

Totley Independent

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Can you identify whereabouts in S17 this old photograph was taken and what was the business of the distinguished-looking gent standing proudly besides the vehicle in the foreground. No road markings, no satellite dishes, no TV aerials..... and how old is that streetlight? For more information, see page 5.

Totley History Group Needs You!

The Beginning

The story of Totley History Group started on a cold January night in 2008 at Totley library.

Local historian and author Brian Edwards had spent many years researching and recording all aspects of the history of Totley and was keen to ensure that his vast collection of Totley history memorabilia would remain available for people to access in the future. He had the idea of establishing a local history group which would use his records and collection of original documents as a starting point for its activities. Brian was also keen that research should continue into various topics such as the trades carried out in Totley, the rolling mills around the area, Totley Tunnel and links with the other villages around Totley.

When the group started on that Janu-

ary night it was Brian's intention to provide assistance for the first year and to point us in certain directions. Unfortunately Brian was soon taken seriously ill and was unable to provide the support he had hoped to offer, however the Group were all fired up and raring to go. By that time the Group already had a healthy membership and was determined to carry on. In 2010 the management of the Group was put on a more formal footing with the adoption of a constitution and the election of a committee.

Archive and Records

Since then we have been lucky to have acquired many other items of great interest. Some have been purchased, some donated and others are on permanent loan. We have a collection of local history books about Totley and surrounding areas including copies of

all Brian's own books that he published over the years. The postcard collection also forms part of the archive. We have deeds, maps, letters and biographies that have been donated to the group and a large collection of original and copied photographs.

A recent acquisition was the deeds for Lower Bents Farm which were kindly donated to the group, on a permanent loan basis. This significant bundle of papers includes the deeds of the farm dating back to 1621 and also many papers relating to the conveyance of various parcels of land around Totley Bents. There are also letters relating to the building of the tunnel which runs under the farm's land.

These deeds have been transcribed and put onto our website. With acquisitions such as these we can unravel relationships of various families (*continued p.3*)

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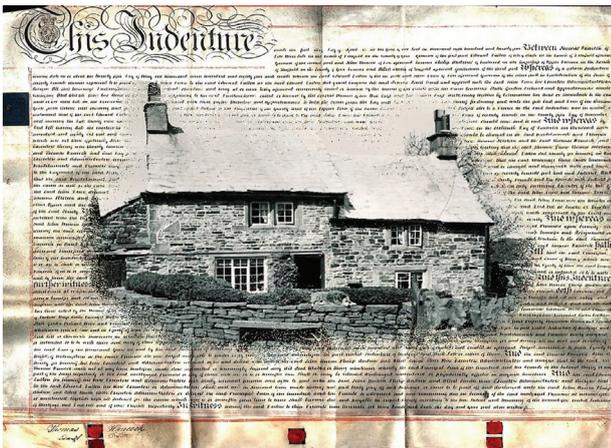


Where quality and friendliness count

Totley History Group Needs You! (from p.1)

and individuals over the centuries.

All these documents, photographs and other ephemera are gradually being catalogued and preserved in archival quality storage files and boxes which means they will be preserved for future generations in the best possible condition.



Lower Bents Farm

Sadly, Brian died in 2015 but his archive remains in the safe keeping of the Group. We have also been able to acquire a valuable resource of photographs, films and postcards of old Totley which are accessible online.

Our Website

Our website - www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk - has been running since 2012 having registered more than 2 million hits. In addition to the archives, there is a huge amount of material available on the site concerning people, places and events in Totley. Enquiries have been received from all over the world from people having an interest in Totley's history.

Projects and Activities

One of our earliest projects was to research the names of the Totley men who died in WW1, with a view to learning more about their lives within the community and the service they gave the country that sadly led to their deaths. As a result we published our first book in 2011, *Totley War Memorial 1914-1918*. Two further books, *The Rise of Totley Rise* and *Knit for Victory*, have been published and we also regularly contribute articles pertaining to Totley's history in *Totley Independent*.

Exploring many topics of history has been made possible by inviting speakers to our monthly meetings to tell the stories of the Totley tunnel and railway and the local industries of file cutting and scythe making, amongst others. After a while we decided to embrace aspects of Sheffield's history throughout the centuries such as the steel industry, the social impact of the industrial revolution, and Sheffield's connections with Mary Queen of Scots. Should we forget, we can remind ourselves by leafing through our archive of colourful and artistic posters created to advertise forthcoming talks. These will be on display at our forthcoming April AGM.

Over the years we have regularly set up exhibitions at Totley Show, Sheffield Family History Fair and the Local History Fair at Dronfield Hall Barn. In 2014 we were asked by Totley All Saints Church to produce a special exhibition to celebrate



their 90th anniversary. Our most challenging event was a major exhibition in November 2014 at the URC church to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 (see photo above) which was very successful.

Meetings

Meetings are usually held at Totley Library on the 4th Wednesday of each month starting at 7.30 pm. On February 23rd Ian Alcock will be telling us about the history of pop-up and novelty books that were very popular in pre-television days and then on March 23rd Sarah Cattell from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service will be talking about Sheffield's heritage. The meetings will be open to both members and non-members and if you wish to come please register your interest by sending an email to secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk.



Posters advertising our monthly talks, 2020-2022

The Future

It may seem odd for a history group to be looking to the future but, although the Group has expanded and flourished over the years and is financially stable, there are two factors posing serious threats to its continuance. The first is the current pandemic we are all living through, which stopped our activities in their tracks and which has proved challenging to emerge from. A couple of meetings were held by Zoom and, although sparsely attended, allowed us to maintain some momentum. 'Real' meetings have restarted and attendances are beginning to recover but the omicron variant may have an impact for a while. The other threat is the shortage of people coming forward to help run the Group by joining the committee. Most of the present committee have been in post for many years - some since 2008 - and it is inevitable that some will seek to retire in the next few years. Ideally we are looking for a new Chair and for someone to take on the task of writing articles for local publications. The Group committee met recently to consider options as to how the Group might operate in the future, taking into account these factors and the fact that the long shadow of Covid 19 means that time is needed for us to emerge from that before any irreversible decisions are made.

Annual General Meeting

On April 13th we will be holding our AGM at 7.30 pm at Totley Library and this will be open to both members and non-members. The main topics will be a review of the group's achievements over the 14 years it has been running and then to consider future activities of the Group. We are still looking for new committee members to come forward to help to ensure the longer term future of the Group and if you are interested in finding out more about what being on the Committee entails please send an email to secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk for further details. We would be happy to hear from non-members as well as members.

Please, please come forward if you would like to help this vibrant community group to continue to grow and keep the history of Totley alive.

The guardian of Totley's past must secure its own future

Norman Rolfe, THG Chair

Art at the Beauchief

Driving towards or away from Beauchief is not the time to be looking for, or at, art. I was slowing down for the lights, early in December, when I noticed workpeople on the verge and footpath on the new development side of the road. They had cut 'blind' holes in the wall. My sleuth of a neighbour investigated and found four blocks of stone have been carved, and then inserted into the 'blind' holes. The Planning Consent required the developers to put some art into the scheme.

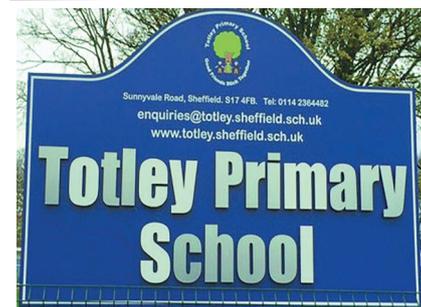
The stone carver, Steve Roche, explains the project: "Some of you may have noticed the carvings in the wall of the old Beauchief Hotel on Abbeydale Road South. I was asked by the architect to come up with a project as part of the public art planning condition, paid for by the developer. As the site was the station hotel and I think was used as the station at some point, it made sense to me that the carvings were based on the railway history of the site. All but one of the



trains have pulled the Master Cutler service from Sheffield to London over the years. The other one I got to pick myself - the *Mallard*! The designs are based on art deco travel posters - with a sharp vanishing point. The corners are curved to look like train carriage windows and the scenes are a little window on the past. I cut the carvings in quite deep relief to give the sensation of movement when the viewer walks or drives past. I hope people enjoy them!"

Legal notice! Please don't look whilst driving!

Roger Hart



Totley Primary School

A New Year brings new hope!

As a school, we find ourselves - once again - in strange

times as the New Year begins and yet another phase of the Pandemic rolls around. Whilst we have accepted that there is bound to be a degree of disruption to everyone's plans in the near future, we are resolute in our determination to keep going and maintain our educational offer as far as possible. Since September, we have certainly seen for ourselves how much children have benefited from school running more conventionally. Collaboration between older and younger pupils, opportunities for trips and visits, shared assemblies and playtimes and mixed-age extra-curricular activities have all supported children's social and emotional development hugely - as well as providing significant educational enrichment.

The joy and motivation that this enrichment brings, underpinned by consistently high expectations, great

teaching of a strong curriculum and warm, positive relationships, of course, is palpable.

Over the next few weeks alone, there is a whole host of events planned which aim to broaden children's experiences of school and allow them to shine in different ways. 'Totley Comes Dancing,' for example, is a new competition in school - inspired by our PE leader, Mr Flevill and the twinkle-toed Mrs Crookes. Interest in it has been sky-high and we await the funky manoeuvres of children of all ages with great anticipation!



A staff version of the classic dance, 'Footloose' kick-starts the children's interest in 'Totley Comes Dancing'!

Climbing and gymnastics competitions are also in the diary, alongside trips both local and further afield: we aim to resume our residential visits for Y4 and Y6 children later in the year. Our Foundation Stage children will shortly be looking to find the answer to the question, 'do bears live in Gillifield Woods?' If they find any, we'll be sure to let you know!

So keep your fingers crossed for us over the coming weeks that our plans come to fruition... and on behalf of all at Totley Primary, I would like to send everyone in the local community our very best wishes for 2022!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

Dore & Totley United Reformed Church

At Dore and Totley United Reformed Church, we have faced the challenges of coronavirus restrictions with both caution and determination to keep church life going as much as possible. For those who come to worship, it is an important time of spiritual nourishment and fellowship. Churches tend to be places where good friendships are built and loneliness is healed. However, we had to cut back our activities and celebrated Christmas in a restricted way which was, of course, disappointing, but we wanted to keep people safe as much as possible.

Now we are moving into the season of Lent, a period when we are encouraged to do some serious reflecting upon our lives and what is in need of change, trusting that through faith and the love of God, transformation is possible. We reflect upon the nature of sacrifice and the response to Jesus' ministry, leading to the arrest, trial and killing of Jesus. It can be a very sobering thought when we think about how people reacted and continue to react to a message that was and is fundamentally about radically inclusive love, caring for the poor and the marginalised, and being put right with God. Lent is an important time for the churches which leads us towards Easter and the Christian belief that, despite the horror of the Cross, and the apparent loss of hope, God was at work. The Easter message of new life, resurrection, forgiveness and hope is at the heart of all that we do in the churches.

So we hope that we will be able to open normally and offer plenty of opportunities for worship, fellowship and reflection. At Dore and Totley United Reformed Church, we will continue with Sunday morning service at 10.30, and with a short service on Wednesdays at 11.30am. We'll increase other activities as soon as it is allowed and safe to do so. We offer a warm invitation to anyone who would like to join us for any activities.

Rev Barry Welch

Our front-page photograph

Bushey Wood Stores is the name of the shop and the only readable local clue. We know this was at the bottom of Bushey Wood Road where it meets Baslow Road, and is still very recognisable by the angled entrance door. There is still a streetlight in a similar position at the corner. The stores was a general merchant, as was common at the time. When was this? We think early 1930s, looking at the hats being worn - but we're finding it difficult to pin down further.

The shop was run by Vic Martin and his sister-in-law Winifred Wint. Vic's wife, Lilian, also worked there. Vic and Lilian were the parents of Jimmy Martin who ran the newsagent adjacent to this shop on Baslow Road until 2003.

The Chivers (of Cambridge) delivery van is interesting and helped with the dating. The van is a Leyland 4-tonner, one of a number purchased by the company. Chivers customised each van in their own sawmills using their skilled coachmakers. This gent is likely to have been a travelling salesman or 'rep' delivering goods ordered on a previous visit to the area. The vans are known to have undertaken occasional trunk runs to York, delivering their jams and jellies to shops such as Bushey Wood Stores.

With thanks to Totley History Group

Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

Hello everyone! I am delighted to report that TOADS were able to present a play this November! It's been two years since our last production and we were all raring to go!

The play this time was a thriller, *Something to Hide*, written by Leslie Sands and directed by my John - a great plot with twists and turns all the way through, with great performances given by all, and with an incredible back-stage crew. We weren't put off by the snow which fell on Friday night and Saturday (well, I was a bit!), which made our journeys home a bit scary.

Covid restrictions were in full force and our audiences co-operated fully for everyone's safety, for which we are very grateful. Thank you all for supporting us, your very own Am-Dram Society.



But onwards and upwards - our next production in May 2022 is in the process of being written specially for us by Alan Wade, who as you all know is a very talented actor and playwright.

We have performed two of Alan's plays in the past - *That Week in August* in May 2017, and *Biddie's War* in November 2019, when I had the pleasure of acting alongside my dear friend Judy Savournin, who sadly passed away in October 2020. Sadly missed.

Don't forget, if anyone out there is interested in treading the boards, working backstage or helping in any capacity, or even just wants to see what goes on at a play reading, don't hesitate to contact me, Jeff, or any Toads member, or just turn up!

We meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room, St John's Church, Abbeydale Road South. It will be lovely to see you.

Anne Bettridge

Beauchief Gardens

Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club works to improve gardens

The gardens were donated to the City in 1934 by the J.G. Graves Trust. They have been an attraction for years for children to be taken to, to feed the birds (and be terrified by the massive steam engines going so close by), for walkers to rest their weary legs, and for wedding photographers who used them as a backcloth before the wedding breakfast either at The Beauchief or Masonic Hall.

Council cut-backs reduced the amount of time for the staff to work on them, and so Sheffield Vulcan Rotary took on the task of helping out. There was a lot of work to do, by a small, willing and capable group of members. A call from Chris Morgan, Chair of Friends of Dore & Totley Railway Station, asked me if I was still involved in Rotary and if we had an interest in the gardens. He told me that there had been a public meeting a couple of weeks before, where the contractors for the major scheme at the Station and on the Hope Valley line, had offered help for improvements of local schemes as part of their customer relations programme.

Although the closing date for ideas had gone, a phone call to the liaison officer was warmly welcomed. Various meetings were held with the contractors, Parks and Recreation staff, including their arboriculturist, and agreement was met on many of the improvements and repairs which we submitted. Not all of our ideas were accepted, but the door may not be closed, and we are seeking ideas/funding in order that we can achieve our ideals. We want to include identification boards for the birds on the dam, and also the trains which will be passing by (the new points for the railway will be adjacent to the Gardens).

One of our members removed all of the climbers and branches from the rose wall before we knew of this scheme, but the background for photographers will be replanted with bush and climbing roses. We would like a new shelter, but to get one which will be fireproof and vandal-proof, and be in keeping with the garden, is a challenge! A new path to provide a circuit around the gardens was rejected by the contractor, but we hope for a solution. (Can a resident with access to a mini JCB help with this project?). The timescale for the project has been short, but we will still welcome ideas for improvements and repairs which I have not mentioned. We don't have a starting date, but we believe that it will, subject to the weather, be imminent.

