mike at the rear of the hall to operate the appropriate sound effect and kill the ringing as required. In my early career as a Stage Manager I was required to ring a bell off-stage so that it sounded like an old-fashioned double ring telephone; the ringing should stop when the telephone is answered. Imagine the scene, Stage Manager rings telephone, actor approaches 'phone, actor places hand on handset, SM stops ringing, actor takes hand away. There are various combinations of this including the actor standing between the 'phone and the SM's station so that the latter can't even see what is going on. Cue the adaptation of a real phone so that the bell cuts off as the handset is lifted!

I mentioned earlier that the Stage Manager was usually called on to operate lights as well as sundry other duties. In 1999 we presented *No Love Lost*, a play written by Rony Robinson. Our lighting man, not Mike I hasten to add, decided that he would not be available for the performances so he just gave me a list of cues and left me to it. Somebody else was pressed into service for curtain opening, scene setting, etc.

and I got light and sound; operating from behind the flats with sight of the stage through a window. The play was in two parts, the first went from A to Z in time and the second from Z back to A; with some 50 lighting cues in each half. The interval required a trip to the rear of the hall to refocus a follow-spot to another section of the stage. Because we couldn't open the curtains to do this I discreetly fastened a safety pin on the house tabs – worked every time.

The real problem came in the technical rehearsal. The very first scene consisted of a number of people on stage waiting to hold a surprise party for the owner. Two actresses were keeping watch out of the window for said owner and on sight of him they light to be killed darkness (I did then, for effect, although this had for in rehearsals. on and tried the which point the lights should have come up and the party started – but it stayed dark until everybody realised what the problem was – if you drew the curtains over the window the lighting operator just could not see when to action his cues! At this point I should mention that the actresses involved were the aforementioned actress of the door handles and a 12-year old on her acting debut.

There have been many highlights over the years and you don't want me to go on for ever. TOADS has been a rewarding hobby, it has taken up a lot of my time and quite a bit of money – mostly on shiny power tools - and, hopefully, I can continue my involvement into the future. Anno Domino creeps up on all of us and our capabilities lessen. When my abilities at wielding a hammer and screwdriver are more of a hindrance than a help I will have to concentrate fully on holding the fort at the door. To determine how long this will carry on we just have to seek solace in the words of the dear departed Lil Robinson who on any question as to the future would simply say 'if we're spared!'



Letter to the Editor

Totley / Dore Boundary Stones

From Josie Dunsmore

I was very interested in Mick Savage's article 'Where is Totley?' in the December 2020/January 2021 *Totley Independent*. The bit that particularly drew my attention was his suggestion that the Totley / Dore boundary stones could be restored. These engraved stones not only marked the two parish boundaries but had the dual purpose of serving as the 5th milestone from Sheffield on the old Baslow Turnpike road (continuing to Bakewell). The new road was made between 1812 and 1818. I took the photo (below) of the bridge parapet in 1983, when I was making a study of this road. I believe some years ago the bridge parapet was damaged and one stone fell into Old Hay Brook and broke. This was misplaced when the bridge was repaired.



The 6th milestone is opposite the cottages at Lane Head, and is also now in a dilapidated condition compared to 1982 (below).



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Totley Independent home deliveries!

We're rolling out our plan to deliver a free copy of the *Independent* to all Totley homes! We didn't quite manage it for the last issue, as we reported then. However, we've now got all Totley's residential streets covered by our 24-person team of delivery volunteers! The exceptions are the small blocks of flats off Green Oak Avenue and Green Oak Road, where limited access (for security reasons) means that our deliverers can't post into individual letterboxes. If any of the residents of these flats can help us out, please get in touch!

In the meantime, copies of *Totley Independent* will continue to be available in local shops - free of charge - for anyone who didn't get a copy delivered. We ran rather short of copies for April/May owing to an underestimate of the numbers we needed, but hopefully we've put this right for this issue - there should be enough for everyone!

We hope you enjoy this issue - and thanks to all our volunteer deliverers!



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Councillors' Update

The recent elections produced some interesting results that will affect how Sheffield is run over the next few years.

In Dore and Totley Ward Colin Ross was re-elected. He had the most votes of any candidate in Sheffield.

The full result was as follows:

Colin Ross (Liberal Democrat) 3697
Sara Chinchin (Conservative) 1997
Samantha Nicholson (Labour) 1066
Dave Applebaum (Green) 959

Across the City the local elections saw gains for the Liberal Democrats, Greens and one Conservative, and losses for Labour, with the result that the council is now at no overall control with 41 Labour, 29 Liberal Democrats, 13 Greens and 1 Conservative. 43 is required for an overall majority and it is unclear at the time of writing what arrangements will result in terms of council leadership.

The referendum on council governance was passed by a margin of almost 2 to 1, so there will be a change to the committee system in May 2022. This means that decisions will be made in politically representative committees rather than by an executive of one party.

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings was also re-elected for a further 3 years.

One thing that has already been agreed is a return to the Community Assemblies which were abolished in 2012, although this time they will be called Area Committees. We very much welcome this change which we have been advocating for a long time. It means that significant resources will be allocated to local areas and more control given to local Councillors about how and where the money is spent.

A special mention and thank you must go to the wonderful team of litter pickers. They are doing a magnificent job of keeping our area clean. However, it should not be necessary if we all took our rubbish home or disposed of it in a bin. It is particularly disturbing that litter and broken glass is repeatedly being found in the playgrounds in the area. There are bins there and there is no excuse not to use them and broken glass is a real danger to other users.

Another welcome initiative is that 20 mph zones are being rolled out across the city in residential areas with priority initially to areas around schools. Zones are planned for our area but as yet we do not have a firm date for when and the order in which they will be activated. The introduction of the aforementioned Area Committees may give us more control over where they are introduced, and the ability to accelerate their introduction.

We were pleased to be able to finance from the ward pot the introduction of swift boxes in the Totley area. The local rotary club are financing the introduction of some more swift boxes at schools across the city. One is planned for Dore Primary.

All three of us have done shifts at the vaccination centre in Dore. A big thank you to our fellow volunteers who are doing a magnificent job, and also to the local businesses who are supplying catering!

As restrictions ease please continue to be sensible in your approaches as the virus is still with us and we need to avoid another wave. That said, we are thankfully returning to something like normal and we hope to resume our face-to-face surgeries in due course. More information on that in the next edition.

Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Joe Otten

emails:

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martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

Totley Swift Group



A great deal of excitement is running through the Totley Swift Group as this article is being written. Members have their eyes keenly fixed on the sky as the first of the Swifts successfully return to our village after over-wintering in Africa.

Some of these members have built up a relationship with "their" Swifts that have nested in gaps in the brickwork of their properties for a number of years. Swifts are faithful to their nest sites and return

year after year, which is why it is so important that we try to protect these sites wherever possible. One Totley resident has noted Swifts returning to her house for over 25 years.

Other members of the group have had new wooden nest boxes erected on the sides of their properties, just under the guttering, in the hope that Swifts seeking a nest site will choose their box. Following a successful application for a grant from the council, Totley Swift Group was able to purchase ten Swift boxes. In addition ten more were purchased by local residents and two were purchased through sponsorship. Friends of Gillfield Wood were one of the sponsors and we are very grateful to Totley Pharmacy for offering to sponsor another box.

Lester Hartmann of 'Peak Boxes' made all twenty-two Swift boxes for us and he kindly engraved details of the sponsors onto their boxes. Lester runs his business from premises in the Hope Valley: he is very much in demand, not only locally but nationally. He kindly came along in March and over two days erected all the boxes for us - a magnificent achievement.



