

Totley Independent

Published continuously since 1977

www.totleyindependent.co.uk

June/July 2023

No. 422



The new Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress - Colin and Susan Ross in mayoral robes

Interview with the Lord Mayor!

Sheffield's new Lord Mayor, Councillor Colin Ross, has served as a councillor in Sheffield for almost 26 years, and is one of the most respected local councillors in the region - in the local elections in 2021 he had the highest number of votes of any candidate in Sheffield. In this interview with the Totley Independent, Colin gives us his reactions and views on the office of Lord Mayor, and tells us something of his and Susan's background.

What are your and Susan's feelings on becoming Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress?

We are very honoured to be made Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of Sheffield and we are very much looking forward to our year as the first citizens of our home City.

I am especially pleased to have been made the 126th Lord Mayor at the culmination of my time as a Councillor. During our year as Deputy Lord

Mayor and Lady Mayoress we have attended many civic and community events all over the City. We have realised just what an important role this is and how the position of Lord Mayor is valued by the people we meet. We want to ensure that we uphold that tradition and represent the City as best we can.

Already we are booked into a number of local events and - who knows - we may get invited to a few more in the Totley area!

Do you have any specific ambitions for your time as Lord Mayor?

In my year of office I want to enhance the connections between our Universities, education and local industry. We have some fantastic research facilities here in Sheffield at both Universities and at the Advanced Manufacturing Park. I want to ensure that as far as possible what has been researched and developed in Sheffield is produced and (continued p.3)

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

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Interview with new Lord Mayor! (from p.1)

manufactured in Sheffield. We need a skilled workforce to be able to do this and this is where the link to education comes in, as the schools and colleges need to value vocational career opportunities equally with academic routes and encourage apprenticeships and traineeships.

My main charity for the year is St. Lukes, and I will be working with them to raise funds for a specific project through a series of events throughout the year. I hope that there will be opportunities for the local community to support this very worthy cause.

Tell us something of your background. How did you come to live and work in Sheffield?

Like many people Susan and I came to Sheffield as undergraduates of Sheffield University and here we have remained ever since. Although not Sheffielders by birth we are both Yorkshire folk. I was born on the outskirts of Middlesbrough in a village called Marton which was also the birth place of Captain Cook, and Susan is from Bradford.

However, I have a Sheffield connection dating back to the nineteenth century! My maternal family, the Hilliards, were cutlery and surgical instrument manufacturers with a factory on Meadow Street in Neepsend. They subsequently relocated to Scotland. My cousin Graham Hilliard, who now also lives in Dore, and I have donated a knife from the family canteen of cutlery to the Hawley collection at the Kelham Island Museum.

Susan and I both studied Geology and we met through social events in the department and married after I graduated (though Susan was still a student at that time). We moved into Dore in 1979 as our second home and here, with a couple of changes of property, we are still 44 years later.

And after university?

After graduation we both became teachers. I was at Firth Park and then Thomas Rotherham College, and Susan taught at Ecclesfield Secondary and then at King Ecgberts. We both took early retirement after 34 years in the profession.

Perhaps unusually for most I was able to teach Geology throughout my career as it tends not to be available in all schools and colleges. It was a pleasure to teach such an interesting subject and enthuse the students. I was also able to co-author a series of A level text books which are still available on ebay!

When and how did you get involved in politics?

I became involved in local politics in the 1980s as a deliverer of leaflets, with no intention of going beyond that. However, after moving to teach in Rotherham I was eligible to stand as a candidate and was persuaded to put my name on the ballot paper. It was not part of the plan to get elected but in 1994 that is exactly what happened!

It was rather a life changing moment but one I have not regretted since as it is a great privilege to represent your community. There have been lots of rewarding moments and satisfaction at achievements but equally lots of frustration at not been able to get things done as quickly as I (and residents!) would like.

You've been a councillor for quite a long time. How have things changed over the years?

The role of a Councillor is a mixture of working with community groups and casework helping people and committee work in the Town Hall. There are many local Community groups with which I have been involved over the years such as a trustee of Totley Library and before that the Totley Residents Association. I was also a Governor at Dore Primary School for over 30 years. The City would be a poorer place without the army of volunteers working in Friends groups, Lunch clubs, Transport17 and a host of other organisations. It has been a privilege to support them in whatever way I can.

Since 1994 the Council has gone through many changes, from a committee system to a cabinet and now back to a committee system. There have been periods in opposition, 6 years in control of the Council and we are now under no overall control at the time of writing. Each phase has had its different challenges but I must admit that running the Council was more rewarding than being in opposition!

The ward in 1994 originally comprised Dore, Totley, Bradway and half of Low Edges. Since then it has expanded to include Whirlow, Ringinglow and Parkhead but minus Low Edges. The ward boundary extends as far as Burbage but I get little casework from the sheep out there!

We know you're tremendously busy as a councillor and will be even more so as Lord Mayor. But what about your days off?