Our target date for completion is June, for it to be opened as the Jubilee Gardens, for Her Majesty's Jubilee. Our Club is actively involved in a Civic event for the Jubilee Celebrations - details later this year.

As you will have gathered, we are an active Club, involved in numerous projects for the benefit of others. We welcome new members. At present, we have a mix of zoom meetings and live meetings, but initial contact can be made via our website info@vulcanrotary.org or myself, Roger@rogerhart.co.uk

Roger Hart



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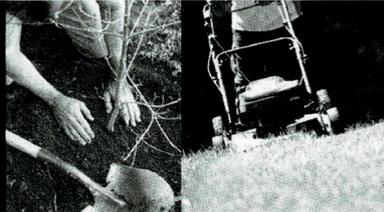
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Traffic News

Speed camera update! I heard comments on social media about the continuing necessity for the speed cameras. Simple answer - motorists are still ignoring the speed limits, and the majority are from S17. Do those complaining want to break the law, and possibly cause an accident? The reason in the first place that they started monitoring speeds here was the fact that there were FOUR accidents on Baslow Road, at the junction with Marstone Crescent, within two months, all connected with speed and/or lack of attention. A public meeting was held, and this was the only positive outcome. Over the winter, the camera vans have been fitted with another tool - ANPR cameras (Automatic Number Plate Recognition). Even if a vehicle is not speeding, these cameras can detect vehicles with no tax, test, insurance, if stolen, and if on the list of wanted vehicles. They can also spot dodgy number plates, including those made to look like a name (£60 fine for first offence, I am told by a guilty man).

Road Safety and Highways I attended the first Local Area Committee, back in September. I was going to introduce a report which I have written, on various topics covering road repairs, parking, and road safety matters. A councillor asked me not to put it to the meeting, but to put it to the committee, which I have done, with a promise from an administrative officer to have a meeting about it. Unknown to me another Totley resident had submitted a request to raise the issue of the dangers of the junction of Totley Brook Road, Bushey Wood Road and Abbeydale Road South. As she did not attend, the Councillors undertook to discuss it at their meeting. I understand some items have been discussed, but as there are 1300 requests for road improvements across the City, we are low down the list, as there are few accidents reported and no fatalities - a term which was used at the previous public meeting on the same matter.

Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here. No, not have any fatalities, but to raise a petition - there have been no fatalities on Abbey Lane, in the woodland, but the possibility of a pedestrian crossing is high on the list. I approached

Bradway Action Group and Dore Village Society for support, but received no positive responses. A small amount of response has been made by Amey who have attended to a few of the repairs which I have reported over months. I have learned that we have a liaison officer at Amey, but it appears that making contact is difficult.

If anyone would like a copy of my report, with amendments, send me an email, please - roger@rogerhart.co.uk

Roger Hart

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I refer to the letter published in your most recent article concerning parking arrangements for Transport 17's vehicles. Transport 17 Ltd is not, as stated, a charity. The most recent accounts available (for the year ending 31/12/18) state that Transport 17 Ltd paid £5,492 for rent, rates, water, light and heat, presumably for their office on Baslow Road; that is £457 per month. It is questionable whether an office is necessary to support Transport 17's endeavours (especially now - offices are so pre-pandemic) whereas having somewhere safe to park their vehicles is not - it is an absolute necessity. Is it unreasonable for the church to charge for this, given that it does give rise to wear and tear on the surface of the carpark? If you wanted to hire a church hall, you'd have to pay.

Regards

Simon Jones
(Address supplied)

(Editor's note: It is clearly stated on Transport 17's website (www.transport17.co.uk) that the organisation "is registered as an Industrial and Provident Society with charitable status" and is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. The draft minutes for 2021 and financial report for 2020 are also available on T17's website.)



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Are You Sitting Comfortably?

There's been a lot of talk recently about standards of seating comfort in modern-day trains. Passengers have complained about the hardness of the seats, likening them to sitting on an ironing board! The jokers among them have suggested that for added padding and comfort one should insert a copy, or copies, of your favourite newspaper between self and seat! The situation seems to be worse for those people who are themselves, perhaps, less well-upholstered in the seating department and are travelling long distances. The arguments for modern-day seating seem to be for reasons of cost, ease of maintenance, ergonomics, and the fact that increased speeds mean shorter journeys with less time sitting.

Railway seating seems to have ranged from the earliest days of the 1830s where seating started off as wooden boards (with the obvious risk of splinters!) in low-sided wagons if you were travelling third-class. You wouldn't have had a roof either and your journey was open to the elements with the risk of pneumonia as well as splinters. Second-class usually did have a roof of sorts, coaches were open at the sides



First-class carriage. Liverpool and Manchester Railways. about 1830.

but the seats weren't up to much. First-class modelled itself on stagecoach standards of luxury with doors, windows and seats that probably had some padding. Railway seating standards probably peaked in the 20th century. Luxury was provided by generous upholstery, yards of moquette, antimacassars, springing and fixtures according to the class of travel. We now seem to be witnessing an apparent decline to clinical and plastic 21st century harder tack and austerity, in the eyes of some at least.

In 1900, the Great Western Railway (GWR) introduced new coaches for the Irish boat trains from London to West Wales. Every day of the year these trains dashed for the 260 mile trip so as not to 'miss the boat' so to speak. These coaches were the first GWR coaches to have electric lighting which was controlled by the guard to 'full' or 'half on' settings. They were also the first to have the emergency communication cord running in tubes inside the coach. Previously, the rope cord was outside the coach above the doors and windows which took a bit of finding. These new coaches had walnut and sycamore panelling with blue morocco leather upholstery in the first-class interiors.

In second class it was mahogany panelling and velvet upholstery, and in third class there was oak and red wool fabric. In all three classes the seats were well sprung. From the early 1900s, some transatlantic liners moored briefly at Plymouth. Passengers, mails and bullion were taken off by tender, and special highly luxurious boat trains were laid on to speed passengers and mails the 227 miles to London in four hours. This saved them six hours if they had stayed on the liner to Southampton. These trains were much favoured by VIPs, visiting royalty and celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy.

For 1930, the GWR announced that their third-class seats would in future be half an inch wider and the armrests would be lower by an inch more. This would make for greater

comfort, it was said. In first class, the armrests would be raised by one inch. Had the GWR discovered that the human race was getting larger and wider? Henry Ford was believed to have designed his cars for the 5 feet 7 inch man. As a well-over six-footer, I have suffered in buses, coaches, cars and trains alike with my knees jammed into the seat in front. Or I get funny looks from the person facing opposite who I really didn't intend to nudge, however nudge-able they were! In cars I'm simply jammed into the dashboard. Even in a Rolls Royce front seat (only the once!) it was touch and go.



The interior of one of the GWR luxury saloon coaches used on the Plymouth to London trains mentioned above. It lives at Didcot Railway Centre, where I was a founder member 60 years ago. In its time it was used by the Prince of Wales (King Edward VIII) and Winston Churchill among many others

For its 1935 Centenary year, the GWR announced it would be building over 200 new coaches at its workshops in Swindon. They mentioned in passing that a typical corridor coach might need as many as 25,000 screws, 70 yards of moquette for seating, 340 pounds of paint and varnish, and 32 well-chosen photographs of picturesque locations on the



Laurel and Hardy on one of the luxury trains just arrived at Paddington in 1932.

Company's network where you really must have your summer holiday. All the timber was sourced from the Empire as far as possible!

These were the bygone days where compartments had blinds or curtains, leather straps for lowering windows, reading lights, heating controls and luggage racks with netting hand-woven by deft fingers. Over the years, window straps often mysteriously disappeared as they were much favoured for stropping cut-throat razors! We can, at least, experience some of these delights on today's heritage and private operator trains. Here at the very least you can still sit comfortably.

Mike Peart



All Saints Church

Positivity in testing times

Over the last few years for many of us, life has been hard. Grumbling and complaining have

often been our response when we feel overwhelmed by circumstances beyond our own control, like global pandemics. It is hard to remain positive and hopeful when uncertainty and confusion threaten our every day life.

Ever since Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, people have complained. It is an entirely human response when we feel our desires are not being met. Moses faced constant complaints and grumbling from the Israelites as he led them through the desert. David complained bitterly at times to God in Psalms. The Scribes and Pharisees complained about Jesus and his ministry and Christians and people of faith today are just as capable of complaining about anything and everything. Nothing much has changed since the dawn of time.

As a child the response to any grumbling was that I should think myself lucky, there were people who could only dream of the life I enjoyed. True though that is, it isn't always what we need to hear when we are feeling discouraged or when life or circumstances feel unfair.

In the midst of our complaining it is all too easy to forget just how blessed we are. We may be finding life difficult or be facing huge challenges but however hard it might seem, there is always something to be grateful for. Christians believe that they should take their troubles to God in prayer, especially when they feel helpless and don't know what to do. This is not so that troubles will simply go away, but to be reassured that even in the most trying of circumstances, God is a source of strength and comfort.

This is a blessing that is available to anyone who chooses to accept it and this is something we can all be grateful for.



allsaintstotley.church

The church hall is now available for hire again and enquiries should be addressed to Beth Booth (totleyallsaintshall@gmail.com) or 0114 236 5512.

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

Requests do not need to include surnames if you prefer and you will not be contacted unless you want your request to be acknowledged.

Liz Hayden, Totley All Saints Church

Hammer & Pincers - Friendship Lunch

The Hammer & Pincers' Friendship Lunch which was launched last year continues to go from strength to strength. We were delighted that the Deputy Lord Mayor of Sheffield was able to join us as a special guest at the second event (see photo) The Friendship Lunch is a wonderful opportunity for people to meet old/make new friends, to dine and to have a dance. The cost is just £10 for a delicious two- course lunch and live entertainment.

This Friendship Lunch will be held on the last Tuesday of every month (subject of course to Government restrictions). The event is kindly sponsored by Age UK Sheffield and People Keeping Well and poster sponsors, Twelve Trees Care, Norrie Waite Slater Solicitors and SCCC. The next Friendship Lunches are on Tuesday, 22 February and Tuesday 29 March.



Jo Woodward, Community Development Officer for Age UK Sheffield said "These types of events are absolutely vital to ensure that we continue to tackle loneliness and isolation in our communities. It is evident by the number of participants we have seen at the events so far that there is a real need for older people to make new connections and get out of their home environment and for some it allows them the rare and much needed opportunity to take a break from caring responsibilities. We hope to set up further events across the South West of the City as we move into 2022 and beyond."

Simon Mills, MD of Twelve Trees Care said " Twelve Trees is very happy to continue supporting local initiatives in 2022 to help avoid loneliness in a safe environment. It is great to see our clients and care team enjoying a wonderful event".

To book please contact the Hammer & Pincers direct on 0114 262 0759. For further information and/or to discuss hosting/sponsoring a Friendship Lunch, please contact Kathy Markwick, Freelance Community Consultant, on 0772 9528844 or email kathyamarkwick@gmail.com



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Neighbourhood Watch

First, a happy new year to all our residents in the S17 locality. Let us hope that the new year starts better than 2021, Covid appeared to be controlled to a certain degree as the vaccination program got started, only for the new omicron variant to rear its ugly head in December. On a similar basis, crime in the S17 area started with a number of vehicle thefts and hit a peak towards the end of the year. Only the actual Christmas week appears to be when the villains have stayed at home. Hopefully the situation will last a bit longer but remember there are now a lot of new products they could be looking to get their hands on.

Not that anything seems to stop the scammers in their various forms. Be it text messages, emails or telephone calls, all have one thing in common - they are trying to get hold of your money in one way or another. The message might claim to be from a delivery company, saying they need to re-despatch a parcel to you, but it will need a redeliver charge of £1.99. All they really want are your card details so



they can take money from or charge your account, so please do not get taken in by this or similar scams. Beware of items being offered for sale on social media where the vendor is demanding a deposit or payment via suspicious methods prior to even being able to view the products. In many cases there are no products - just scammers attempting to get money or card details. None of us are immune to their efforts. I regularly get scam emails on my Hotmail account and fortunately can quickly identify them as such, whilst my wife gets her ration as text messages. If in doubt report them and then delete them.

In the S17 postcode area we have a significant number of residents who are members of Neighbourhood Watch which is increasing on a regular basis. Many provide cover for their neighbours in various ways, be it as a key holder, a carer or, like Julie Gay, leading the litter pickers on regular clearing trips. Others have a sense of public duty about preventing criminal activity and spreading the word regarding protecting themselves, neighbours or their property. It is not a group of busybodies peering behind the curtains spying on all and sundry, although they are more likely to report suspicious activity by people or vehicles around their road.

Why don't you consider joining NHW? It does not cost a penny in membership fees; you will receive regular incident reports informing you of the latest criminal activity, and measures that can be taken to reduce the chance of becoming a victim yourself. NHW has a number of small alarms suitable for windows, door handles and personal alarm torches at very nominal cost and will help with advice on other security products that may be more suitable for your circumstances. A membership form can be downloaded or completed online at our website, along with lots of useful contact numbers and information. It is not a forum for discussions although we do have Facebook presence as well.

If you are interested in setting up a local street group please contact me to provide whatever assistance is required including window stickers and possibly street signs.

Les Day, Vice Chair S17NWA
les_nhw@hotmail.com
07985 424363
Web page: www.s17nwa.co.uk
Facebook group: S17NWA NHW Group



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Stephen Hill Church Hall Crosspool – Thursday 1pm
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Contact Rachel for information

Rachel Quinn BWY Dip

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Totley Swift Group: The Story So Far!

Friends of Gillfield Wood has been running now for over 10 years. Some of our committee members were keen to set up a Swift Group in Totley so a couple of us went over to Bradwell in November 2019 to hear a talk on Swifts and to find out a little more about a Swift Group that was being set up in that village.

In early 2020 we had organized a sub-committee, part of Friends of Gillfield Wood, to work on ideas for a Totley Swift Group. We invited Chet Cunago to join us as she had by chance just set up a Facebook page and created interest in Swifts in the village, to the point that a number of residents had purchased Swift nest boxes from Lester Hartmann's 'Peak Boxes'.

Two of the main aims of the group have been to survey and try to establish the current status of Swifts in the village and to try to protect the existing nest sites - this is ongoing - and to provide additional nest sites by erecting nest boxes.

We initially advertised our group through articles in the *Totley Independent* and by putting up posters around the village. We were due to have a Swift talk in April last year to kick-start our group but Covid restrictions meant we had to cancel. We pressed on nevertheless and were successful with a £500 grant application to the Council Ward Pot. With this money we were able to purchase 10 dual chambered nest boxes from 'Peak Boxes'.

At the same time, we had created sufficient interest through word of mouth etc, for ten local residents to purchase boxes privately from Lester. All 20 boxes were erected in March of this year.

Our survey work between May and August 2020 had provided us with a good idea as to where Swifts were nesting in the village. We had found natural sites in holes in brickwork and under gutters. This helped us make decisions as to where to site the nest boxes we had purchased with the grant money. Since then, a second season of survey work has enabled us to establish that we have at least 25 natural nest sites in Totley - a reasonable base from which to work and we hope to find more next year.

We also made another successful grant application, this time from 'Birds on the Brink'. As this is an internationally known charity in the bird world, we feel very privileged to have gained their support. This has enabled us to purchase another ten nest boxes and these were erected last month.