Lester erecting swift nest box

Each box has a dual nest chamber so forty four new nest sites are now available in Totley for those returning Swifts. In addition, the boxes have a back plate onto which the nest box attaches, and this can accommodate bats seeking a roosting site.

All the above nest boxes are specially designed for Swifts. As you probably know, birds such as Blue Tits can take to a newly erected tit box almost immediately. Unfortunately with Swifts it can take two or three years for them to show any interest in boxes erected for them, and even then they may need to be encouraged to inspect the box by the homeowner playing a recording of Swift calls. It is recommended such play-back systems are placed near to the nest box so some people set up the system in their attic with the nest box erected very near on the outside of the house.

The name "bangers" has been given to Swifts that fly purposely against Swift boxes. These are non-breeding birds that are knocking against the box and checking out the suitability of the nest site. This can be a good sign and could indicate that the box may be used for nesting in the following year. The homeowner of course wishes the bird would occupy the nest box immediately, and that can happen. A majority of young Swifts are on the wing for three years before they choose their nest site and breed, but as part of a non-breeding flock they may have looked at a number of nesting sites in the previous year.

(continued page 17)

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Totley Swift Group (from p.15)

These fascinating creatures mate on the wing and collect their nest material on the wing. Nest material consists mainly of bits of grass and straw, plus hair and feathers. The nest is like a shallow saucer, the material being glued together with saliva. A clutch of eggs is usually two, occasionally three, and incubation of the eggs takes between eighteen and twenty days during the months of May, June or July. Fledging varies between five to eight weeks depending on the weather at the time. The parent birds can find it very difficult to find food for their young when it rains heavily or there are strong winds because these conditions have a significant impact on the availability of airborne insects. So as you can see, Swifts are normally with us from May through to August and to quote one local resident "Summer wouldn't be summer without the sound and sight of swifts swerving over our heads".

It is however very sad to report that Swift numbers have declined dramatically over recent years so if anyone is interested in surveying Swifts and helping the group ascertain the status of these birds in Totley, please send an email to swiftsoftotley@outlook.com. Do not let the word 'surveying' put you off - all you need to do is let us know whether you are seeing Swifts, the number, and where you are seeing them. We are particularly interested to know whether they are flying low, that is at roof top height or below; we can then regard these as Totley birds whilst some of those larger numbers of Swifts that are seen high up in the sky, have probably travelled from outside the area to feed. This is only our second year as a group so we are very keen to establish whether there are any more nest sites in properties around the village that we are not already aware of. We feel sure we have a few more sites to find.

We are pleased to say that membership of the Totley Swift Group has doubled in the last twelve months. It is free to be a member so if you wish to be added to our mailing list please write to the email address above. Do not worry if you are unsure of the difference between Swifts, Swallows and House Martins - you are not alone, and some of the material we send out will help with identification.

Should you decide to buy a Swift nest box from www.peakboxes.co.uk over the coming weeks please let us know because there is a strong possibility that Lester will return to Totley in September to erect some more boxes as part of this ongoing project.

Please remember, Friends of Gillfield Wood have organised an illustrated talk on Swifts to be held in Totley Library in December. Hopefully the meeting will go ahead and Lester will be able to join us to show us a variety of the nest boxes he makes. All are very welcome. And if you are interested in learning more about Gillfield Wood and the Friends of Gillfield Wood please do take the opportunity of looking at their website www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com.

Chris Measures



Totley Library

Restoration of Services

We were delighted that we were able to reopen the doors at Totley Library for library users from 12th April. It has been lovely to see so many regular library users return to browse, choose their own books and use the Public Network computers. We are one of only a few libraries in the city that have opened for browsing and we have worked hard to ensure that we have been able to do so in a safe and COVID secure manner.

The Library is open from 2 to 4pm on Mondays and from 10am to 12noon on Wednesdays and Fridays, but considerable efforts are in hand to enable these hours to be expanded. At present the limiting factor in expanding our services is the availability of experienced volunteers.

The numbers of volunteers wishing to return has been very heartening but all need retraining before they can begin to undertake duties. It is therefore proving to be quite a juggling act to maintain services and induct and train volunteers simultaneously, but steady progress is being made. Recognising that our facilities need to be available to working people, Saturday morning shifts were trialled on 8th and 29th May to pave the way for these to be resumed regularly as soon as resources allow. Depending on volunteer availability the closing time for all shifts will be extended by 30 minutes from 2nd June.

All our plans to expand our services will be cautious and will follow Government guidelines at all stages.

New Volunteers

Whilst we are working to enable several new volunteers to start working on shifts we are still keen to encourage further potential volunteers. We are particularly looking for people who have IT skills, experience of management, writing articles for local press, book purchasing, 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.

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. We will get back to you to arrange an introductory chat and then, if appropriate, to offer a formal induction at the earliest opportunity.

Totley Library Survey

Your views are important to us. Inevitably following the pandemic many things have changed and the volunteers at the library have worked hard to adapt the library to ensure it remains a welcoming and safe place. We are interested in hearing what you think of Totley Library, what we do well and what we can improve. We will use the results to inform our future plans. All responses will remain anonymous and only used for the purposes of developing our services. Please visit our website www.totleycric.org.uk and click on the link to the survey. The survey will take just a few minutes to complete. Thank you!

Totley Library Lottery

Throughout the current pandemic our Lottery has remained a vital source of income but we are always looking for new people to join in. 25% of the money received is paid out as prizes each month with 20% going to the winner and 5% being the second prize. Taking part costs as little as £1 per month! the first prize at the last draw was £127.20 and the second prize was £31.80 so it's well worth taking part. Arrangements are in hand for application forms to be available from the Library and Totley Rise Post office as well as being downloadable from www.totleycric.org.uk.

**Totley
Library
Lottery**

Latest Lottery Winners

The first-prize winner in the March draw was Charlotte Freeman, and the second-prize winner was Margaret Griffiths. In the April draw, Jennifer Woodcock won first prize, and the second prize was won by Margaret Marsh. Congratulations to all!

Community Events

We are planning for some activities involving smaller groups to resume in June and are more hopeful that we will be able to host larger groups from September. Details of any events organised can be found at our website.

For up to date information please visit totleycric.org.uk or follow the Totley Library facebook page.

Norman Rolfe

Update from Olivia Blake MP



With the days getting longer, lockdown restrictions easing, and the vaccine roll-out continuing, I imagine many are, as I am, looking forward to being able to see friends and family, visit a local pub or cafe, or get out to the Peaks.

As we start to emerge from the pandemic I want to thank everyone in Hallam for all you have done to help us get through this crisis. It has been amazing to see so many come together to help others - from our vital frontline workers in the NHS and care services, to volunteers delivering food parcels or medicine across the city.

I know that many in Topley and across the city are still struggling from the aftermath of Covid-19. I am still hearing from hundreds every week, from those suffering from bad mental health and unable to access support, to others unable to resume work and make ends meet. I have been working hard in Sheffield and in Parliament to raise these issues and campaign for change.

The past year has reminded us all just how important access to green space is for our mental and physical health. At the time of writing, we have just celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Peak District National Park, which came into being after co-ordinated trespasses by working-class ramblers. In honour of their legacy I have been working in Parliament to resist attempts to criminalise our right to roam, so we can ensure everyone, everywhere is able to access green space.



Olivia visiting the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

As well as the Peaks, access to nature is important in the city too. I joined campaigners calling for a safer crossing for Ecclesall Woods at Abbey Lane. I wrote to and met with the Council to express my support for their petition, now signed by over 3,000 residents, asking them to prioritise a new safe crossing between Ecclesall Woods. The council have now announced a feasibility study into this which is a great success for the community.

I have continued my campaign to ban the damaging practice of peatland burning which impacts on so many of us living close to the moors. Despite proposed government legislation, moors in Sheffield and across the country are still being burnt, ruining habitats and accelerating the climate emergency. There have been 702 reported incidents on Yorkshire's moors since 1st October alone, a 21% increase on the previous season.

I am working with local campaigners to improve the legislation to ensure all peat is protected. I co-ordinated a letter signed by 30 MPs, including Sheffield MPs Paul Blomfield and Clive

Betts, to the Environment Secretary, raising concerns about the environmental impact of burning and calling for stronger legislation.

I have recently visited the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to see the work of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership. Starting at Agden Reservoir, between High and Low Bradfield, I saw a huge range of projects, including woodland restoration, habitat protection, slowing the flow of water and natural flood management. It was great to see examples of nature-based solutions to climate change in practice and I am really looking forward to working with the Trust to champion this work!

I know that many in Topley and across our constituency work in the NHS, social care, and other important frontline services. Over the last year I have been contacted by many constituents struggling to access mental health support. I have spoken to specialist frontline services working in Hallam who have seen massive increases in demand, and NHS staff are left to treat children with eating disorders without specialist training as specialist services are not available.

I have been working with local eating disorder services to push for a ring fenced, emergency package of funding. Ahead of the budget earlier this year I co-ordinated a cross-party letter, signed by 40 MPs and Lords, calling for this.



One of the Hallam Climate Manifesto events

Finally the climate assemblies I have been holding with Hallam constituents in the lead-up to COP26, the UN Climate Summit, have gone from strength to strength. So far we have discussed decarbonising: public transport, finance, and food production. I would like to invite each and every one of you to join our conversation. You can find out how to get involved here: <https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/hallams-climate-manifesto/>

As always, if there is an issue you would like me to raise, or a campaign you would like me to support please do get in touch! If you would like to hear from me more regularly, you can sign up to my monthly email update on my website: <https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/>

Olivia Blake - MP for Sheffield Hallam
olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk

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Organic Wildlife Gardening

April 9th was the day when this country lost a remarkable man. As well as being a wonderful consort to Queen Elizabeth, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh supported so many well deserving charities including the World Wide Fund for Nature. Unfortunately, nature is not in a good way in this country, and we depend on it.

Native wild flowers which grew nearly everywhere when I was a child (quite a while ago) have been destroyed by various human activities including herbicides used in intensive farming and on gardens. Some are thought to be extinct, yet they provide the best pollen and nectar for the bees that pollinate our crops and we need them.

In my garden, wild primroses were flowering in mid-February and wild daffodils sprang up in various places in March. They looked very pretty, but they were not quite as spectacular as those in a wood in Gloucestershire that was shown on a *Countryfile* programme with Ellie Harrison. When so many wild areas are now spoilt by cultivated daffodils and other plants that have escaped from gardens, it looked idyllic.



Marsh marigolds, flourishing by the pond

Here, other spring flowers that followed were wood anemones, lesser celandine, dog violets, wood sorrel and recently planted cowslips. Dandelions, which are excellent for wildlife, flowered next along with the marsh marigolds around the ponds. The blackthorn shrub was covered with white blossom, and is a good choice for the edge of wood ecozone that I mentioned in my last article. The crab apple, bird cherry, and wild cherry came into blossom in mid-April. There are bees around, but it is rather cold for them.

Many people are giving a lot of time and effort to preserve and look after our native woodlands, but the Woodland Trust is reporting that they are in a very bad state. Numerous trees have been planted and the area covered is increasing, but the woodland wildlife is decreasing and only 7% of the UK's native woods are in a healthy state. This may be why woodland bird numbers have dropped by 29% since 1970. Blackcaps and chaffinches are two species that are reported as possibly affected by this, but the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has reported that there is a possibility that disease is also causing a problem, and advises those of us that feed birds to hang feeders well apart.

The causes of problems in woods include pine trees, and non-native trees and shrubs. The popular buddleia plant has escaped from gardens and could well be part of the problem. It has also escaped to various situations where it is damaging structures and costing thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to remove it each year. They are very attractive to our native butterflies that are addicted to them but they are not native to Britain and will not provide the most nutritious nectar, yet will be spreading their pollen around. Rhododendrons are another non-native plant which cause a problem. They were growing in my garden when we came to live here but when I realised they were not native,

I got a spade and removed them. This had the added advantage of getting me extremely fit!

While we need to avoid buying non-native plants grown in this country, we really must avoid buying plants imported from abroad. The incidence of new pathogens entering the UK mirrors the rise in plant imports, so we need to check at garden centres and all other outlets exactly where the plant we would like to buy has been grown.

There is a website (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ukwoods) which gives much more detail about the seriousness of the situation, and the Woodland Trust would be very grateful for more volunteers. Many people enjoy spending time in woodland doing a really worthwhile job with like-minded people.

As a result of lockdown the ponds here did not get their autumnal 'spring clean' last September and were not looking their best early this year. I did not think the frogs would return or that there would be any frogspawn, but frogs were peering up out of the water and, on March 22nd, frogspawn appeared, literally, before our eyes. Then there was that sudden drop in temperature and the ponds were covered in ice. The frogspawn was caught up in it, and clearly damaged, which was so disappointing. Thankfully, spawn that was deeper was not damaged and, three weeks into April, masses of tadpoles emerged.



A tangle of Tiddy tadpoles!!

Last year I planned to plant more flowers in the border on the right of the garden as there were some bare patches and apart from being a waste of space, bare soil leaves it vulnerable to a loss of carbon, which is not good where climate change is concerned. However, with no gardener able to come because of lockdown, it did not happen. The plants already there have spread, and nature has taken over as the seeds of plants around the garden have seeded and germinated there, and the area is now very nearly full of a mixture of wild garlic, white dead nettle and nettles. They are not exactly what I had planned, but the nettles may have been why the first orange tip butterfly to arrive made a bee-line for them as their caterpillars favour the leaves.

An increasing number of different species of birds are visiting the feeders which provide sunflower hearts, niger seed, peanuts and an organic seed mix which is very popular. Dishes of soft bill food and dried mealworms (soaked in water) are under cages for protection and they are now all spread out as much as possible. Water is also available in two large dishes, rainwater being much better than tap water which is usually treated, so a water butt is very useful here.

Our wildlife needs all the help it can get but most gardens are now full of cultivated or foreign plants rather than the native flowers with which it evolved.

Marian Tiddy

Neighbourhood Watch

How often does your phone ring and if you are lucky, it is only a cold call about the accident that you never had, or someone trying to sell you double glazing. Recently I have been getting daily calls from 'an international number' or 'number withheld' all of which I let go to the answerphone and guess what? They hang up. These then get added to our blocked calls list even if we have not actually got a visible number. Unfortunately, the numbers are being generated automatically by criminal elements whose only role is to relieve you of your money in a variety of ways. They use a multitude of ruses, some that are obviously suspicious or blatantly scams. Others can be very clever and plausible to the unwary.

Typical scams include claims that your bank account or credit card has had some suspicious transactions, and that you need to contact them to prevent your account being suspended. There are often instructions to 'press 1' to speak to an agent who will resolve your account problems. Then you are expected to give the scammers your log-in details to protect your account, or to move your money into a new safe account, which they control. Whichever ruse they try, it will lead to you losing a lot of money if you fall for their patter.