Putting the swift box in place at Totley Primary School

Pleasingly we have now been able to get both Totley schools involved. As a start, one box has been fitted on each school with the intention of introducing more boxes, with sound systems plus cameras inside the boxes in due course.

A dozen more residents showed interest in purchasing their own boxes which we have managed to erect this month. So, with nearly all these boxes having dual nest chambers we will have introduced around the village over 90 new nest sites for Swifts so far. Our thanks extend to Lester who has erected the boxes and helped us so much over the last 18 months.



Chet's Facebook page, Totley Swifts, continues to generate great interest with at least 70 followers. We also set up an Outlook Account for email purposes. Membership is free and we have 50 people on the mailing list so far. This is used for sending out occasional updates and a survey form should any members wish to send in data of their Swift sightings.

We also have a WhatsApp group just for the Swift Group committee to keep in touch. We have even had outdoor committee meetings in Green Oak Park whilst watching the Swifts overhead.

We hope to have an evening on Swifts for members next season with a planned walk around the village. And we hope to encourage the Council to make Sheffield a City of Swifts, getting developers to use Swift Bricks and nest boxes around the city wherever possible.

Our group's profile has been raised through articles in the *Star*, the *Sheffield Telegraph* and a piece on Radio Sheffield. Sally Goldsmith, another of our committee members, was also kindly invited by the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to say a few words about our group at the end of a recent Zoom meeting on Swifts.

We are in touch with other Swift Groups and share information and advice and we hope to help and work alongside the newly formed Dore Swift Group going forward.

We now eagerly await next May in the hope that Swifts will show more than just a passing interest in our nest boxes but will actually start to occupy one or two. Exciting times!

If you wish to be added to our Swift Group mailing list please write to swiftsoftotley@outlook.com.

On behalf of Friends of Gillfield Wood and Totley Swift Group, we take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy New Year.

Chris Measures

Ask Your Pharmacist

Coming out of Covid in 2022

As we enter 2022, it appears we are finally making progress down the road out of Covid restrictions. Decision makers appear to be moving towards treating it as an endemic rather than a pandemic. This time last year schools were closed and intensive care units were stretched to breaking point. Comparatively, this year, we managed to have a fairly normal Christmas and seem to be avoiding lockdowns.

Unfortunately, the unusual ability of Covid-19 to replicate even in those with immunity, and the large swathes of the undervaccinated world mean the road out of pandemic is likely to be a bumpy one with the possibility of new variants and possible rises in cases or hospitalisations. In spite of this, hopefully, every few months will feel more normal and safe.

Although we are still in the thick of the Omicron wave, confidence is growing that restrictions will be reduced and the age of lockdown does seem to be over. The use of boosters and mass testing rather than more stringent restrictions to get through the current wave suggest we are "living with Covid."

It is interesting that society seems to be feeling this way at a time when a substantial number of the country is infected with Covid (1 in 15 as I write this). Pushing Covid aside to make space for a resumption of busy lives isn't just about virology, but rather a human tendency to adapt, regardless of how shocking or scary a scenario may seem at first. This is seen in those living in war zones getting used to the bombing. It is entirely human to start thinking about the future and the past, and not just getting through the present day.

Ministers are now talking about how we adapt for the long term and while much remains uncertain, in the next few months the outline of post-pandemic Britain will start to take shape.

Social distancing is likely to be a part of life in one form or another for quite a while. If cases remain high, there will be caution around socialising, and working from home is likely to continue. Masks may remain compulsory too in many settings. As infections fall, these measures are likely to ebb away.

Most experts seem to agree that school closures cause far more problems than benefits, so closures are extremely unlikely. Hopefully, the many businesses devastated by Covid closures (retail, hospitality etc.) can plan with more confidence for the future.

It seems very hard to predict what will happen with travel and testing, as the government seems to change its mind regularly. Testing does seem to be here for the foreseeable future although less restrictive.

While lateral flow tests are not totally accurate, mass use of them has helped to keep the country functioning through this winter period. Despite them proving their value, it seems that the huge cost of mass testing means free lateral flows will not be continued for too long. Testing will gradually be restricted to care homes, hospitals and other high-risk environments where infection control is most important. Businesses will have to decide whether to pay for testing for their staff to avoid outbreaks and isolation among their workforce. If this is something you would like, please talk to us. We can offer this service to businesses.

Of course, testing can lead to mandatory isolation. Decision makers seem to be taking a more pragmatic attitude towards isolation, especially with regard to the length of isolation period. It seems that cutting isolation to 5 rather than 7 days does not cause a significant increase in spread of the virus.

Covid vaccines are likely to become a routine annual jab (much like the flu vaccine has been for a long time) rather than us trying to keep count of whether we have had a 5th or 6th vaccine. Administration will become routine, planned and targeted to the vulnerable rather than rushed, ad-hoc and across the population. There is talk of Covid vaccines being combined with other respiratory vaccines such as the flu vaccine. To actually treat Covid, some antivirals are showing promise, although they are presently very costly. Hopefully ongoing trials can produce medicines that can reduce hospitalisations and deaths.

When Omicron arrived, it felt like Covid groundhog day, and it is likely that other variants will appear in the future, complicating the exit from pandemic. The blessing seems to be that newer variants are milder and less likely to kill in large numbers. This seems normal for viruses, with them able to infect us, but with us becoming more able to fight them off. Hopefully it also mutates less in the future.

Our country has seen the value of mass testing for Covid, and preventative measures in improving health outcomes. Health leaders are hoping to capitalise on this shift in behaviour to encourage prevention and self-care as the preferred option for healthcare rather than trying to treat illnesses when they are deeply rooted. This seems an entirely sensible way to approach healthcare. Such an approach would also allow the NHS to function better when it is needed. The pandemic has shown that a creaking NHS cannot cope with the demands of a growing population that is living longer with more illnesses, with ever-growing waiting lists. Early treatment of minor symptoms and ailments can quite often prevent progression of an illness. Many minor ailments can be treated by yourself with over the counter medicines. It makes sense though to get such treatments from a pharmacy where you will get the correct advice. You may be able to pick up some Lemsip or Calpol from a petrol station but have they really got the training to ensure you pick the best option?

During the pandemic we have seen the enormous benefits of exercise, both mentally and physically. The value of companionship has also been highlighted, and this is another benefit of many forms of exercise or sport. We are very fortunate to live in a community where there are many groups that can help in these ways. With so many options locally, hopefully you can find some form of exercise to enjoy. Covid also highlighted the huge benefits of a healthy diet supplemented with the correct vitamins. We certainly saw a huge increase in demand for Vitamin D and C to boost the immune system. For advice on a healthy diet and which vitamins would suit you best, pop in to see us.

Tajinder Singh



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What's on at Totley Library



Happy new year to everyone with best wishes for a happier healthier 2022! 2021 has been another challenging year especially with the emergence of variants and the huge surge in infection in the build-up to Christmas. In addition to this the library has had an additional challenge, as a routine inspection of our heaters deemed the heater in the children's library to be unfit for purpose with immediate effect!

We have been busy looking at various options including a potentially greener heating system for the whole library but the volunteer teams have been determined to open up the library as much as possible even if it's for more limited services for the time being. We will endeavour to keep the community updated on progress and thank you for your patience!

Julie Kitlowski

Totley Library Community Art Space - Original Art and Prints for Sale.



We are delighted to announce we are re-launching the Community Art Space at Totley Library. New art works by Angela Harpham, Sarah Wild, Gina Hodges and Andrew Jeffery are now on display and available for sale.

Two examples of the artwork on show are (left) *Yellow Flower* by Angela Harpham; and (below) *Holkam Tide* by Sarah Wild.

Totley Library Community Art Space was established 3 years ago to showcase the works of new and established local artists. All art works are exhibited

for a period of three months, free of charge, and are available for sale at a price set by the artists. Totley Library takes a small commission on each picture sold to support the ongoing running costs of the library.

The library is now looking for local artists who would like to join this exciting community initiative and who would like to exhibit in April 2022 and July 2022. For further information, please call in at Totley Library and take a look at the Art Space or email carolynjallcroft@gmail.com.



Books for sale

The next Book Sale is on February 19th, but remember that good-quality second-hand books, as well as jigsaws, DVDs and music CDs are displayed on our sale shelves each day during library hours and are regularly re-stocked.

Totley Library Lottery Winners

Congratulations to recent Library Lottery winners! The first-prize winner in the November draw was David Willdig, and the second-prize winner was Rita Hunter. In the December draw, first prize was won by Dennis Richmond, and the second prize was won by Stephen Bate.

Totley Library Cinema

Films in February and March: our January cinema programme was moved to February and is available for booking. If you have already made a reservation for the films below it will still be valid.

Sunday 13 February, 2pm Paw Patrol: The Movie (U) Ryder and the pups are called to Adventure City to stop Mayor Humdinger from turning the bustling metropolis into a state of chaos.

Thursday 17 February, 3pm The Father (PG13) A man refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages. As he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality.

Friday 25 February, 7pm Judas and The Black Messiah (15) Offered a plea deal by the FBI, William O'Neal infiltrates the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party to gather intelligence on Chairman Fred Hampton.

Sunday 13 March, 2pm Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (U) Thomas and Bea are now married and living with Peter and his rabbit family. Bored of life in the garden, Peter goes to the big city, where he meets shady characters and ends up creating chaos for the whole family.

Thursday 24 March, 3 pm The Courier (12A) Cold War spy Greville Wynne and his Russian source try to put an end to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Friday 1 April, 7pm The Good Liar (15) Consummate con man Roy Courtney has set his sights on his latest mark: the recently widowed Betty McLeish, worth millions. But this time, what should have been a simple swindle escalates into a cat-and-mouse game with the ultimate stakes.

Book tickets at Totley Library in person or by calling 0114 236 3971. Raffle tickets can be purchased on the door. Refreshments will be served at these films.

Winners of our Christmas Raffle

During December we ran a Christmas raffle, and the prizes and winners were: Biscuits No 76 Jim Shore and No 91 Akiko Widdowson; Luxury Hamper No 59 Bet Warwick and 'Free from' Hamper No.20 Roger Lasko. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket!

New Book Additions

We have a range of new books for loan. Here are just a few of our latest titles.



You can make a book recommendation online at <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/suggest-a-new-book/> or email us at book-purchasing@totleycric.org.uk



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Walking the Dog

- JACK** Where are we walking and talking today?
RONY We are going to walk all round Totley and play a little alphabet game called A Little Alphabet Game About The People Of Our Totley Past.
JACK Wuff! What do I have to do?
RONY You have to keep quiet Jack, until you're in it.
JACK How will I know when I am?
RONY Your name will be at the left hand side in CAPITAL LETTERS.
JACK Wuff!
RONY A is for Uncle Arnold of Laverdene Drive. He was not named after Arnold Laver, but Laverdene Drive was.



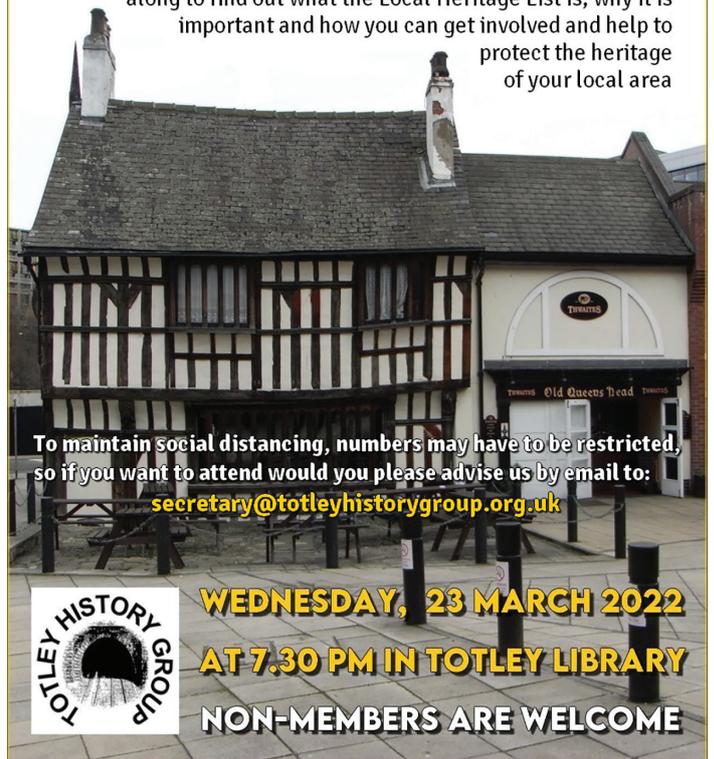
- B is Mr Ben B—— who used to hit us with rulers at All Saints.
 C is for Colin on Totley Rise.
 D is for Don Chambers and his fish on Totley Rise.
 E is for Ernest Chambers and his fish on Totley Rise.
 F is for Fred Webster who lived on the prefabs and smelt of cardboard.
 G is for Graham Gregory who lived on Laverdene Avenue and had two GGs so we called him Gee Gee, but he does not know that to this day.
 H is for Hewson Fawcett who told on me to his mother because I had been calling him names. But I hadn't. She told me off, so I never spoke to him again even when he was being loud on the 45 bus.
 I is for impetigo which you catch off the lavatory seats in our playground and have to paint your bottom purple if you do.
JACK Impetigo isn't a person, so let's get on to J is for Jack who —
RONY J is for Mrs Jackson on the Rise who sold two different kinds of stamps and Gloy Glue.
 K is for OH King Provisions at the the top of Mickley Lane, and we used to shout God Save The Queen when we ran past.
 L is my mum, of course.
JACK And M is me?
RONY Sorry Jack! M is for Molly Hogg who lived opposite us after she had married Jimmy Hogg.
 N is Nanny Jessop. She was the first woman ever to see me with no clothes on.
JACK Phil the HEAD EATER won't allow us to say that in the *Totley Independent!*
RONY O is for Old Smellor, which was what we used to call Mr S Mellor who was our Headmaster at All Saints. His teeth usually fell out in assembly.
JACK When do we get to me, Rony?
RONY Sooner rather than later Jack.
 P is for Patrick W—— from the Police Houses at the Top Of Totley. He once said, 'Wanna feight?' And instead of me saying, 'Seven!' I said 'Yes!' So we had a fight near the air raid shelters where the Senior Girls go at dinner times to kiss.
 Q is for Queen Victoria even if Queen Victoria Road was called Victoria Road till it wasn't. R is for the 5 Robinsons who lived at 6 Laverdene Drive. But 4 of them live in heaven now.
JACK Sad that...but its also sad that there aren't many dogs so far? And there must have been dogs in Totley in the olden days?
RONY Yes, but in the olden days, dogs were allowed to bite you. But Chummy White didn't. He lived on Laverdene Avenue with Mr and Mrs White and Norman and Valerie. He was allowed to bark on his own all the way from their house to ours.
JACK Why can't I do that ?
RONY Because frankly, that would be a bit common for a

- dog who lives on Lemont.
 T is for Tanty Judge who lived at Number 4 Laverdene Drive. She never left her house after the Blitz of 1940 but she insisted the kids went round to say they were just off to bed, and she gave them a halfpenny.
JACK What about you?
RONY U is for Uncle Arnie who wasn't our uncle. But he had a nine inch telly with a magnifying screen with blue for the sky and green for the grass. He let us watch Whirligig and the Weather Forecast, but stopped us after five weeks because he wanted his tea.
 V is for Vera Waterfall who lived at Number 3 next to the Misses Bottom. We weren't allowed to laugh at the Misses Bottoms' name, but we did anyway.
 W is Mr Whalley who was electric on the Rise.
 X isn't a person, but it is what you do when you Spot The Ball in the Green Un. It is also when you spell Xmas and get told off at All Saints. It is also what girls send to you when you are a boy.
 Y is — you Jack!
JACK About time!
RONY And Z is — where are you going Jack?
JACK I'm going for a walk.
RONY I'll come with you!
JACK You won't. From now on this column in THE HEAD EATER'S *Independent* will be called The Dog That Walks By Himself. And I'll have hundreds of dog jokes in it like — who's my favourite composer?
RONY Oh please can I come on your walk with you? Wuff!
JACK As long as you promise not to poo till we're right in the park?
RONY I promise.
JACK Good boy! Who's a good boy. Wuffffffff!
RONY Wuffffffff!