If you answer any of these calls NEVER follow their instructions. If it is a real person, not a recorded message, tell them you will contact your bank / credit company direct and hang up. That depends on if they even identify which bank / credit card company they say they represent - often our members tell me they get these calls about a company they do not have an account with. Whatever you do DO NOT GET INTO A CONVERSATION WITH THEM. Put the phone down. Leave the phone for about five minutes then check that the line has been disconnected and you get a dial tone. If in doubt phone your bank or credit card company using the number on the back of the relevant card - this is the only time you should use the number keyboard to select which service you can select to safely talk to customer services. NEVER give anyone your PIN number over the phone. None of the banks will ever ask for it.

We give advice and contact details on our website on how to report scams & fraud, with lots of other useful contact details for the council and its services. See www.s17nwa.co.uk

Many of the recent burglaries in our area gained access to the property by snapping the Eurolocks, which can be done in less than a minute. Under normal circumstances we in NHW have a few members who could check your locks for you and advise on whether you should replace the standard locks with Anti-Snap versions. Whilst there are still limitations on social contact, I have provided a simple checklist for you to see if your locks are secure.

Eurolock Checking Guide

1. First look at the end of your lock to see if it has the Diamond 3 stars symbol on it. See Picture 3. If so, you have a secure lock. If not go to item 2.
2. Unlock your door from inside the property and look on the edge of the door for the screw that is securing the lock in place. See picture 1.



Picture 1

3. Remove this screw and retain.
4. Turn the key about 20 degrees until you can slide the lock from the door.
5. Look at the lock and measure the length and the distance from the centre of the cam to each end of the lock. See picture 2.



Picture 2

6. Check if it has any anti snap slots. You need them on both ends of the lock, as shown in picture 2.
7. Make a note of the overall length and the distance from each end to the central cam.
8. Replace lock if it has the anti-snap slots as you are secure. If not, you need to purchase a replacement secure version. The examples in Picture 2 show an old lock which is 85mm long, with one side 40mm long and the other 45mm long. The other lock is an Ultion anti-snap lock which is 90mm long with both sides 45mm long.

The 3rd picture shows the mechanics of the Ultion anti-snap lock and the Diamond 3-star symbol.

Home Defence System

When the Ultion lock detects an attack, it goes into **Lock Down Mode**. A hidden attack lock secures the mechanism.

Double
Anti-Snap protection

The intruder needs to snap Ultion twice before he gets the door.

2
Attack locks

Lock still works from inside after an attack.

11
Pins

Twice as many as normal locks.

8
Drill Defences

8 hardened steel rods and 2 plates in both ends.

25%
Denser than iron
The molybdenum core that houses the attack pins.

3
Stars

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1
Sold Secure Diamond

The standard most 3 star locks can't achieve.

294,970
Combinations

Produced from the 11 pins.

0
Magnets

Magnetised keys carry metal filings from other keys and coins into the lock.

Protects for longer
The close keyway wipes debris off the key to stop jamming and lockouts.

Picture 3

Now as summer approaches the evenings are getting lighter and wonder of wonders, we can actually go to the pub for a meal, or venue for a show after months of lockdown. It also means that the teenagers are out trying to find some entertainment of their own. We have all in our dim and distant past had a bottle of beer and first cigarettes in similar situations but always took the bottle back as they had a deposit on them to reclaim from the local off licence. There is no doubt that there is very little for the youths to do in any of our three communities, so gatherings in the parks and recreation fields are to be expected. Unfortunately, this tends to result in a large amount of litter being scattered around after they have left, some of which is proving to be dangerous for the younger children whose playgrounds have often been covered with broken glass. We are extremely fortunate in S17, that we have



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Stroke Gym – Wed 11.30am
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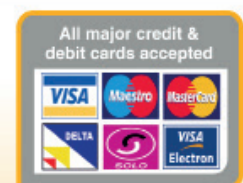
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Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

One day soon we might, I say might, be able to meet indoors with more than six people. This though is not the end of our woes or those of many other groups like ours such as Meersbrook, Birley Carr, and choirs like Dore Male Voice Choir. Many of the members are getting on in years and will take some time to adjust. Indeed, many will have lost older members for a variety of reasons. Those of us who would love to continue performing will need to be comfortable with the levels of vaccination, the behaviour of all the members, the pertaining guidelines and the safety protocols in place before meeting to rehearse. As none of us has sung for close to 18 months (apart from in the shower), we will need time to get our voices back into full working order. I hope that we will be able to make a start around late summer, say September. If this is the case then maybe we will be in a position to put on a couple of winter concerts and be well on the way to perfecting the music for our next production of that well-loved bundle of fun called *The Pirates of Penzance* which, fingers crossed, we will be performing at The Merlin Theatre in April 2022.

I was pleased to see an article in the papers the other weekend praising the work of Sir Arthur Sullivan. He was not only known for the music of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas but wrote a variety of other music both sacred and secular. Many of you will have heard or sung some of his hymn tunes (he wrote over seventy) including *Angel Voices Ever Singing*, *Crown Him With Many Crowns*, *Onward Christian Soldiers*, *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*, *Love Divine All Loves Excelling* and that fantastic harvest hymn *To Thee O Lord Our Hearts We Raise (Golden Sheaves)*. He also wrote wonderful, if sometimes sad, songs such as *The Long Day Closes* and *The Lost Chord*. He also turned his hand to incidental music for *The Tempest*, a ballet, overtures and a full opera *Ivanhoe*. He wrote the music for many sketches and operettas with librettists other than W S Gilbert; obviously he was a very talented musician. He was dismissed by some critics as lightweight but that was because he was popular and we know that some of these so-called critics are so far up themselves that they think anything popular cannot be high quality. He studied under a very well respected Sheffield born composer, Sir William Sterndale Bennett who was admitted to The Royal College of Music at the age of ten and ended up becoming its Principal. Although I have grown up with G & S I like most music from baroque through romantic to jazz, big band and even some pop!

Enjoy the music you like and let's hope I can report something more definite from the Society next time.

Derek Habberjam



Horizons Broaden at Totley Primary School

The children have returned to school after the Easter break in great spirits! Having spent the end of last term finding out what the children had remembered from home learning and looking at any gaps in knowledge they may have had, school staff have been working their socks off to help the children get back on track. Delivering high quality teaching in phonics, reading, writing and maths each day has been, and will continue to be, an absolute priority. Alongside this, we will continue supporting children in re-building their stamina and positive classroom and social behaviours, after such a disrupted period. It's not all about English and maths, though! We are determined that children will continue to receive a broad and rich education in all areas of the curriculum. For example, Year 6, as geographers, will learn about sustainable development and make recommendations to the school about how we can work and learn more sustainably. Meanwhile, Year 3, as artists, will be learning about observ-

-ational drawing - inspired by Georgia O'Keefe - using wax resist and a view finder. As historians, Year 1 will be learning about how Totley Primary School was different in the past.



Y1 children enjoying a free after school 'Fundamentals' club in the Spring sunshine.

A particular highlight of recent weeks has been the return of extra-curricular activities (albeit a slimmed down menu at this early stage) and the excitement this has generated. Waving Y4s off on their way to their swimming lessons at Graves Pool has been great and I am so proud of them already for embracing the opportunity and working really hard in their sessions. Staff have also done a super job in organising free, and very well received, after school clubs: it has been so good to have this buzz back which we have so sorely missed for over a year. The benefits of these enrichment opportunities for children are undeniable—here's hoping that we will be able to widen our offer further from September and present a full menu of trips, clubs and events!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

TOTLEY'S WORKING PAST ...through the centuries A two mile walk around Totley with the Totley History Group



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People Keeping Well

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

All activities are created to be inclusive, everyone is welcome to join!

All Activities are suitable for people living with dementia and their carers, family or friends.