Rony and Jack Robinson

SHEFFIELD'S HERITAGE BY SARAH CATTELL OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Do you feel strongly about the heritage of your area? Do you know of a historic place that should be protected for the future? If so the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List is here to help! Come along to find out what the Local Heritage List is, why it is important and how you can get involved and help to protect the heritage of your local area



To maintain social distancing, numbers may have to be restricted, so if you want to attend would you please advise us by email to: secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk



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The Ship and The Bottle

Ho,ho, ho, I'm going on a cruise.
That's great, I'm going solo and I'm thinking of all that booze.
I've gathered lots of brochures, studied them front to back.
Cabins and berths and balconies.
Top deck, middle decks and lower decks, better think what to pack.
Intrigued and excited to find out all about this fully inclusive deal.
Lidos and casinos, sounds too good to be real.
I couldn't ask for anything more.
Must have a drink to celebrate the thrill of what's in store.

A glass of Oyster Bay; that'll keep me going as I make a list of what to buy.
Lots of evening dresses, sparkling jewellery too, ten pairs of shoes,
A bikini perhaps, I sigh.
Hey-ho I need a Brandy and ginger while I'm feeling this good.
Oh, it's half empty, I might as well finish the bottle now.
Yes, go on then I really think I should.

The tickets have arrived. Getting giddy with the news.
This calls for a small Martini, a teeny,weeny drinky-poops.
Since Lockdown you see I've saved up lots of money so now,
I'm going to splash out on this cruise, it's going to be just WOW!

I'm in Southampton now with my Louis Vuitton suit-cases on board this luxury liner.
But look, a pirate pub! I'll just have a Navy Rum, nothing could be finer.
People are shouting, some are crying, some are waving flags.
I'm so caught up in this happy throng.
Can't wait to see my cabin, check out the mini-bar, the day has been so long.
It may be a single cabin but it has an ocean view.
And there's a complimentary bottle of Sauvignon Blanc
In an ice-bucket, I'll have a glass.....or two.
With a little bounce on the bed I see the first meeting
With the crew and fellow passengers is at four.
I lay there thinking of what to wear
That bottle does look lonely, I'll just have one more.



A little drinky-poo as I get ready. A Cabernet.
And I wonder what's on the itinerary for the rest of the day.
Good food, good company, that's the first meal over and I'm having a good time already.
I'll have a Vodka and Tonic just to keep my nerves steady.
Dancing tonight, any type of music suits me especially rock'n roll.
Better stick to Prosecco, it's a mild drink, if I do say so.
A wonderful day over, Horlicks? No thanks.
A little night-cap with a Rosé
And it's "Goodnight José "

I immerse myself in this fabulous cruise. With terrific views.
Sun-kissed beaches and architectural treasures,
All that I've dreamt of, all life's pleasures.

With a Merlot in my hand I wander around the deck.
Then lying on a sun-lounger the waiter asks me if I'd like a drink? Oh what the heck.
May I have a large glass of Shiraz.....oh make it two.
And some nibbles please, just a few.

Relaxing, gazing on iconic sights this Rum and coke is nice.
The handsome, young waiter has brought me a couple filled with ice.
This morning we've got islands to explore
And with their home-brewed Ouzo I couldn't ask for more.
It's the Captain's table tonight, what a thrill that will be.
Champagne perhaps, Chablis too, I'll be treated like a V.I.P.
I'll not make it obvious that I'm a wine connoisseur.
Well that is, I know my red from my white like my bonjour and adieux!

Lying on my bed looking at brochures for future cruises with glass in hand.
I study the floating hotels, oh they look so grand.
And I take out some small scissors from my cosmetic case.
And cut out a picture of 'our ship' with a smile on my face.
I fold it carefully then I write my address and my name
As I pour the last drop of Martini that's been in my cabin all day.
I place the paper ship in the empty bottle and push back in the cork.
It does look sweet.
I'll see you in the morning, now I'm off to sleep.

It's our last day, the glorious sunshine gives me the desire to take a stroll on deck.
And I grab that little bottle, nothing in it this time round the neck.
Carefree and happy I look over the side,
And throw it overboard laughing, perhaps it will reach the tide.
Heading below deck for breakfast the waiter says, "Coffee or tea"?
Make it a Bucks Fizz I say and leave the bottle,
Don't forget it is all free!

Lorna Marshall

With a little (more) help from our friends.....

As you know, *Totley Independent* magazine is now delivered free to all Totley homes. A small army of 24 volunteers undertakes the delivery rounds, and we couldn't do it without their support.

However, we need another able-bodied volunteer to help shift the 16 or so (heavy!) boxes of magazines from the delivery pallet into Transport 17's office; to help parcel up the 2,000 magazines into batches for the deliverers; and to help with driving around the area taking batches to deliverers' addresses.

If you'd like to help, and if you're reasonably fit and available on one Friday afternoon every two months, please get in touch!

You can call us on 07956 858944 or email editor@totleyindependent.co.uk



Transport 17

Happy New Year to you all!! Firstly, a big thank you to all those who made seasonal donations to Transport 17 (T17) this year, however big or small. In particular, we would like to thank the residents of Nos 90 –

150, Totley Brook Road for their donation following their recent festive gathering, and both Totley All Saints Church and the Nevil Talbot Lodge of Freemasons for their generous donations. All donations are very much appreciated and go towards enabling us to continue to provide transport to those older people who would otherwise be unable to get out. This in turn gives them the opportunity to socialize in the local community which reduces social isolation, has a positive impact on their mental health, and improves their quality of life.

With all the festivities behind us now we are looking forward to cracking on with the very best that 2022 can bring. You may remember that we faced a number of disappointments towards the end of last year but we are pleased to say that the outlook feels more positive. As the new year starts there are lunch clubs operating with transport being provided by our buses. From January, we will be supporting a new exercise class at Dore Methodist Church, run by Dave Birds and the Community Wellness Services, by providing transport for those older people who would otherwise be unable to access this group. Given all the events of the past two years we feel pleased that people continue to feel confident enough to get out and access social opportunities and hope we will be able to facilitate this further in a safe and secure way over the coming months.



We are delighted to welcome our new admin assistant, Liz Croft, who joined us at the start of December, and will be an excellent addition to our team. Liz has had a long career in many aspects of the travel industry both in the UK and abroad and has more recently been caring in a local nursing home which she found particularly enjoyable and rewarding. She enjoys the outdoors and going running, and travelling has always been a passion. Liz

has worked in the local area for a long time and is happy to be joining us and helping make a difference to the local community where she grew up.

We have been very fortunate in our search for new homes for the T17 minibuses. Abbeydale Sports Club came up trumps, agreeing to accommodate two of the buses, and the Cross Scythes very kindly agreed to have the other one. Thanks go to Richard Ibbotson, Andrew Watson and the board at Abbeydale Sports Club: it was such a relief when they welcomed us in, and of course similar thanks to Ben and Scott at the Cross Scythes who so often go the extra mile to help us. We're lucky to have such supportive individuals and organisations within our community.

Colin Muncie has been beavering away in the background at T17, providing a lead on a number of issues and helping us to operate more effectively and efficiently. We are benefitting from his wide experience and diverse contacts, enabling us to build on the steady foundations of the organization. We now have an arrangement with the Cavendish Motor Company, based on Edgedale Road, to service and help maintain the buses. The location is more convenient for us and having the servicing, maintenance, and statutory inspections all completed at one local site means less additional mileage for the buses and volunteers, in turn meaning more time to focus on our core purpose of providing transport for those who are unable to access public transport.

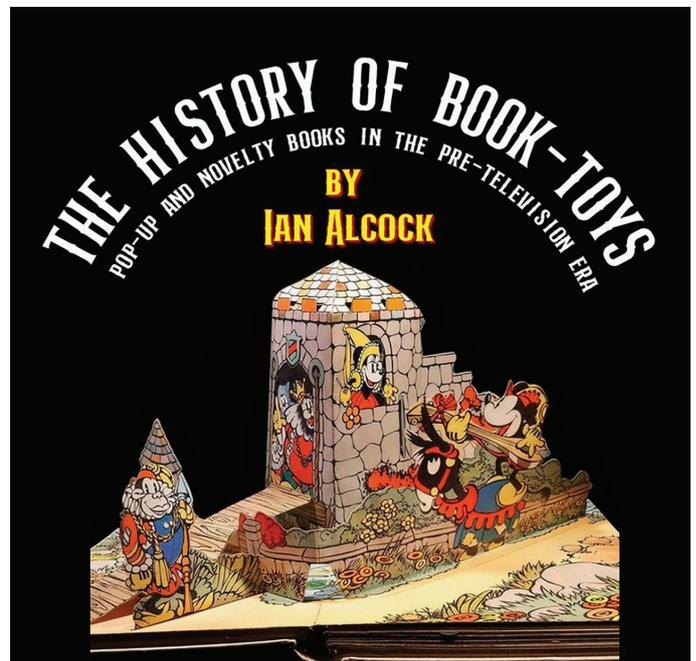
Last year we were unable to hold any of our community fundraising events but we are hoping 2022 will be different. For example, it would be lovely to be able to hold a Spring fundraising event later in March, incorporating some additional Easter/Spring focused activities alongside the more familiar stalls. We would like to encourage some of the younger members of the community to join our longstanding supporters at the T17 fundraising events. Please look out for further details nearer the time. We will be advertising events in local noticeboards and shop windows, on our Facebook page and on our website. You may also have noticed more information appearing in the windows of our office alongside our Christmas decorations!

Unfortunately we are saying farewell to Libby Ireland who has been on the management committee of T17 for a number of years. As well as helping to draw up much needed policies and procedures, and setting up development plans for the organization, she has been a stalwart of the fundraising events committee. Libby feels that now T17 is in a much sounder position, this is the time to stand back. The experience and knowledge she has brought to T17 has been invaluable and we are thankful she will still be around to help with future fundraising events. We would like to thank her for her time and valuable contributions.

We are still in need of new volunteers to help us to continue to operate the organisation and maintain our current transport commitments, as well as planning for future developments. Perhaps you are starting the new year thinking about how you spend your time each week? If so, this could be the time to consider volunteering. There are many opportunities here at T17. Please contact us on 0114 236 2962 if you are interested in finding out more.

And lastly, please don't forget we are one of the Co-op Local Causes this year. If you haven't done so already, as a Co-op member, you can select us as your local cause, raising funds for T17 as you shop at the Totley or Dore Co-ops. Your contributions through this scheme make a significant difference. Please remember - any previous commitment does not continue to the following year!

Sandra Longley and Fiona Smith



TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING, NUMBERS MAY HAVE TO BE RESTRICTED, SO IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND WOULD YOU PLEASE ADVISE US BY EMAIL TO: secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk



**WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022
AT 7.30 P.M. IN TOTLEY LIBRARY
NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**

Councillors' Update

It's been a busy time for Councillors since the Christmas holidays and your local team are keeping a close eye on some issues that could have a big impact on Totley and other parts of the city.

In particular, major decisions have to be taken on Sheffield's finances. Due to a number of problems, including a huge increase in the cost of and demand for adult social care due to Covid, the city budget is predicted to be overspent by approximately £30m this year. In the short-term, part of this can be funded from reserves, but some tough decisions will have to be made to put things back on an even keel. These challenges are unprecedented and all three local Councillors will be questioning the numbers and putting forward sustainable proposals to the budget meeting in March.

Another issue that features heavily in our postbag is public transport. Proposals have been made to extend the operating hours of bus lanes and introduce daytime parking bans along large parts of Abbeydale and Ecclesall Roads. Although most of these changes would be outside our ward, they could have a significant impact on bus and car journeys from Totley and Dore. Also there is great concern on the impact this parking ban would have on businesses along these two routes. Whatever we all think of the proposals it's disappointing that the bus companies are still not making a commitment to increase passenger numbers. It's a glaring omission in their latest long-term plans.

Over Christmas there was great concern when a notice appeared in the Sheffield Telegraph that appeared to imply that part of Whirlow Brook Hall and Park was going to be sold off! This was a badly worded notice that spoiled what in fact is a good-news story. What is happening is that a lease is to be given to an operator to develop and open a café on the site of the derelict toilet block. We have been trying to get a café back in the park for a number of years so this development is welcomed.



There has been a big increase in dog ownership during the pandemic. Indeed Colin is now the proud owner of Ruby! However, not all dog owners are being responsible about picking up poo. This is particularly difficult in parks such as Green Oak and playing fields where children play. Dog poo is a health hazard and we have instances where football pitches such as the Whirlow playing fields

have been contaminated and junior players have ended up with dog mess over them. This is unpleasant as well as unhealthy. Please be aware of just what your dog is doing - pick up every time and encourage other dog owners to do the same.

Finally we are pleased to report that local voluntary and community groups have given us some excellent applications for this year's 'Ward Pot' scheme and all of the funds are currently allocated. Projects include funding of the local Neighbourhood Watch, health walks and a local bowling club. Do get in contact if you are thinking of applying next year. The next funding round should open in June and an early discussion always helps.

As ever let us know if you need any help or advice on Council matters. Our contact details and surgery dates are shown on the Council website.

See you soon,

Martin, Colin and Joe

martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk
joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk
colin.ross@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

Regular events and meetings at Totley Library

Monday:

French lessons for children following the award winning course material from La Jolie Ronde.

After school classes are available for children in the childrens library

3.40pm - Y5/Y6; 4.10pm - Y3/Y4; 4.40pm - Y1/Y2

5.30pm - Y4/Y5

Contact Joanna on 07854 148809 or email speaquesheffield@gmail.com to find out more about local availability for French language classes.

Friends of Gillfield Wood, occasional Mondays, 7.30pm onwards. Talks on local nature and conservation. See posters, the FoGW article in this issue, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com

Councillor Surgery, 2nd Monday of the month, 6.00-7.00pm

Tuesday:

Baby Time 1.30-2.15pm (term times only). Come along to meet other parents/carers and babies. We sing simple songs, have fun and allow time to chat.

Poetry Group, first Tuesday in month, 7.00 - 9.00pm. *Please note that this group cannot accept new members at present.*

Friends of Dore and Totley Station Occasional Tuesdays, 7.30pm. See www.FODATS.net

Wednesday:

Coffee Morning, 10.30 - 12noon

Themed Craft Activities 10am and 11.45am: children will be able to take part in a themed craft activity. This will be offered on a free flowing basis and will be supported by members of the Story Time Team. Throughout the morning, as children come and go, other children will be able to join in the activity. We hope that this provision will enable families with younger children to take part in a weekly activity, whilst still being able to maintain a safe well ventilated environment in the Children's Library.

Health Walks, 10.30am, meet at Totley Library. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email stepoutsheffield@gmail.com



Totley History Group, usually last Wednesday of the month, 7.30. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters, the *Totley Independent Diary*, or www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

Yoga sessions 7.00 - 8.30pm, Wednesdays (except the last Wednesday of the month). For more details call Ann Zielonka on 0114 2361585 or 07929 736966. Beginners welcome. You are advised to call Ann to check that the sessions are taking place.

Thursday:

Thursday Morning Natter 10.30 - 11.30. Hot drinks and good company - for people aged 60 or over.

Chair Aerobics with Kay 12noon for 45-60 minutes. An Age UK and People Keeping Well weekly exercise class. £3 per week - no need to pre-book, just turn up.

Reading Club 2 meets in the library on the third Thursday of each month between 1.30 and 3pm. If you are interested in coming along please email Dawn Rich, who runs the club, at dawn@ilmd.biz

Saturday:

Regular second-hand book sales. Check CRIC website and the Diary page in this issue for upcoming sales.

What is the Best Diet for Health?

I write this at the end of a month where many of you may have been bombarded with different post Christmas diets, all claiming to be the miracle cure to reduce your weight, cure your illness and detox your body. You may be confused, which one is best, worried about why you don't seem to have the willpower to stick to the latest diet and ending up feeling a total failure when you don't get the results that were promised.

The inconvenient truth is that none of these fad diets are likely to work in the long run, and often they come at a cost to our wallets and our health, both physically and mentally and if you repeatedly try and fail at these diets the harm can increase over time.

With so much conflicting nutritional information, it can feel like a minefield trying to understand what advice to follow.

The truth is there is no one perfect diet and anyone who tells you there is, is probably trying to sell you something. Different diets work for different people—we are all unique and it is a matter of finding what works for you and makes you feel good.

The word diet is synonymous with weight loss. If we use this definition then the only factor that matters is a calorie deficit. If all we want to achieve is weight



loss we can use any diet that suits us to achieve this deficit, no one diet is superior to another. The research has compared low carb with low fat diets for example, and neither diet comes out on top with relation to weight loss. However, low carb has been found in the research to often be more difficult for people to sustain over time, which can lead to lack of adherence and weight regain.

Of course, there is so much more to consider than just weight loss, we need to think about health and some of the diets out there may promote behaviours which are restrictive, supportive of less healthy foods, such as those high in saturated fat, or only focussing on weight loss as a motivation to undergo

the diet. Many of you may have been dieting for years and still you haven't achieved what you were hoping for, blaming yourselves and being blamed by those in the diet culture. Maybe happiness isn't at the end of the dieting rainbow after all, maybe there is a different way?

What if we stop thinking about diets as a weight loss tool and start thinking about diets in terms of a lifestyle to promote health, wellbeing and happiness. What if our diet is just the way we habitually eat and this can be flexible to support different needs and values, rather than filled with restrictions and rules.



Flourishing health is a concept that defines health in terms of our physical, psychological, philosophical and social needs and this is what I aim to achieve with my clients. Food should be a joy in our lives and can give us much more than just physical nourishment, it offers us social connectedness, celebration and understanding of cultures, religion and others.

It is possible to nourish our bodies to promote health without having to sacrifice this joy or be made to feel guilty for eating certain foods. Through learning skills to be able to listen to our internal cues and by having a basic understanding of the principles of what makes a balanced diet, we can start to have freedom with food again, where all foods are allowed and we learn how to eat them in a way that makes us feel good.

Some key aspects to think about when making dietary changes are:

- are you able to maintain this change in the long term? Diets that involve restriction of certain foods or food groups can be difficult to sustain, leading to feelings of failure and the Yo Yo diet cycle.
- is the diet worth it? Pursuit of improved health and wellbeing is important, but sometimes we can be trying to achieve this at all costs. How does your dietary pattern impact on your mood, energy levels, social life or other areas of your wellbeing. If you are sacrificing other areas of your life to maintain a certain way of eating then perhaps the balance has been lost?
- is your diet well planned? Many people are turning to alternative ways of eating such as veganism. This can be done in a healthy way, but only with careful planning. Make sure you understand what nutrients you may be missing out on and how to replace those before removing whole food groups from your diet. Ask yourself if

this is necessary - for example, being vegan based on your beliefs and ethics is worth the effort, but vegan diets are not automatically healthier than any other diet, so if health is your motivation, there may be other ways that suit your lifestyle better. The 'health halo' effect of some of these diets mean people are misinformed that it is a healthier way of living.

- Keep it simple. Some of the most basic changes to your diet will probably have the biggest impact on your health.

Nutrition is renowned for being difficult to draw definite conclusions from the research due to its complexity, however, there are certain dietary patterns that have been shown to be more healthful and reduce risk of certain diseases and improve life expectancy.

No one food will make you ill, or is toxic, or can heal. We can't reset our hormones, detox ourselves or any of the other claims you may read. Those messages are tempting as they look to give you a solution to your problems, and quickly, but in the end you may find you spend a lot longer in the pursuit of health than if you just took the balanced approach in the first place.

Focussing on overall dietary patterns is a more effective way of approaching food to improve your health, rather than singling out and denying yourself individual foods.

This means we do not have to eat in a certain way everyday, just look to achieve balance over time. With diet it tends to be long term adherence that is most important, so finding a way of eating that becomes your lifestyle rather than hopping from diet to diet is most likely to lead to supporting your health in the long term.

One of the most health promoting dietary patterns from the research appears to be the Mediterranean Diet.



The Mediterranean diet has been shown to reduce risk of disease such as cardiovascular disease and Type 2 Diabetes. It is thought that it is the diet as a whole, rather than specific foods, along with lifestyle factors, are what mean this dietary pattern is supportive of health.

The characteristics of this diet are high in fibre through inclusion of a variety of plant based foods such as fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts beans, cereals and grains and inclusive of unsaturated fats such as olive oil, oily fish. Meat and dairy are often consumed, but in lower amounts than a traditional western diet.

To move your diet towards a more mediterranean pattern you can look to include:

- At least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day. Try and eat a variety of types and different colours.
- Unsaturated fats such as olive and rapeseed oil, in substitute for saturated fats such as butter, coconut oil and ghee.
- A portion of nuts and seeds each day.
- A portion of oily fish a week for Omega-3 fatty acids (Mackerel, salmon, herrings, sardines etc.).
- Have around three portions of wholegrains a day, such as wholegrain bread, rice, pasta, oats or wholegrain breakfast cereals.
- Have at least 2 meat free days a week.

- Include pulses like lentils, beans or chickpeas in meals at least twice a week.

You don't need to make lots of changes at once, just make small changes in one or two areas to begin with and then keep adding more as you feel able.

Nutrition is important to health but it is not the silver bullet and it seems that it is not the food alone that leads to health benefits in dietary patterns such as the mediterranean diet. Having a healthy social network, taking time to relax, physical activity and having purpose are all seen to be factors alongside the diet which together create a lifestyle which promotes health and wellbeing so consideration of these areas along-

-side dietary changes can make a real positive impact on your health.

So, when trying to make dietary changes remember there is no magic solution, balance is usually what will offer us the ability to meet our physical, mental and social needs to create a way of eating that moves us towards flourishing health.

If you want more understanding on how to improve the health of your diet, improve your relationship with food or general nutrition advice then contact me at Kate Wall Nutrition.

Kate Wall
AfN Registered Nutritionist
www.katewallnutrition.co.uk

Update from Olivia Blake MP

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone in Totley a very Happy New Year. I know the last year has been really difficult for so many people across our community. I will be doing everything I can in 2022 to keep representing you, holding the Government to account and speaking up locally and nationally on the issues you care about.

Towards the end of last year I celebrated two years since I was elected MP for Sheffield Hallam. In that time I have answered over 20,000 individual enquires from people across Hallam; successfully campaigned for a partial ban on peat-land burning; won important reforms to miscarriage support; worked with people across our constituency to build a Hallam Climate Manifesto ahead of COP26; facilitated a Sheffield Nature Emergency summit; tabled a Bill for stronger protections against abuse for front-line workers and much, much more!

Whilst I have hundreds of ideas for campaigns I want to run in 2022, I was elected to represent the people of Sheffield Hallam – and fight on the issues you all care about. So this year I am sending out a survey to ask people what issues they want me to raise and campaigns they want me to join. From action on the climate and nature emergency to protecting public services, I want to know where you want me to put my focus in 2022. At the time of writing hundreds of people have already fed in their ideas. If you haven't yet shared your thoughts, you can do so on my website here: tinyurl.com/blake-2022

In some exciting news, I have been appointed Shadow Minister for Climate Change! I am really looking forward to using this role to champion Labour's green new deal and hold the government to account over their failure to address the climate and nature emergency. I would also like to thank my old colleagues in Labour's Shadow Environment team. I have really valued the

opportunity to campaign on restoring nature, cleaning up our rivers and building climate change resilience and I will continue to champion these vital issues in my new role.

I have been visiting small businesses across Hallam, to hear about the issues they are facing and what more I can do to support them. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and we are so lucky to have so many great independent businesses in Totley and in Hallam. I hope everyone will help support them by shopping locally in 2022. I also recently joined volunteers on a work day at Loxley cemetery - it was amazing to see the transformation they have made there and I am looking forward to heading back for more.

I am continuing to support the many workers across our city who are striking against pay cuts and worsening conditions. I have joined bus drivers on picket lines and food couriers at rallies, and I wrote to Stuart Delivery calling on them to scrap their plans for a 24% pay cut to JustEat delivery drivers. This Sheffield based strike is now the biggest continuous gig economy strike in UK history!

At the time of writing the Government's Policing Bill is about to return to Parliament. I have been working with colleagues and campaign groups to fight this dangerous and discriminatory bill, which effectively marks the end of our right to protest; attacks our right to roam and further criminalises the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community; and extends police powers to stop and search people "without suspicion", further discriminating against already over-policed communities.

Many of you have written to me about this Bill and are rightly very worried about its draconian effect. I can assure you I have voted against it at every opportunity and I will continue to do everything I can to raise these grave concerns and fight this Bill as it returns to Parliament. I encourage everyone in Totley and across the country to sound the alarm about these dangerous plans.

The Government's Anti Refugee Bill also returned to Parliament this month. Not only does the Bill present a very real attack on our international legal obligations to those fleeing war – it also doubles down on our racist and discriminatory hostile environment at home. I joined hundreds of people in Sheffield City centre towards the end of last year, to rally against the dangerous Nationalities and Borders Bill and will continue to champion Sheffield's City of Sanctuary as an alternative to the Government's hostile environment policies.

Thank you for reading my update, and if you have any feedback whatsoever, please do take my survey or get in touch with me directly and let me know where you would like me to put my focus in 2022. Once again, Happy New Year!

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



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Friends of Ecclesall Woods

The group was formed in 1993 to help preserve, study and work in Ecclesall Woods, the largest ancient woodland in South Yorkshire. So many activities are now carried out in the woods that it is a challenge to cater for the various and sometimes conflicting needs of visitors as well as manage the native flora and fauna.

The Footpath Group

A volunteer group was set up to look after footpaths, but as funding cuts continued the group has taken on more tasks to help the rangers maintain the diversity and structure of the woods. Some work is seasonal. Clearance of undergrowth such as brambles and holly is done before bluebells and other spring flowers start to emerge.



Sunken trackways are one of the Woods' more obvious archaeological features

The ancient art of coppicing and using greenwood for crafts is carried on in the woods and the group control growth where native invaders can overgrow any newly-coppiced hazel, willow and planted 'whips' (young trees).

Tasks also include removing non-natives such as cherry laurel and Himalayan balsam, and the planting of hedging and trees. The group has helped with installing bridges and has re-fenced the bird sanctuary. Other areas have been fenced where footfall has resulted in bare patches previously occupied by native spring flowers. Litter picking is always on the agenda.

The group meets on a Tuesday morning at 9.30. Contact Jane Beresford janeanden@gmail.com or 07518 750262 for more information.



Himalayan Balsam is an invasive plant which needs to be controlled each year

The Ecology group

The Ecology Group was formed soon after the launch of FEW and undertakes regular plant surveys and compares the results year on year. The woods are divided into 24 survey areas using

natural boundaries such as streams, paths and roads.

The survey results have been plotted on a large map to give a clearer overall picture. The woods are renowned for their spring bluebells but there is concern over areas of woodland undergoing bluebell decline due to the spread of brambles and holly along with human impact. All the available ecology surveys are listed on the FEW website (see below).

Archaeology in the woods

The area has witnessed human presence over more than two millennia. A late Neolithic cup and ring stone was found in 1981 and a second more recently. The archaeology group has investigated the more recent industrial archaeology, recording the position of charcoal hearths, the charcoal being used for iron smelting, and Q pits where wood was burned to form whitecoal used for lead smelting.

Crossing Abbey Lane

In November 2020, several Friends formed a pressure group to campaign for a safe crossing on Abbey Lane. At present there is no designated crossing between the woods, unlike towards Woodseats where there are 5 refuges to aid crossing. We were very grateful to the many people who signed the petition.

In August, the City Council put in a bid to the government's Active Travel Fund which included a crossing between the woods on Abbey Lane. We wait to find out if the bid has been successful.

J G Graves Woodland Discovery Centre

In October 2011, the then Lord Mayor, Sylvia Dunkley, opened the Discovery Centre on the former sawmill site. It has been a great success but sadly was closed to the public during the Covid crisis. We hope will fully reopen in January.

The Woodland Coffee Stop is open every week from Tuesday until Friday, 10am-4pm.

Membership

You can find out more about FEW at: <https://friendsofecclesallwoods.org.uk/>

If you are interested in joining the group contact our Membership Secretary John Baker at johnrbaker8@gmail.com or call 0114 236 9025. Family membership is £10 per annum



If you enjoy helping people, would like to help others in your local community, and/or would like to gain experience working with older adults, this could be for you!

MINIBUS DRIVER

Drive the minibuses that provide a door-to-door transport service for older people to local lunch and social clubs. Our organisation helps older people who cannot use other transport, some of whom have mobility problems, to get out. This gives them the opportunity to socialise in the local community and improve their quality of life.

PASSENGER ASSISTANT

Provide assistance to those older people who are less mobile from their home – bus – venue, and ensure they are comfortable while on the bus. The passenger assistant works alongside the driver

Full training is provided. Please contact us on the number below or via email if you are interested in volunteering at Transport 17.