Activity timetable

Information about accessing these activities can be found below.

Monday

Gentle Circuits: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Monday Coffee Morning: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month - Delivered by SMG - provided by PKW.

Cosy Creatives: Online Creative writing sessions - Every Monday 2-3pm - Hosted by Anne - provided by PKW. Great for anyone interested in writing, being creative and meeting other people online. No previous writing experience necessary and carers very welcome!

Sessions are delivered by art therapist Anne and begin with a look at and discussion about a piece of writing based on a new weekly theme (a poem, short story or memoir extract). Then there'll be individual writing tasks, or a group poem written together (depending on what the group wants to do!) Sessions finish by reading our individual pieces of writing or reading out the group poem, and coming up with ideas for the following week's theme.

Memoir Writing - it's your story: Begins Feb 10th, 10 week course, every Monday at 12pm - 2pm - Delivered by

Kathryn Reaney (professional journalist) - Provided by PKW. Book on now! The aim of the workshop sessions is to get you writing your own life story. We aim to be a positive space for creativity that will get you thinking about experiences and the stories you have created along the way.

We are deliberately staying away from a discussion or reflection of Covid, fully aware of the impact that the pandemic is having on mental health and wellbeing. This will be a Covid-free space. Topics we will cover include: what makes a good story, difficult memories, what is a memoir, tackling the blank page, how do you get hold of your memories, publishing and finding an audience.

Tuesday

Zumba Gold: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Singing Teapot Choir: 2nd and last Tuesday of every month - recommencing in March 2021 following a Winter break - Delivered by Yo Tozer loft - provided by PKW.

Dore and Totley Rosemary Memory Café: 3-4.30pm, every week - Online chat, quizzes, live singers and more, created for people living with Dementia and their carers - Delivered by Josee - provided by PKW.

Wednesday

Carers Café: 10am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month - Delivered by SCC.

Strength and Balance: (Can be chair based) - 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Inclusive chair based exercise and conversation group: to keep you feeling active, healthy and connected to others. For carers and cared for adults with a mild/moderate learning disability and/or autism. Via Zoom every Weds 1:15 - 2:30pm. Provided by SMG Sheffield Mencap and Gateway.

Thursday

Short Stories: 2pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month - Listen or bring your own story to share - Delivered by SCC.

Gentle Circuits: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - Provided by PKW.

Friday

Mindfulness: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Carers Café and Quiz: 10am on the 2nd Friday of every month - Delivered by SCC.

Sporting Chatter: 10am on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month - Provided by PKW. An opportunity for sports fans to socialise, make friends, catch up and enjoy sports based activities, from quizzes to watching films.

Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing: 10.20am - 11.30am, every week - delivered by Horticulturist Caroline Cook - provided by PKW.

How to join the activities

To access or book to join any of the sessions listed, simply see who the session is provided by and then contact the relevant team via the details listed below: CWS: Community Wellness Service: Call 0114 553 7807

SCC: Sheffield Carers Centre: email jan.jan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk

SMG: Sheffield Mencap and Gateway: Contact carers outreach project worker's: Katie 07447391437, or Ellie on 07735316347. Or email: cope@men-cap.org.uk Please note that 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):

Contact Joanna Woodward (Community Development Officer) joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk or call Age UK Sheffield on 0114 250 2850.

Josee: Contact josee.rollet@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 07852 291830

Caroline Cook Horticulturist: email info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk or Telephone Age UK 0114 250 2850. Visit gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk

Kathryn Reaney: email reaneywrites@gmail.com or call 07854 751932

Please note that all of our activities are currently being delivered on virtual platforms such as Zoom. Please contact the activity provider if you require assistance.

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Walking the Dog

Jack Soz.
Rony It doesn't matter.
Jack I can still be soz.
Rony Don't worry. You aren't the only one who's come into the Rec to do their business.
Jack Thanks for telling everybody in Totley. Where are we anyway?
Rony We are in Greenoak Park on a sunny late spring morning, next to the funny red buildings by the bowling green that isn't there. In the olden days, the GENTLEMEN of Totley had to use the GENTLEMEN at the end of this red brick hut. Look there's still the sign saying GENTLEMEN. There isn't.
Jack Some kid off the prefabs must have pinched it.
Rony What are the prefabs?
Jack I don't remember. But I don't remember most things since I started my fits. And things don't fit together Jack, that's why they're called fits.
Jack Is it?
Rony I don't remember. Next question?
Jack I can't see a bowling green either?
Rony No but when there was...
Jack I don't understand what you're saying today.
Rony Aye, well when I was a lad we didn't have to understand. Not till the 11 plus.
Jack Was the 11 plus some funny game you played here on the Rec?
Rony It wasn't funny and we didn't. We had to do the 11 plus when we were 11 plus. And once we were, we were given a number so they didn't know who we were.
Jack Why?
Rony So we could answer a hundred daft questions on two Tuesdays in March so they could sort us into sheep and goats.
Jack If you're so smart, tell me if the wreck is called the wreck because it is a wreck?
Rony No. It is spelled Rec because people used to recreate themselves here in the olden days. And there were notices everywhere to tell dogs not to do what dogs always do when they...
Jack Thanks for telling everybody.
Rony Also, in the olden days there used to be a big Green Oak tree there in at the middle, and you got shouted at when you tried to climb it. And there were two proper football pitches with nets. And a cricket pitch you can still see when the grass dries out in the summer. And we had our own Parkie and he gave you a ticket and he had a waistcoat and a cap with a beak like the Conductor on the 45.
Jack What's the 45?
Rony It was a bus and its turnibus was at The Cross.
Jack I don't get what a Conductor was doing on the bus instead of waving at his orchestra? But tell me properly who the Parkie was?
Rony He used to take your old money here by the Bowling Green and the GENTLEMEN. And he also had to stop people courting.
Jack Is courting another kind of sport people played at Greenoak park in the old days?
Rony Kind of. And some people still play it, if you look.
Jack Can you get injured playing it?
Rony If you're not careful you can but...
Jack Did the Conductor of the 45 get injured playing it?
Rony No. But he had his dinger on a strap. And his thingie for his tickets. His main job however was to shout at you to move along, in case an Inspector got on at Abbeydale Park Rise
Jack Who's Anne Inspector?
PAWS
Rony You'll have to stop asking silly questions Jack or we'll never finish this article in time for the next *Totley Independent*, will we?
HEAD EATER (shouting from The Crown) No!
Rony And actually speaking...

Sally (shouting from the garden on Lemont Road) You two! Stop being silly and come and get your teas.
Jack (whispering) What was a Conductor's hat like?
Rony (whispering) It was like a Parkie's hat but it had a badge to show that he was allowed to shout at you to move along. But the Parkie was only allowed to shout to tell you that you weren't allowed to do that in Greenoak Park thank you very much. And if you did want to do that you could go the Rec at Totley Bents and do it there.

Jack Do what?
Rony We didn't know till we were twelve.
Jack What happened then?
Rony We grew up.
Jack You didn't. You were still going to school at 30.
Rony Yes, but I'd changed sides by then. But shhh! I started off our walk getting nostalgic about the GENTLEMEN of Totley.

Jack I don't think there are any GENTLEMEN in Totley. You've mixed us with Dore where they have pedigree dogs and sherry.

HEAD EATER No Dore in the *Totley Independent* thank you! And we're running out of space. And where's Rony run off to now?

Sally It'll be his usual trouble. He's 80 years old already, though he never admits it. He's worse to walk than Jack sometimes.

Jack Wuff! But while we're talking about the GENTLEMEN, can I just tell everyone about Mr Crapper 1836 to 1930 something?