Transport 17 Ltd

172, Baslow Road, Totley, Sheffield, S17 4DR

Tel: 0114 236 2962

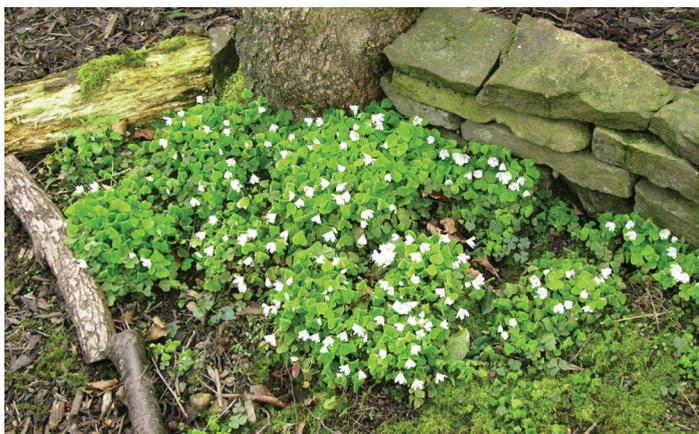
Email: admin@transport17.co.uk

Organic Wildlife Gardening

Last summer the Soil Association reached its 75th anniversary. During those years it has done so much to support farmers who want to produce food that has high animal welfare standards, is healthier for us, and does not have an adverse impact on the health of the soil or the wildlife that lives in it. Much has been achieved and, during Covid, many more farmers have been asking for help to convert to organic farming, which will also be very helpful to their local environments.

The Association has recently purchased a farm near Maple Cross, Hertfordshire, just off the M25, west of London. The farm will be converted to organic standards, and open to the public. I cannot imagine that there will not also be a good cafe and a shop for visitors to enjoy! Personally, I wish it was nearer to Sheffield, but it could attract more customers there.

In contrast, most of the gardening industry must have a huge carbon footprint. From inorganic potting composts to bedding plants, most of which are produced a long way from where they will be planted, only to finish up in a bin a few months later when they are past their best.



Sweet Wood Sorrel

Last spring, the first flowers to appear in my garden were the wild primroses. They were followed in March by the wild daffodils which are much more delicate than the cultivated varieties, and growing them in your garden will help to ensure their survival. Others were wild garlic, the leaves of which can be used in cooking, lesser celandine, wood anemones and wood sorrel. The last two are my favourites - low-growing and shade-loving but so delicate and, being native, they support our wildlife better than any showy cultivated varieties.

While we love snowdrops, sadly they are not native to the British Isles and they take up room where more native plants could be growing. I took a lot up last spring, though could be doing the same for some years to come.

Cultivated daffodils and tulips for cutting cover huge areas of ground, particularly in Cornwall and Lincolnshire. Once cut, their flowers will only last a short time, after which they usually finish up in a bin. I do wonder if they are really worth the obliteration of large areas of some of the loveliest parts of this country and the wild life it could support, not to mention the environmental damage caused by all the transportation.

Another of our favourite spring flowers are bluebells, but our delicate and beautiful native English variety is at risk from the Spanish variety which is invading our gardens and woods, and climate change could also affect them. If you find the Spanish variety in your garden, do nature a favour and remove them.

It is not too late to plant trees. This land was covered in trees hundreds of years ago and they are so beneficial environmentally. While mainly growing in the south of England originally, beech is now growing in other areas. Perhaps not suitable for a very small garden, but it is a beautiful tree. It grows up to 45 metres and has a dense canopy. Several native flowering plants will grow under it, such as coralroot (a pretty, delicate, pale purple flower), bitter-cress, and red helleborine. In open areas it will support many species of butterflies, and the leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of several species of moth. The seeds are food for mice, voles, and birds. Native truffles grow in beech

woods, and fungi, too, which help the trees to obtain nutrients in exchange for some of the sugar the tree produces through photosynthesis. Beech trees are long lived and any dead wood is good for hole-nesting birds and boring insects. The bark is home to various fungi, mosses and lichens. There cannot be many trees that support our wildlife as well as this tree, and beech woods are very precious.



Wild Primroses

Despite continuing the 'no food for the birds trial' in my garden, they continued to visit the garden to the end of last year and on, and were finding food underneath fallen leaves, and on the lawn and beds. In autumn, the hawthorn berries were very popular too. Bird food will be put out if there is snow or a prolonged cold spell and the ground is frozen. It will be interesting to see what varieties and numbers will still be around in the spring. Having said that, the news that thousands of migrating sea birds, particularly barnacle geese, are dying of disease, possibly bird flu, around the Solway Firth and several other coastal areas, and that puffins are starving to death, is very depressing news and the way we live, and garden, is very likely to have, at least partly, caused that.

Two programmes on BBC2 before Christmas, showed how wildlife photographer Colin Stafford-Johnson made about an acre of land into a beautiful wildlife garden. Most of it was made into a wild flower meadow, but there were also several species of trees, shrubs, and native hedging. Two ponds along with bird boxes and bee hotels added to the support the garden will give to wildlife. In the second summer, 40 different species of wild flowers bloomed. He emphasised that while the meadow would need cutting at harvest time, there was very little more work to do and, that being so, I intend to extend my meadow areas and include some yellow rattle as he also advised. It is semi-parasitic on grasses and helps to keep a more open grassland to allow more wild flowers to grow, and more wildlife to thrive. Given time it should be brimming with wildlife, and no regular, monotonous and noisy mowing! Here we tried out our scythe last summer, and it was fine, though I definitely need more practice!

Keep safe and keep the wildlife safe too.

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Friends of Dore & Totley Station

Dore & Totley Station, 1872-2022

This year our little station will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. In 2022 we'll see work begin to restore a second platform 150 years after the original two-platform station was opened. That's progress!

Back in 1835 when George Stephenson surveyed a line between Derby and Leeds for the North Midland Railway he planned to follow river valleys avoiding tight curves and steep gradients. It was planned to meet the Sheffield and Rotherham Railway at Masbrough. That opened in 1838, the North Midland north to Rotherham in 1840. (History repeats itself for HS2 was planned to bypass Sheffield for similar reasons - plus a lot of housing and industry now in the way.)

Then as now the people of Sheffield weren't happy to be left on a branch line backwater. In 1821 the population was 84,540 but grew to 134,599 in 1841 and to 219,634 by 1861. Public meetings were held and in 1864 an Act of Parliament authorised a new direct line via Dronfield, the 'new road'. Things happened quite fast in those days and work started in 1865. It was completed by late 1869, including Bradway Tunnel. At that time Dore, Totley and Bradway were not considered significant enough to need a station. Beauchief was to be the nearest.

When construction got underway the local disruption was considerable. Many more people started to live in the area, deriving their income from construction work and the workers. Significant numbers would remain. The Walk Mill site at the bottom of today's Twentywell Lane was buried in spoil from the deep cutting and Bradway Tunnel, today's railway triangle.

Local landowners like the Duke of Devonshire and Earl Fitzwilliam clearly saw opportunities to make the railway work for them. As the line was about to open the Sheffield Daily Telegraph reported on Saturday 29th January 1870:

OPENING OF THE NEW RAILWAY TO CHESTERFIELD
On Thursday, a special train from Derby passed over the new line, stopping at the several intermediate stations of Chesterfield and Sheffield, including Unstone, Dronfield, Abbey-houses, Ecclesall, and Heeley. The train contained the station masters and porters, with the furniture for the stations and matters necessary for the working of the line. The whole of the stations have a neat appearance, the platforms being very commodious. It is understood that in addition to a new station now in progress at Whittington Moor, it is also intended to construct a station in Abbeydale, near to the bottom of "Twenty-well-sic-lane," for the accommodation of Totley and Dore.



Midland Railway crest. This was one of the largest railway companies in Britain in the early 20th century, and the largest employer in Derby, where it had its headquarters.

Local pressure was clearly building because by Friday 6th May 1870 the Sheffield Daily Telegraph report goes:

ABBEYDALE AND THE NEW RAILWAY. As was expected the new railway will effect great changes in this picturesque valley, both as regards the number of inhabitants and also the making of new roads. The well-to-do tradesmen of Sheffield are said to be anxious to take their residence in the 'dale', and with the view of meeting this requirement Earl Fitzwilliam and the Duke of Devonshire are leasing eligible sites for the building of villa residences. It is also understood to be the intention of Earl Fitzwilliam to widen the current road leading from Abbeydale-road, Beauchief Bar, to Dore Moor. It is also intended to make a new road from the Abbeydale opposite the Twenty-well-sic-road to Dore. This part of the dale, beside the attractions of great natural beauty, possesses another commendable feature— being out of the borough the rates will be but nominal in amount in comparison with borough rates. The new railway station too, promised to be erected by the Midland Railway Company will be within a stone's throw of the land on the side of the proposed new road. It is also understood that the property owners, who are but few, will not sell on lease any property for manufacturing purposes.

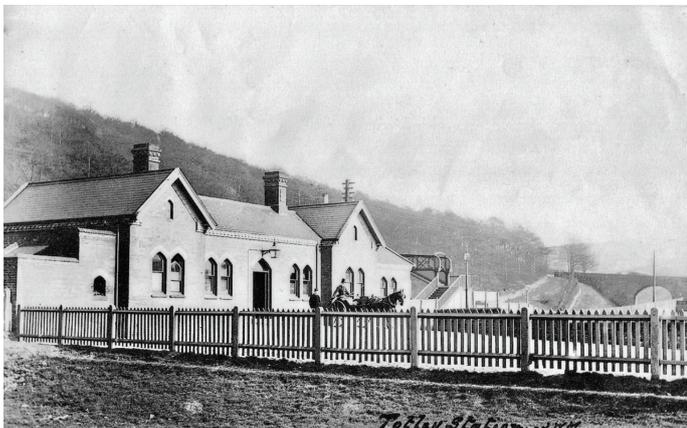
In those days Dore, Totley and Bradway were still in Derbyshire where lower rates applied! That report was followed by the Sheffield Daily Telegraph on Saturday 4th June:

IMPORTANT MEETING AT DORE. A numerously-attended meeting of the ratepayers of this township was held in the school-room on Thursday evening last, the Vicar in the chair. The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said they had met together pursuant to notice, in order to discuss the best method of widening and improving the upper part of what is called Dore-lane. Some time ago a memorial, signed by the inhabitants of Dore, was forwarded to the directors of the Midland Railway Company, petitioning for a station further up the valley than Beauchief, and at a point nearer to Dore. This request had been granted, subject to a proviso that a road from Dore to the proposed Station should be constructed, the lower part of which had been surveyed and staked out by J. M. Withers, Esq., at the request of the agents of the Duke of Devonshire, and it only remained for the parish to continue that road in a westerly direction from the point where it leaves his Grace's property up to Dore itself. After remarks from Mr. Hancock, Mr. Withers explained the plan of the road, the gradient of which, at the lower end is 1:13.5, and grows much easier as it advances. Resolutions were proposed by Messrs. Hancock, Unwin, and Roe empowering the Surveyor to improve the road as proposed, and deputing a committee to apply for an order of magistrates to do away with certain footpaths shown on the large ground plan exhibited by Mr. Withers to the meeting. The feeling of the meeting was unanimous on all the resolutions, and considerable satisfaction was expressed that this scheme, which Mr. Hancock stated had been contemplated nearly thirty years, was at length definitely settled. The new road will not only place this village in direct communication with the fast-increasing suburbs of Sheffield, but also supply the town with a site for villa residences unequalled both in the beauty of its situation and in the abundance of its water any place in the neighbourhood round.

So the roots of our belated little station had started to appear, as had Dore New Road. Pressure continued and on 6th May 1871 the Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald reported:

DORE. A meeting of the inhabitants of Dore (and very fully attended one) was held on Friday evening last, with reference to that portion of the new road to the Midland Station to be made by the parish. The question at issue was—by rate, or by applying to the landowners for subscriptions. It was argued by Messrs. Taylor and B. Unwin that the larger sums collected from a few would save the pockets of the many; the other side Mr. Hancock and the Chairman (the Rev. T. Aldred), that as the road is an advantage for all, small and great, the cost should be distributed upon all, especially as the Duke of Devonshire, the largest landowner in the parish, had already undertaken the greater part of the road. The meeting taking this view, carried the resolution to proceed by rate, by a majority of 33 to 2. Mr. Wethers, surveyor of the Duke of Devonshire's part of the road, kindly offered his advice in the formations of the parochial portion. The station, we understand, is already marked out. Census.—The following is the Census return for the township of Totley and Dore. Township of Dore in 1861, 610; Township of Totley, in 1861, 396.

And so it came to pass that Dore New Road was constructed and our little station got built at a building cost of £1,517 and £450 for two acres of land. It was opened, apparently without ceremony, on 1st February 1872, 150 years ago.



Station frontage before 1900



Station platforms before 1900 looking north

Services today and a new bike shelter

One dark cloud is passing, EMR should be resuming Sunday services now their strike is over. Sadly TPE now have industrial relations issues with both drivers and guards which may lead to cancelled services. At the time of writing all three operators have withdrawn some regular trains due to Covid absences. That may continue until May so always check times carefully before going to catch any train.

3 years ago the cycle shelter was approaching capacity. We

asked for more cycle storage space. Things happen slowly. We now have space for 32 bikes, a cycle pump and a tool kit for simple bike repairs. Cycle on down and try it before taking a train.

Or bring the trike and child carrier for some train spotting.



Looking forward

As 2022 progresses we'll be seeing work to construct a third track from the Westview Lane flats along to Dore West Junction and to redouble the tracks through the station, plus second platform construction. Short term pain for longer term gain. There'll be some night work and at weekends when buses will replace trains.

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's a very active group and is updated frequently with topical information and comments.

Alternatively look for our website at www.fodats.net

If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary; njbarnes@outlook.com

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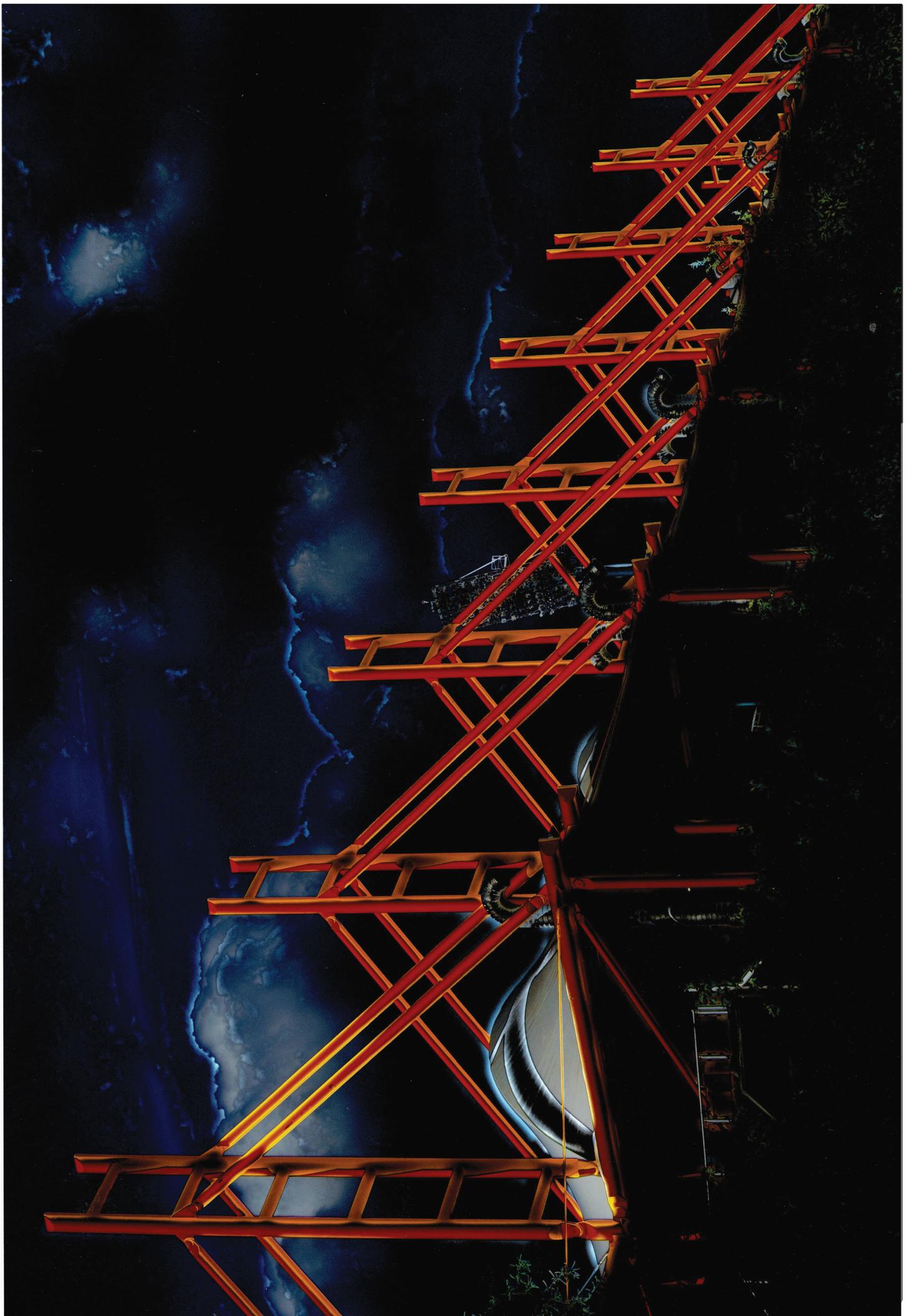
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Images of Sheffield

6. Don Valley Stadium 1990 - 2013

Imagine if you can that you're Javelin great Jan Zelezny having a ding-dong battle with Steve Backley. It's 1993 and you're on the infield of the track in Sheffield. It's been built 16 feet below ground level to avoid troublesome winds, you feel strong. You throw a massive world record 95.66m...