HEAD EATER Not unless he came from Totley
Jack He didn't but he nearly did because he came from Thorne and invented the floating ballcock and...

HEAD EATER Too late! That's 880 words now! Cut!
Rony Soz.

Rony and Jack Robinson



Friends of Gillfield Wood

Friends of Gillfield Wood holds its indoor meetings at Totley Library, usually on Monday evenings. There are about six illustrated talks a year and all are very welcome.

These evenings provide a forum for members and the public to share their stories/sightings/news about the wood, or enquire about our monthly Conservation Work Mornings that we run in association with Sheffield Council Rangers and Woodland Management Team. All our events can be found on our website www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com or by emailing the Secretary on fogwsecretary@gmail.com

We aim to make Gillfield Wood as accessible as possible to all and have recently had two radar kissing gates specially installed on the Totley Hall Lane path by the Public Right of Way team from SCC. These proved very popular over the last year when exercising locally was made a lot easier for all. It is important to point out that the paths in the wood are designated footpaths.

Sunday October 10th: Small Mammal Trapping, with Val Clinging. The small mammals will be released after close-up identification. A family event, children very welcome. Special traps containing food will be set the night before.

Monday November 8th: Hedgehogs. An illustrated talk by Jo Wilkinson. 7.30pm in Totley Library

Saturday November 13th: Fungi Survey with Chris Kelly

Monday December 6th: Our Christmas meeting, with an illustrated talk on Swifts by John Ellicock. Lester Hartmann of the famous "Peak Boxes" will be joining us with his specially designed Swift nest boxes. 7.30pm in Totley Library.

On the Beat



I'm writing this on the 4th May (known to some as Star Wars day – May the 4th be with you!) It appears likely that the proposed roadmap is proceeding as planned and that in a couple more weeks we will be experiencing far less restrictions on our day-to-day life. I for one am looking forward to getting back to some sort of normal but also recognise that for many this will not be an overnight change. The past year has

been a strain on all of us in very different ways and for some it will be a gradual emergence with some trepidation. I think it's important for us all to respect others and try and help each other out where we can to get over those fears at a pace that suits the individual concerned. It's been pleasing to see that the last lifting has been mostly respected and that people have been enjoying those new freedoms sensibly overall. My fingers will be tightly crossed for the next few weeks!

Expanding on that theme: it appears that we may soon be able to enjoy getting away again. I know some self-contained accommodation has been open for the last few weeks, but hotels and B&Bs are still to come, and the outlook for travel abroad has yet to be clarified as I write. As such it might be timely to remind people to think about what they can do to protect their houses if they're lucky enough to be heading away for any length of time. As I stated in the last issue, whilst house burglaries are still relatively low, garages and sheds continue to be targeted, particularly for bikes. It's a given that as we return to work, so will those who earn their keep at others' expense!

Whilst alarms and CCTV systems have their place in sometimes deterring offenders, they are by no means the be-all-and-end-all of security. It remains a fact that if your house looks occupied then most offenders will look for an easier option where they don't run the risk of disturbing occupants. Ideally a good neighbour might pop into your



house to open and shut curtains; or if this is not possible the use of staggered timer lights which come on and off in different rooms at random, and a TV simulator which gives the impression of someone watching a TV or computer screen, in a window visible to the street is ideal. Importantly, think about access to the rear of your house and make this as difficult as possible – lock gates, heighten with trellis or the use of spiky planting, etc. Very rarely have I visited the victim of a burglary where the front door has been used to gain entry. Remember to lock all doors and windows at night, and if, hopefully, we are heading for warmer evenings, even consider sticking a Beware of the Dog sign up somewhere prominent. It doesn't matter if you actually have a dog – you

may put doubt in an offenders head which would make them move on. Keep an eye out on each other and look out for new activity on your street – but please remember not every white van is necessarily suspicious! I've dealt with a few calls recently about suspicious males in head torches and hired vans near properties late at night, and these have usually turned out to be the milkman!

As the *Independent* is entering a new phase of home delivery and hopefully increased readership and engagement, I've been amusing myself by reading through some of the back issues from 1977. The issues being discussed are very similar to many people's priorities today – speeding, road safety and crossings, trees, provision of facilities for youth and the wider community and planning applications, all feature strongly in the issues I have read. I'm often told that Totley isn't the area it used to be, but maybe things haven't changed as much as some people think. This is taken from the September 1977 issue: "Police have warned bicycle owners in Totley to take greater security precautions. They say that at least three bicycles a day have been reported stolen in the south of Sheffield during the last few weeks" and I'm still saying the same above! I particularly liked the article regarding the village bobby in the 1930s: "He was on call 24 hours a day, 6 days a week and there was a police sign over his house door" Maybe I should be glad some things have changed.

As always if you need to contact me you can do so on the work mobile – 07787 881945. Please do not use this to report incidents that need recording, as it is only on when I'm at work and we cannot record incidents at Woodseats. 101/999 in emergency or the online reporting portal remain the places to report. Also please remember to leave your contact number on messages so I can get back to you if need be. You can also email me on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk


Remember that if you haven't yet signed up for SYP alerts you can do so by sending me your name, house number, postcode and email address. Alerts keep you in touch with what is happening in our area and are used to inform people of new scams, local crimes and other items we hope will be of interest to readers. Here's hoping we can begin to look forward to summer!

Thanks for reading,

Adrian Tolson, PCSO 8136
South Yorkshire Police
Sheffield South West Neighbourhoods Team
Woodseats Police Station
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Friends of Dore and Totley Station

Going forward by train – there’s light at the end of our three tunnels

In 1900 the railways were at the peak of their development and tracks into Sheffield were quadrupled. There were frequent services into and across the city. Three golf courses were within a mile, one named after the station, and the Abbeydale Sports Club was growing. People came out of the grimy centre to the open country and sports facilities. They were attracted to live in the houses being built up Dore Road, towards Totley and up Twentywell Lane. Those train services attracted commuters who would get a paper, tobacco, books and postcards from the W H Smith’s kiosk on the central platform. But the car was about to arrive.

By 1985 railways were in steep decline and three of our platforms were demolished. A stopping service to New Mills ran only every two or three hours. But 1985 was the year when passenger rail use started to rise again. By 2000 it was clear that singling the tracks and platform had been a mistake. Passenger numbers were rising sharply, more than quadrupling by 2020-21. The amount of cement and limestone coming out of the Peak quarries has also risen steeply. More trains need to run.

The scheme to redouble has been in the pipeline of projects for over 20 years. It’s been a long haul with public consultations in 2013 and twice in 2015, followed by a public inquiry in 2016. Network Rail listened. The trouble is that this project has dragged on for so long that it has had to be updated several times by different people. Lack of continuity runs the risk that simple details can be overlooked. So where are we now?



Springtime at Dore and Totley station

Brexit, Covid, prejudice against Sheffield and the north have all been blamed for the slow progress. It no longer matters because it was agreed back in September. We may well ask why, if it was agreed so long ago, was it not announced until March? We can ask, but the answers are all tied up with politics and budgets. Suffice to say that Volker/Story issued a press release to announce they’d got the £80m main contract, part of a £137m investment, before the Department for Transport officially announced the project was to go ahead!

The project has to be completed by the end of September 2023. Preparations will be slowly ramping up as final measurements are confirmed with the main work site to be set up on the railway triangle. It will have to be fenced off and a temporary footpath kept open and away from the working areas. Some vegetation will be cleared along the west side of the triangle and along the Poynton Wood side of the tracks to allow the holding loop, or chord, to be built. No ancient trees are under threat and the ruins of Ebenezer Hall’s Abbeydale Hall summer house will be protected.