Ok, imagine you're a young Jess Ennis, and you've shed blood, sweat and tears around the grounds of Don Valley. Training day after day prior to being crowned Queen of the London games and Olympic champion in the toughest of sports...

What about stepping into the shoes of a half marathon novice? Feeling the buzz stood in the middle of the Stadium full of noise and people. And, if you can picture it, the thrill of attempting a sprint down the home straight in front of the grandstand, family and friends at the end of the run. The bouncy rubber under tired feet that have pounded hard tarmac for 13 miles...

No? Sport not your thing? Well how about being a huge fan of Michael Jackson, The Stones, Arctic Monkeys, U2 or even the Spice Girls for a day? Picture if you will the sounds and emotions rolling around the perfect amphitheatre, bathed in a setting summer sun...

I'm sure I could go on, but what would be the point? It is no more. An iconic Sheffield structure that didn't see 25 years. But before you go picture this: it's 2014 and to see top athletics you now have to travel to Birmingham or London. The Arctic Monkeys have just played in a field outside Leeds and you find yourself panting for air on a hastily constructed Finish line by a row of bus stops next to a Chinese restaurant...

If you want a lasting legacy, then how about the ability to inspire? Those bright yellow steels gave a little bit of that in its time. Maybe that's just me, but I don't think it is.

Photo and text: Simon Deeks



We have had another very busy term at TASS and continued to follow all the advice for Public Health around the extra care needed to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible due to the changing pandemic situation.

OFSTED On October 12th and 13th our school had a visit from a senior HMI who, after two grueling days, made the judgement that we had maintained our OUTSTANDING status. To say we are absolutely delighted is a huge understatement! We know this judgement reflects the skill, hard work and commitment of all of the TASS team. We have since received a letter of congratulation from Amanda Spielman, the Chief Inspector, who said "This is a tremendous achievement by you and your team. Not only does the inspection framework set a high bar for being judged outstanding, but you have achieved this in the context of all the disruption caused by COVID-19."

Learning enrichment activities Year 3 had a fabulous day for their Stone Age Day! Making woolly mammoths, fossils, Stonehenge paintings and making clay pots. Then in the afternoon they made some amazing dens as well as cooking pizza cones on the open fire. A great day!

Y4 and Y5 have continued their swimming lessons at Graves Park and the History Van visited Y6 for a WWII day when they explored what it would have been like to be an evacuee.

Fund raising Our lovely children are always very keen to raise money for good causes and to help the environment. We raised a brilliant £214.81 for Marie Curie Cancer Care by having a non-uniform day suggested by Jacob Evans in Y4. Children in Need was supported by a great fun dressing up day and between us we raised a fantastic £201.96.

Five Y6 children were determined to support our world by raising money for the climate change charity Cool Earth (a non-profit organisation that works alongside rainforest

communities to halt deforestation and climate change) and raised £162.96 by holding a bun sale.

Taking action on Climate Change The Global neighbours group are getting everyone involved in lots of different projects:

- Recycle to Read
- Switch off fortnight
- Litter picking- a new littler picking rota will be up and running soon.

They also decided they would like to refurbish and improve the school's small garden and add a polycarbonate greenhouse. The school council agreed this was a great idea and they would like to see food grown in our garden being served at lunchtime for all the children to try. Great work by our pupil groups!

Global Neighbours and our Uganda Link As a joint project with our partners in Uganda, we created a climate change Issue Tree. We also have an air quality monitoring device on our school field. The results are sent to the University of Sheffield each month as part of a wider air quality monitoring project in Sheffield.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many families and our children were excited to be involved in Operation Christmas Child making boxes of gifts for those less fortunate than us.



Thank you so much to the PTA Fun-d raising team who organized a Pantomime - Puss in Boots (Look behind you!) which the children really enjoyed.

Because of the increasing Covid risk, we were sadly not able to have a live audience in school and were unable to have a carol service at Totley All Saints Church. However, we were able to quality livestream the Infant Nativity Play thanks again to our wonderful PTA. Thank you so much to all parents and carers who provided all the finery!

We're now looking forward to 2022 and hoping it will be a happy and healthy year for everyone.

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

Karole Sargent and Trudi Brown, Proud Headteachers



On The Beat

2022 is upon us so I'll start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

The year has started as the last finished, with a rush of burglaries across South West Sheffield, particularly over the New Year weekend. The majority of these occurred whilst the occupants were away from home and were discovered some days later on their return. I know I've mentioned it many times before but make no apology for repeating myself. Please, when leaving the house unoccupied for any length of time, try and take steps to make the house still look lived in. Whilst alarms and CCTV may play a part in protecting your property, in our experience it is the small practical steps you can take which will deter people from attempting to enter your house.

Firstly look at the access to your house. Think about where you would target if you lost your keys; have any windows been left open or ajar? How easy is it for you to get to the rear of the house - maybe using the handily-placed wheelie bins to climb on and over any fences? The majority of burglars will look for easy access to the rear where they can't be seen. Have you checked your door locks? Even recently constructed patios can be fitted with the older style eurolock which is an easy target for burglars, so ensure you have anti bump and snap locks fitted which are a lot harder to break. If you are unsure have a look at www.locksmiths.co.uk and request a visit from an approved locksmith.

If you have a close neighbour or a trusted friend who is willing to go into your house each evening and draw curtains, pull blinds, etc, this can show anyone checking streets on a regular basis that there is movement within the house. Consider the use of a couple of timer light switches, and stagger these so they come on and off at different times, again creating the illusion of someone moving around the house. Have a look at online retailers and invest £10 or so in a TV simulator. These plug in and when dusk comes automatically turn on creating the flickering effect of a TV or computer. Make sure they are placed in a room which is visible to the front of the house but where the simulator cannot be seen through a window. It may sound a bit daft but consider 'Beware of the Dog' signs on gateposts, or by your front door. Anything which will make a burglar hesitate about whether your property should be targeted is worthwhile.

We have also had an increase in the theft of high-value vehicles particularly Land Rovers and Range Rovers. These are often stolen from the owners driveway without keys, probably picking up a signal from the keyless fob inside the house to unlock and start the vehicle. Blockers are readily available and leaving the keys further away from where the car is parked will stop this happening.

I'm aware of some issues around Greenoak Park and have noted some of the posts on social media regarding litter and anti social behaviour in the park, questioning in many cases why there is not more of a police presence. It's worth remembering that resources are stretched at present and whilst the park is patrolled whenever we can, as Neighbourhoods staff we do not work later than 22.00 when doing a late shift. Patrols are based on demand and actually calls regarding the park are very few and far between. We concentrate on those areas where demand is higher. I'm aware that community plans to do with the park have unfortunately been put on hold whilst COVID remains in charge, but hopefully these will recommence once we are out of the current situation.

As usual I can be contacted by email on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or on my work mobile 07787 881945. Please do not use this to report crimes or incidents. These still need to go through 101 or be submitted via the online reporting portal accessible from the SYP website.

Take care and lets have a safe and peaceful 2022!

Adrian Tolson

Moving through the menopause

How do you view the menopause? Until recently it's commonly been seen as taboo to talk about this stage of every woman's life. All women, if they live long enough, will go through the menopause. It happens to every woman, in every culture and every country. No one can avoid it, and yet no one talked about it. There has long been a stigma attached to menopause which has made women feel old, dried up, past their prime, and invisible. Even when they have experienced debilitating symptoms, which 25% of women do, they have suffered in silence.

But things are changing. Suddenly the menopause is a hot topic, taking centre stage in the media with celebrities like Davina McCall, Zoe Ball and Meg Matthews making TV programmes, writing books and talking about their experiences to empower women.



MOVING THROUGH THE MENOPAUSE
How food and exercise can help to manage your symptoms

Many women begin to experience symptoms of the menopause in their mid-to-late 40s, a time when most women are at or reaching the peak of their careers, whilst juggling busy family lives and other caring responsibilities.

Not all women suffer from problems commonly associated with the menopause, such as hot flushes, night sweats, insomnia, fatigue, anxiety and mood changes. But for those with severe symptoms, the debilitating effects can last for years, badly affecting their personal and professional lives.

There is a lot that women can do to manage their symptoms, such as taking HRT and making dietary and lifestyle changes. Women are often amazed the difference making some changes to what they eat and how they exercise can make.

Three local health and fitness professionals, Natasha Watkinson (registered Nutritionist), Phoebe Kay (personal trainer) and Becky Parker (weight management practitioner), are hosting a free talk "Moving through the Menopause" on Monday 28th February at 7pm at Totley Library. This free talk will provide practical tips to help women balance their hormones and control menopause symptoms naturally using food and exercise. It will also provide a setting for discussion to encourage women to share their own experiences and learn from each other.

Tickets are available from Totley Library or EventBrite <https://moving-menopause.eventbrite.co.uk>

Places are limited to 30 women, so book your space for free today.



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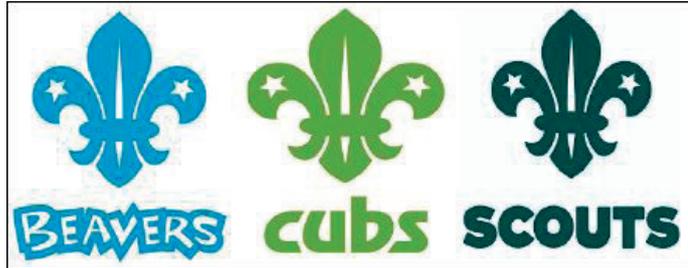
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Totley Scouts

215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group

A very Happy New Year to everyone from all of us at 215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group. We begin the New Year with hopes for better things in 2022 and the beginnings of some normality to everyone's lives.



Now the longest night has passed we begin to look forward to the evenings beginning to become lighter and the opportunities to get out and about again. We know that is some way off in terms of planning our programmes, but it gives us something to look forward to in the next few months.

As I'm writing this our sections haven't yet returned from the Christmas break, but I know that all the leaders have got full and exciting programmes planned. There will be lots of fun and plenty of opportunities for the young people to earn, those much anticipated, badges.

Our thoughts also turn to the possibility of camping this year. We haven't been able to camp for the past two years so very much hope that we can make plans to take the children away this year.

If you have walked down by the Scout Hut recently you will have noticed a few changes taking place. Having established that the costs for demolishing and building a brand new hut were just going to be too high for us to manage, we have decided to renovate our existing building - starting with removing the asbestos within the panelling in December and January (weather permitting). The builders will be replacing



the exterior panelling at the same time, which is why it looks so much better already. This is in preparation for strengthening work on the building, which we hope to start next year. So we'll need to do plenty of fundraising in the New Year to help pay for all this work!

We are still very desperate for leaders and in particular a leader to take over the running of one of our Cub Packs. The current leaders are all voluntarily running sections on more than one night, some being their four nights a week. Please if you know of anyone who might like to volunteer working with our young people, or even if it is something you think you would like to do, please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader
hallamadccubs@gmail.com



Friends of Gillfield Wood

Diary for February and March 2022

Friends of Gillfield Wood

Monday 21st February, 7.30pm An illustrated talk by Pauline Burnett on "The Tenants and Workers of Abbey Dale Forge 1738-1933". Following its growth from a single grinding wheel dependent on the River Sheaf for power, the talk covers the aspirations of its tenants in the development of the forge, as well as its eventual decline as the steel industry expanded throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Covering the highs and lows of both tenants and workers lives, it aims to illustrate the industrial and social past associated with the River Sheaf in Abbeydale and Totley.

Please note that at present, this talk is planned to be held in Totley Library, but please check the FOGW website or email fogwsecretary@gmail.com to confirm. Please book a place by email to the above address. FOGW members will have priority.

Saturday 19th February Bird Walk - our first guided walk of the year! Meet at 8.30am at Totley Hall Lane. Please note paths may be very muddy and wet. Everyone welcome!

Totley Swift Group - we hope to put up more Swift nest boxes around the village before May this year. If you are interested in purchasing a nest box and having it fitted to your property, please find out more details from swiftsoftotley@outlook.com.

Conservation Work Roundup

In January, coppicing and natural fence repairs were carried out, along with clearing the areas around the ride between the bus terminus and pond.

Sunday 13th February 1pm-3.30pm - Totley Hall Lane - we will be working in the glade in Pheasant Wood

Sunday 13th March 10am - to be decided

FOGW works very closely with Sheffield Council Woodlands department. Chris Measures and Andy Brewster recently met with the Woodlands Officer, John Gilpin, and our Ranger Nell Dixon. We walked the wood and agreed on a conservation work programme for 2022. Our conservation sessions are usually once per month and are open to anyone who would like to join in. The work is, of course, physical, but we have a range of tasks such that most people can find a job to do at their own pace. Covid restrictions mean that everyone needs to provide their own gloves along with suitable clothes and footwear as well as refreshments. All tools are supplied and we hope, eventually, to get back to the good old days where tea and biscuits were provided by the ranger.

Everything we do supplements the work carried out by the Council's woodlands team but our contribution means much more can be done to improve the wood for its flora, fauna and visitors alike. Typical activities are coppicing, fencing and walling, tree and undergrowth management, path re-pair and drain clearance and all sorts of miscellaneous jobs. Over the years we have dug out ponds, rebuilt dry stone walls, created the wildflower meadow at the picnic site, planted trees and hedges and had a hand in improving access for all.

Dates are advertised in the *Totley Independent* or you can join the mailing list by contacting Andy by email at: fogwsecretary@gmail.com

All are welcome and we hope to see a few new faces joining in with the new variations in days and times.