The major construction work starts in April 2022. There’ll be some night work and trains will be stopped for some weekends. A longer 9 days blockade from 23rd April 2023 will allow all the component parts of the track, platform, lifts and signalling to be completed without trains running. Volker/Story have undertaken to keep the community informed as the project progresses. Delivery details to be confirmed by the autumn.

When it’s all over we’ll get tidied up and start to enjoy a better train service. Who knows - we may get two trains an hour, every hour into and out of Sheffield! That’s our aim.

Let’s be positive. Let’s go travelling!

Covid seems to be on the retreat. Our trains are running with few passengers on commuting services. So don’t be afraid. They offer plenty of (masked) leisure opportunities. Two rail trips starting from Dore tried recently:

- Get the 8.39 to New Mills and walk the Peak Forest Canal to Marple or Romiley for hourly train back.



The Peak Forest canal at Marple

- Going further afield, take the 8.28 direct to Ely, lunch beside the Great Ouse, cream tea beside the Cathedral and back via hourly service to Leicester for change to Sheffield.



Lets see Britain by train! It’s time to travel!

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

Totley weather report 2020

Long term records broken (taken from Western Park weather station summary)

Most February wet days (>1.0mm) since 1977

Most February wetter days (>5.0mm) on record

Driest May on record

Fewest May rain days (>0.2mm) since 1905

Fewest May wet days since 1956

Lowest May temperature on record (jointly with 1979)

Most June wet days Since 1982

Wettest August since 2004

Lowest September minimum since 1988

Dullest October since 1982

What a beautiful spring, sun, blue sky, warmth, fresh air and many tidy gardens! This seemed to be followed by a grey blanket over us when we sometimes didn't see the sun for a number of days.

Rain for the year was Western Park (WP) 997.0mm and Totley (T) 1131.5mm with the longest dry spells being in April (nine days) and May (eleven days), otherwise only a few days between the rain. There were five days when more than 25mm (1 inch) fell and a good few that nearly reached that mark.

Many warm days in the summer were often wet. There was a drop of 13°C in daytime consecutive temperatures in May which remained low for seven days. Another drop in June of 12°C getting back to warm again seven days later with a rise of 11°C then making a seven-day heatwave. July also produced a week-long heatwave which built up to the hottest day for the year on the 31st (WP 33.8°C and T 31.1°C). The lowest night temperature was on 6th March with WP at -2.0°C, and T on 5th March at -2.9°C. There were (WP) ten nights with frost and (T) twenty-one nights, one of which was in the middle of May.

WP recorded two days of lying snow and T twelve days of falling and lying snow. In Totley we recorded five storms. Western Park recorded 1594.1 hours of sunshine – the sunniest day being 17 hours on 25th July.

Perhaps I should point out that while Western Park has the latest recording equipment, Totley relies on proper equipment for recording rain but uses a high/low thermometer fastened in a shady place.

Rain for the year:

	Totley	Weston Park
2020	1131.5mm	997.0mm
2019	1333.5mm	1176.2mm
2018	1041.4mm	796.0mm

Wettest Day

	Totley	Weston Park
2020	36.5mm	38.3mm
2019	67.3mm	74.1mm
2018	81.0mm	66.2mm

Coldest Night

	Totley	Weston Park
2020	-2.9C	-2.0C
2019	-2.9C	-2.9C
2018	-5.8C	-6.3C

Hottest Day

	Totley	Weston Park
2020	31.1C	33.8C
2019	32.2C	35.2C
2018	30.8C	32.1C



Fancy a game of Bowls?

Well, here's your invitation...

De La Salle Bowls Club – situated in the fantastic setting of Beauchief Hall – is welcoming anyone interested in playing bowls to come along and give it a try.



Bowls is a fun game offering exercise, fresh air and friendly competition. Our Club is small and sociable with an even gender split. We are one of the few Sheffield bowling clubs open all year.

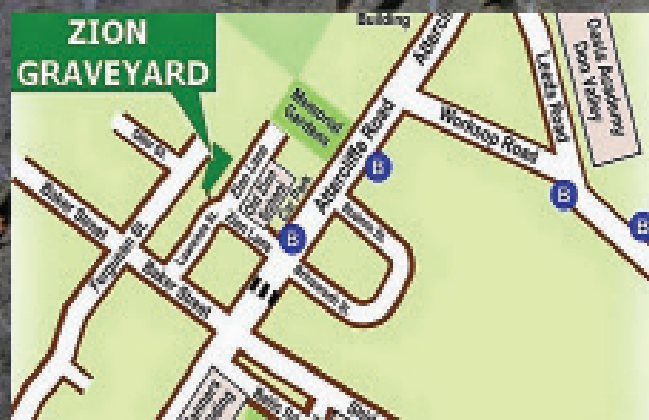
If you are keen to try, with no obligation to join the Club, then why not come along to one of our regular free taster sessions.

Bowls are available to use on the taster session and all you need are flat shoes - i.e. no sharp heels.

Please email Chris or Jackie at Chris_Sillitto@gmail.com or call them on 0114 236 7589 to find out more.

A Totley History Group visit to ZION GRAVEYARD

The final resting place of pioneering anti-slavery campaigner Mary Anne Rawson and many other good people of Attercliffe.



Sunday 25 July 2021 at 2pm. Free car park opposite Ace Janitorial (694 Attercliffe Rd, S9 3RP). Non-members are very welcome.

Grace Foodbank

Grace Foodbank covers the S8 and S17 postcodes of Sheffield. In practice, most of the people we help come from Lowedges, Batemoor and Jordanthorpe (LBJ). The office and the foodbank are both in Lowedges. We are very lucky to have really amazing supporters who donate food at local supermarkets, via local churches, sports clubs, schools (especially at Harvest and Christmas), local street WhatsApp groups, etc., or who donate money to us. We are open for incoming donations on Monday mornings and all the food is then weighed, date sorted and sorted by type ready for us to pack food parcels.

Like most foodbanks, the core of what we do is providing emergency food parcels to people in short-term financial crisis. People are referred to us by a wide variety of statutory and voluntary agencies – housing services, support workers, midwives/health visitors, schools, nurseries, local charities and many more. We take referrals by phone and, pre-Covid, our clients came to collect their food in Lowedges or Jordanthorpe. We have always delivered food parcels to people who live too far away to collect but we have delivered all our food parcels for the last year to keep our clients and volunteers safe. We hope to resume face to face collections in May.

The main reasons why people are referred to us are problems with benefits (delays, mistakes, deductions, refusals...), crisis life events (having to pay bus fare to visit a relative in hospital, a broken household appliance, etc.) and, increasingly, debt. The most common reason for people being in debt is not extravagant spending on expensive phones or televisions, rather debt starts with people who have a small shortfall. They really want to manage themselves and don't want to ask for help (or don't know where to go for help) so they borrow from informal, unregulated lenders/loan sharks at very high rates of interest. Debt then grows exponentially and people soon find themselves in a pit of debt that's so deep that they can't climb out of it.

GRACE FOOD BANK SHEFFIELD
helping give hope to those in need 

In the pre-Covid world we hosted a Citizens' Advice Worker at our foodbank on Tuesdays. She helped clients recover the money that was due to them (for example, challenging refusals of disability and illness related benefits) and some clients received thousands of pounds that they were owed. We find that many of the people we support find it very difficult to engage with CAB support over the phone so we're really looking forward to being able to offer this service to our clients again. What we really want is for people to regain financial independence and not to need us any more!

We also used to run a weekly 'Meet and Eat' session where people came together to cook a two-course meal and participants took a pack of ingredients to cook one of the recipes at home. That is the least socially distanced thing that we do and will almost certainly be the last thing that we resume.

As we said, the 'core business' of foodbanks is helping people in short-term financial crisis, but we have been concerned by what we might do to help people who aren't in crisis but are still on very low incomes. The perception that people on low incomes can't manage their money is largely a complete myth – generally people manage their money with great care and precision but just don't have enough income to be able to put any aside to provide resilience to unexpected life events.

Other food projects in the area, which offered free, or greatly subsidised, weekly meals, all stopped during the pandemic so we have developed a Community Recipe pack project which currently provides 65 packs to cook a meal for 4 people, distributed through partners in LBJ. The recipes are designed for families to cook them together and include long-life ingredients from foodbank stocks and fresh ingredients that we buy with donated money. They are proving very popular and we've had lovely feedback from families who send us photos of what they've cooked.

Another new project that we've recently started is 'Grace's Grocery Store' – a referral-only social supermarket. This is aimed at people who have some money but who have ongoing challenges to their finances (perhaps going through the process of applying for a Debt Relief order, for example). People pay £2 a week to cover room hire and can then choose their own foods from a suggested shopping list. We buy fresh produce to go in the shop weekly.

We couldn't do any of the above without the all the support from the local community and we're really grateful and humbled by everyone's generosity.

You can donate food directly to the Grace Food bank on a Monday morning between 10.30am and 11.30am at The Michael Church, Low Edges Road, Low Edges, except Bank Holiday Mondays. It is best to go on the website and see what they need – gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk.

Table Tennis re-commences at Bradway Community Hall

On Thursday May 27th Bradway Community Hall once again opened its doors to Social Table Tennis for the over-50s. After such a long lay-off due to the Covid pandemic, it was good to meet up again.

Many restrictions have been lifted and we are now able to meet in groups of six. We have two hourly sessions between 3 and 5pm every Thursday and likewise on Friday between 7 and 9pm.



Because of the restricted numbers we have to book the sessions on a first-come-first-served basis – see below for contact details. The arrangements will continue throughout June until such time as the government lifts all restrictions and we are able to run open sessions once more.

The group is organised under the auspices of the Bradway, Dore and Totley People Keeping Well (PKW) initiative. Further backing is given by Age UK Sheffield. This means that at the moment we can offer the sessions free of charge. All equipment is provided.

PEOPLE KEEPING WELL
PKW
IN THEIR COMMUNITY

 **Sheffield**
ageUK

If you would like to enquire into joining us for the first time, require any information on the re-commencement, or would like to book your place on a session, please contact Jan Clist:

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Have We Got It Wrong On Weight Loss?

As we all know, there has been a huge rise in the incidence of obesity in the UK in the last 50 years, corresponding to a huge change in our food environment that has seen us eating more ultra-processed foods, ready-meals and takeaways. These calorific foods contain large amounts of hidden sugars and unhealthy fats that tamper with the appetite control mechanisms in the brain and lead to over-eating.

Calories in, calories out theory

The conventional response to weight-loss is to reduce our intake of calories whilst increasing our expenditure, the so called 'calories in, calories out' theory of weight loss or the popular 'eat less, move more' idea. This conventional approach seems logical, after all, it makes sense that eating less calories than you are burning ought to lead to weight loss. And initially it does.

EAT LESS, MOVE MORE



However, ask the many thousands of people who have faithfully applied this theory over many years by diligently sticking to various low calorie, low fat diets if it works for the long-term and you will hear a resounding no! In fact, most people who 'diet' in this way actually end up gaining more weight over the years despite having enormous willpower and making huge nutritional sacrifices.

Why doesn't it work?

Well, the calories in, calories out theory takes no account of the source of the calories. Calories come from the foods that provide us with energy, the macro-nutrients – fats, carbohydrates, and protein. The way our body deals with each of these macro-nutrients varies enormously. Carbohydrates, our main source of energy, are digested into sugars before being absorbed into the blood. These sugars, raise our blood sugar which stimulates the hormone insulin to be secreted. Insulin helps sugar to pass into cells, particularly in the liver and muscles, where it is used for energy. Any excess sugar is stored as glycogen or turned into fat and stored around the belly, hence insulin is also known as the fat storage hormone.

Hormones matter

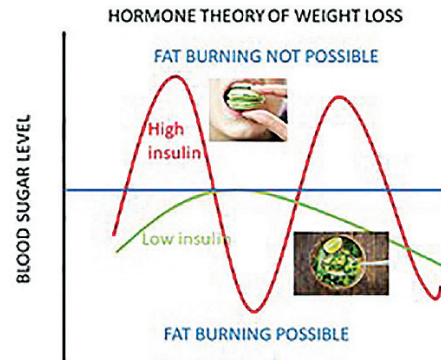
If carbohydrate consumption is low and blood sugars don't rise, then insulin levels stay low and we begin to burn fat for energy instead. Fat burning is only possible when insulin levels are low and insulin levels will only be low if blood sugar levels are low. Insulin is a hormone, hormones matter!

Since a typical diet is composed of about 55% carbohydrates, 30% fats and 15% protein, simply reducing the number of calories consumed without changing the composition of macronutrients will not lead to a reduction in insulin levels and hence will not allow fat burning to take place normally. In fact, your body will respond to the calorie drop by lowering your metabolic rate to conserve energy and increasing your appetite to make you eat more! This leads to food cravings, tiredness and brain fog and eventually you will cave in and start eating more calories again, putting the weight back on and more!

Hormone theory of weight loss

However, if you change the macronutrient composition, by reducing the carbohydrate intake and increasing the fat intake (counterintuitive, I know), your insulin levels will remain low and allow your body to burn its own fat. This will lead to consistent, sustainable weight loss without leading to hunger or lowering of metabolic rate, so you will continue to have lots of energy whilst losing the weight. There are now

literally hundreds of research papers that champion this 'low carb' diet approach and millions of people around the world who testify to its success.



How to do it

There are many resources on the internet and many low carb cookbooks to help you get started with a low carb pattern of eating, but the main rule of thumb is stop (or massively reduce) your consumption of sugary foods and drinks (including fruit juice), refined carbohydrates (bread, flour, rice and pasta) and starchy vegetables (most root vegetables), and eat plenty of green, leafy vegetables and other vegetables that grow above ground. Restrict fruit intake to 1-2 portions per day (berries have less sugar) and increase consumption of healthy fats (olive oil, butter, coconut oil, full-fat yoghurt and oily fish). Protein should come from meat and fish, eggs or dairy or legumes and pulses if you are vegetarian or vegan. Protein at every meal will satisfy hunger sooner and help you to stop snacking.

Please note, this article constitutes information and not medical advice. If you want to try a low-carb diet then please discuss it with your health provider, particularly if you are diabetic or on prescribed medications.

Sue Wharton and Isabel Hemmings, Registered Nutritionists (MBANT), Cinnamon Days – nutrition & lifestyle solutions, www.cinnamondays.co.uk

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DAVEY MCKEE SPORTS GROUND (PRINCE OF WALES RD)
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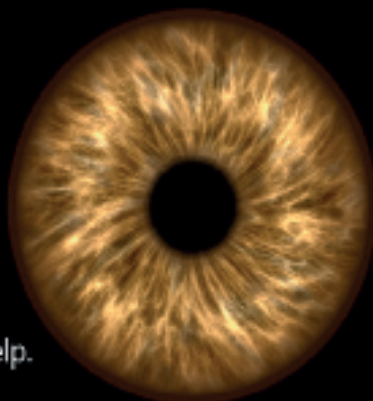
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