Keep safe and healthy

Andy Brewster, FOGW Secretary

Totley Rise Methodist Church

<https://www.totleyrise.co.uk/home>

A warm welcome awaits you here as we continue to travel through this wave of the pandemic.

Sunday worship every week at 10.30am We continue to meet adhering to Covid guidelines, and our services are also live streamed. Please log into our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TotleyRise/> to join us live or catch up later though our youtube recording which can be found on www.totleyrise.co.uk We have activities for the children each week in the church. However specifically for families on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday is 'Outdoor Church', An opportunity for all ages to learn more about God's world through an informal nature-focused time of play and worship.

Toddler Praise Sunday, 9am every fortnight. A time of worship specifically for toddlers and parents/carers with pre-school children. For further details of outdoor church and toddler praise please contact racheltrm@yahoo.com

LEGO: Let's Enjoy Getting Older Together! The LEGO group usually meets at the church at 9.30am on the second Friday of each month then drives into the local area for walks of about 5 miles. There is a lunch stop, usually at a conveniently placed pub (the walks are planned with that in mind). The walks take place whatever the weather. After one particularly wet day Terry was heard to say that he was thinking of renaming the group LEGOFS - Let's Enjoy Getting Our Friends Soaked! If you are interested in joining us give Terry a ring on 2367746.

Focus Church: February 13th and March 13th will be the next two services of the unique and inspiring Focus Church. Focus Church is particularly geared for people with learning disabilities and cognitive difficulties and their carers. The service is a time for worship, creativity, fun and fellowship . . . and an opportunity for carers to chill. 3.30pm. For further information, please contact Sue or John Freeman on 236 6819 or email sueandjohn6@talktalk.net

Pushchair Club Babies and toddlers aged from 0 to 5 years are welcome to join us, with their carers, on Thursday mornings in term time.

Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter From 1pm on Tuesdays. This busy and friendly group has grown a lot, demonstrating great appeal in our local community. Young and old, men and women are all welcome. The group offers tea, coffee, biscuits and most importantly, friendship for two hours. Contact Maxine on 348 5220 or 07761 829824 for more information.

PAN (Parenting Additional Needs) Support group for parents of children with learning difficulties. Meets monthly on Wednesdays. The next meeting is January 12 from 10 till 12. PAN is run by parents. The group supports other parents who have a child with an additional need or disability. They hold activities for children, young people and parents, for example, monthly sensory swim sessions and school holiday activities.

All the group leaders are themselves parents of children with additional needs so they are fully aware of the struggles and difficulties involved. The group leaders are trained in group facilitation. The emphasis is on peer support and many have found this invaluable over the 10 years PAN has been working.

Room Hire Our facilities in the TRM Centre are available for community groups such as Probus, Brownies, Rainbow Guides, language classes and birthday parties. There is a large church hall with a stage, and room hire also includes the use of kitchen facilities and audio-visual equipment if required.

Hirers are responsible for the safety of their participants, including adherence to government guidance on COVID-19 measures. The Church will provide sanitising hand gel. Hirers should implement social distancing, mask wearing and open windows where this is appropriate.

Please visit our website at <https://www.totleyrise.co.uk/> for a booking form and details of room charges. Email rdtotley48-TRM@yahoo.com for more information.

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

I must apologise profusely although it is because of an unlucky quirk of timing. I have been publicising the fact that the Society will perform our next show at the Merlin Theatre next April but shortly after the deadline for copy expired, the society secretary received a letter from the Merlin saying that they were no longer allowing groups to use the theatre and were effectively closing for the foreseeable future. We do not know why. Our Chairman, Alan Wade, moved quickly and was lucky enough to find that the Montgomery Theatre had availability on the dates we had wanted, so the show will now be performed at the Montgomery Theatre from Wednesday 6th April until Saturday 9th April. Sheffield is woefully short of small theatres suitable for amateur use so we are lucky to get this venue.



Mike Spriggs as the Pirate King from our 2012 production

The show, which will be our 50th Anniversary show, is that favourite and probably most famous of the G & S operettas, *The Pirates of Penzance*. This tale of a Slave to Duty exploits the peculiarity of being born on 29th February in a leap year and includes many sing-a-long tunes like "When the foemen bares his steel"; the Policeman's Song, "When a felon's not engaged in his employment" and the Major General's song, "I am the very model of a modern Major General".

Sullivan also spoofs operatic conventions, particularly one employed by many serious operas of the time that called for characters to sing onstage yet at the same time remain oblivious to each other's presence. The trick is especially humorous in Act II, when the pirate-hunting policemen fail to notice those pirates who have just stalked onstage. The show is a romp and great fun from start to finish. It was the first operetta my parents took me to see and it hooked me for good.

It is a great introduction to the world of operetta in general and Gilbert and Sullivan in particular. It provides a guaranteed evening of excellent entertainment. Don't miss it.

Tickets at £16.00 (U16 £8.00) are available by calling 0114 236 3797 or 07565 805405 and the performances are on the 6th, 7th and 8th April at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets can also be bought online at www.doregass/weebly.com but please note that credit-card charges apply. Tickets are not available from The Montgomery Theatre itself.

Here's hoping for a more normal 2022 and I hope to see you at the show.

Derek Habberjam

People Keeping Well

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

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

Activity timetable

Monday

10am Gentle Circuits Online Exercise Class. Provider A

10am Sheffield Mencap and Gateway Coffee Morning. Provider C

11am Walking Football for Men & Women Wisewood Sports Centre (75 Laird Road, Sheffield S6 4BS) Provider A

11-12.30 Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing. Delivered by a horticulturist at Cross Scythes pub Totley. Provider F

12- 2pm Memoir Writing delivered by Kathryn Reaney, a professional journalist. Provider H

2-3pm Cosy Creatives: Online Creative writing sessions. Provider E

2-4pm Writer's Drop in: for writers who want readers and readers who want to hear the new writing of other people. Provider H

Tuesday

10am Zumba Gold Online Exercise Class. Provider A

10-12 Fulwood Memory Café at Fulwood Scout Hut. Chat, quizzes, live singers & more, for people living with Dementia & their carers. Provider D

10am Walking Football Springs Leisure Centre (526, East Bank Road, Norton S2 2AL

10.30am Singing Teapot Choir: fortnightly 2nd and last Tuesday of each month. Provider E

2pm Walking Football for Men & Women, St George's Park Thorncliffe. Provider A

12-2pm Hammer & Pincers Friendship Lunch: Ticket (£7.50) includes a 2 course meal & entertainment. Ringinglow Road (S11 7PW), on 22 February & 29 March. Contact Provider I

2-4pm: Dore & Totley Rosemary Memory Café at Dore Methodist Church. Chat, quizzes, live singers & more, for people living with Dementia & their carers. Provider D

5.45pm HiiT Online Exercise Class. Provider A

Wednesday

10am Strength & Balance Online Exercise Class (can be chair based). Provider A

10am Carers Café on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Provider G

11am Walking Football for Men & Women, St George's Park Graves. Provider A

2pm Walking Football for Men & Women, Concord Sports Centre. Provider A

6-8pm Community Journalism: No experience necessary- for people who want some pointers at sending out news releases, running social media pages etc. Provider H

8pm Women's Walking Football. Goodwin Sports Centre. Provider A

Thursday

10am Gentle Circuits Online Exercise Class. Provider A

11am S11 Carers Walk, Ecclesall Woods. 1st Thursday monthly

1.30pm Zumba Chair Online Exercise Class. Provider A

2-4pm Bents Green Memory Cafe. Chat, quizzes, live singers and more, for people living with Dementia & their carers. Provider D

2pm Short Stories: On the 2nd Thursday of every month - Listen or bring your own story to share. Provider G

3pm Table Tennis Bradway Community Hall. Provider B

Friday

10am Mindfulness Online. Provider A

10am Carers Café and Quiz on the 2nd Friday of every month. Provider G

11am Walking Football for Men & Women, Wisewood Sports Centre, 75 Laird Rd, Sheffield, S6 4BS. Provider A

7pm Table Tennis Bradway Community Hall. Provider B

List of Providers:

Provider A: CWS (Community Wellness Service). Classes delivered by specialist instructors. To book your place and receive links and instructions to join please contact CWS on 0114 553 7807

Provider B: Table Tennis organised by Jan Clist. Contact to book your place on 07787 954 842 / 0114 418 6463

Provider C: This takes place on 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Delivered by SMG Contact carers outreach project workers: Katie 07447391437, or Ellie on 07735316347, or email cope@mencap.org.uk

Please note: These sessions are for unpaid carers and the person they care for (created for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities/autism).

Provider D: Delivered by Eliza, provided by Age UK Sheffield PKW - Contact Eliza.Groark@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 07384 833594 for details to book.

Provider E: Provided by Age UK Sheffield PKW - contact Joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk for details

Provider F: Delivered by Caroline Cook Horticulturist. email info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk or phone Age UK 0114 250 2850. Visit gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk

Provider G: SCC (Sheffield Carers Centre). Email Jan jan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk

Provider H: Kathryn Reaney Email reaneywrites@gmail.com or call 07854 751932

Provider I: Book via Hammer & Pincers on 0114 2620759. For queries contact Kathy Markwick (Email kathymarkwick@gmail.com or call 0772 952 8844).

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TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

- MONDAYS** **AGE UK FITNESS** Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 1.30-2.30 pm. Contact Jo Woodward 250 2850. **GUIDES**, All Saints Church Hall, 6.45pm-9pm.
- TUESDAYS** **SLIMMING WORLD**, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 5pm and 7pm. Call Sarah on 07577 070797. **PILATES**, The Old School, Dore, 9.30-10.30am. Phone Sally Kilner 07917 762502 **TOTLEY OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY (TOADS)** meets 7.30pm to 10pm, in the Guild Room, St John's Church, Abbeydale Road South. **BABY TIME**, Totley Library, Tuesday 1.30-2.15pm (term-times only). Come along to meet other parents/carers and babies. We sing simple songs, have fun and allow time to chat. **SHEFFIELD MARQUETRY GROUP**, 10am - 12noon, St Oswald's Church Crypt, Bannerdale Rd. Small friendly group - beginners welcome. For information phone Graeme 07947 127909 or Pat 0114 2819915. **KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT & CHATTER**, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 12 noon - 3.00pm. **JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON**, 1.30-3.30pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom. A weekly afternoon of all forms of recorded jazz, plus discussion. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.
- WEDNESDAYS** **PILATES CLASSES**, Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 9.00-10.00am and 10.15-11.15am. Contact Caroline tel: 0781 722 0324, email Carolinenorth1@me.com, www.pilatescarolinenorth.co.uk. **CARERS' CAFE MONTHLY**- Dore & Totley United Reformed Church 10 - 11.30 am. Contact Jan Outram 0114 278 8942 **COFFEE IN THE LIBRARY**, 10.30am-12.30pm. Come and have a coffee and a chat! **THEMED CRAFT ACTIVITIES for Toddlers and Pre-School Children** Totley Library, 10 am and 11.45am. Children can take part in a themed craft activity. This will be offered on a free flowing basis and be supported by members of the Story Time Team. Throughout the morning, as children come and go, other children will be able to join in the activity. We hope that this provision will enable families with younger children to take part in a weekly activity, whilst still being able to maintain a safe well ventilated environment in the Children's Library. **TODDLER GROUP**, 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Liz Hayden 07969 826464. **HEALTH WALKS**, 10.30am, meet at Totley Library. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email stepoutsheffield@gmail.com
- THURSDAYS** **RHYTHM TIME** Baby, toddler & pre-schooler music sessions 9.00-11.30 Details Email: beth.w@rhythmtime.org Phone/WhatsApp: 07748 589468 To book: <https://rhythmtime.net/find-a-class>. **ROCKCHOIR**, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd, 11.30 - 1pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276 **CHAIR AEROBICS** Totley Library, 12 - 1pm with Kay. An Age UK and People Keeping Well weekly exercise class. £3 per week, no need to pre-book, just turn up. **SOCIAL CLUB** Dore and Totley URC fortnightly 2.30-4.30 pm Contact Alison Holden for information 236 0441 **PUSHCHAIR CLUB**, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10.30-12noon. Tel. 07912 352543 for details. **PILATES CLASS** run by qualified Pilates Instructor/Physiotherapist for all abilities and ages. 1.30 - 2.30pm, 5.15-6.15pm and 6.15-7.15pm at the United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Emer on 07792 422909.
- FRIDAYS** **PILATES**. The Old School, Dore, 9.30-10.30am and 10.45-11.45am. Phone Sally Kilner 07917 762502

FEBRUARY

- MON 7th and 21st SOUTH SHEFFIELD TUNELESS CHOIR** Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 - 9pm. Come and join us for an evening of liberated singing and fun! Contact Karen Cook 07759 375312.
- WED 9th TOTLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB** 10am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Illustrated talk by Paul Williams, "Manhattan Project". Visitors welcome. Social distancing measures apply.
- SUN 13th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** 1 pm - 3.30pm Conservation session. Meet Totley Hall Lane. Working in the glade in Pheasant Wood.
- TUES 15th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD** 10am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Beth Ely, "Funny Teacher".
- SAT 19th TOTLEY LIBRARY BOOK SALE** 2-4pm, Totley Library.
- SAT 19th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Bird Walk. Meet at 8.30am at Totley Hall Lane. Everyone welcome!
- MON 21st FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Illustrated talk by Pauline Burnett on "The Tenants and Workers of Abbey Dale Forge 1738-1933". 7.30pm, Totley Library. Check the website or email fogwsecretary@gmail.com to confirm. Please book a place by email to the above address. FOGW members will have priority..
- WED 23rd TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP**, "The History of Book-toys: Pop-up and novelty books in the pre-television era" by Ian Alcock. 7.30pm, Totley Library.
- SAT 26th TOTLEY LITTER PICKING MORNING** 10-11am. Equipment provided. This activity is done at participants' own risk. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet Baslow Rd, outside Totley Library. All welcome.

MARCH

- MON 7th and 21st SOUTH SHEFFIELD TUNELESS CHOIR** Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 - 9pm. Come and join us for an evening of liberated singing and fun! Contact Karen Cook 07759 375312.
- SUN 13th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Conservation session. Details to be announced - check FOGW website for information.
- TUES 16th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD** 10am, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Annual General Meeting.
- WED 23rd TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP** "Sheffield's Heritage" by Sarah Cattell (South Yorkshire Archaeology Service) Totley Library, 7.30pm.
- SUN 27th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES** Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/
- SAT 26th TOTLEY LITTER PICKING MORNING** 10-11am. Equipment provided. This activity is done at participants' own risk. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet Baslow Rd, outside Totley Library. All welcome.

If your organisation wants to publicise its events, or if you know about any local event, such as community markets or concerts, which you'd like to let people know about, please send details to Totley Independent (copydates are provided on the back page or on our website at www.totleyindependent.co.uk) and we'll do our best to include the information on this Diary page!

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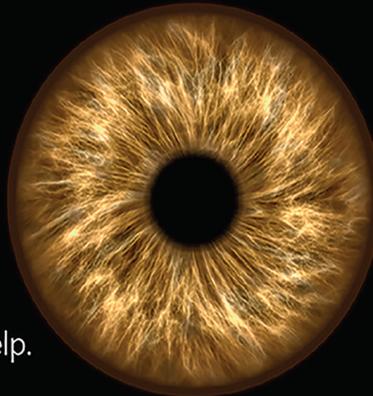
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