Away from politics and teaching I am a keen sportsman. I managed to play competitive football into my 40s but now it is more as a spectator that I enjoy sport. That is apart from being frustrated on the golf course as a high handicapper!

My other hobby is fell walking. I have ticked off more than half the Munros but I now think I will be pushing it to complete them all. Most of my waking these days is around the local area with Ruby, our dog, who seems to be getting quite well known!

Beauchief Gardens re-opening

June 9th, 2023, will see the formal reopening of Beauchief Gardens, after extensive improvement works, carried out by



Vulcan Rotary Club, in conjunction with Sheffield City Council and Volker-Story (contractors to Network Rail), with funds from the Council, the Lottery, J.G. Graves Trust and Volker-Story. Olivia Blake MP and the Lord Mayor, Colin Ross, will officiate.

Roger Hart

Friends of Gillfield Wood

Diary for June and July 2023

Sunday 4th June Practical Conservation Morning. 10.00 am meet at end of Totley Hall Lane.

Sunday 30th July Stream dipping with Paul Hancock and SCC Ranger. 1pm to 3pm

STOP PRESS: see p.29 for details of a FOGW Swift event on June 30.

If you have any queries, please contact fogwsecretary@gmail.com or check our website www.friendsogillfieldwood.com

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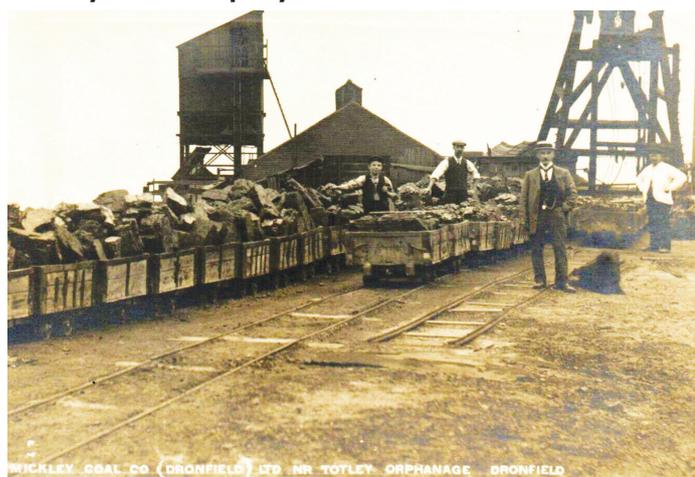
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Mickley Coal Company

Many thanks to all the readers who wrote or called us with information about our 'Mystery photo' of the Mickley Coal Company in the last issue!



We can piece together the story, thanks to your contributions. First of all, reader Jozsef Hegyi referred us to an excellent detailed account of all the various mining sites in the Dore area "from the Owl Bar direction, then passing in a wide arc to the west of the village, and swinging away eastwards through Ecclesall Woods towards Abbeydale." This article, written by mining engineer J.P.McCormick and entitled *Mining Sites of Dore* - can be found in *Dore to Door* magazine, issue 30, from summer 1993 - see <https://dorevillage.co.uk/pages/dore-to-door>. Several readers also directed us to the 'Old Miner' website - <https://www.oldminer.co.uk/mickley.html>

Nearer to Topley, Mick Savage told us "I remember the old buildings and tips on the left near the top of Mickley Lane, on the right near Thompson's farm, and between Dronfield Woodhouse and Holmesfield (50s - 60s?) when there was a big open cast mine alongside Holmesfield Wood." And Peter Rodgers explained that "The colliery depicted in the photograph is Mickley Colliery, which was one of a number to be found on the eastern edge of Derbyshire....there had been coal mining in Derbyshire since medieval times, initially around Dronfield, Chesterfield, Alfreton etc where coal could be found close to the surface. There are said to have been around 900 shafts in the Chesterfield area. Early Ordnance Survey maps indicate numerous old mine workings and the Derbyshire Environmental Records indicate many small collieries in Mickley, Stubby and Dronfield Woodhouse, including Mickley Colliery. Most of course have been lost without trace. It is no surprise therefore, to find 'The Miners Arms' on Carr Lane in Dronfield Woodhouse.

A number of sources (eg oldminer.co.uk and the Northern Mines Research Society) indicate that Mickley Colliery was sunk in 1906 in an area of pre-existing colliery workings. Indeed there was a sale on 22 October, 1887 of colliery equipment including three winding hand haulage engines, two direct steam pumping engines, and two pitch pine headgears with spider pulley wheels. John Turner & Son 'were honoured with the instructions' to sell this equipment belonging to Mickley Colliery described as near Dore & Topley station. This may have been relevant for the export of the coal. The items were to be disposed of by private treaty, presumably on behalf of the owner since 1887, a Mr H W Morris.

The colliery was at OS map reference 326793, which on a modern map is indicated by 'shaft'. In 1908 the manager was said to be A Riley who was perhaps on the photograph and there were 78 underground and 14 surface workers.

Also of interest was Apperknowle Colliery (OS 381785) owned by the Unstone Coal & Coke Company, sunk in 1840 with seams 'Mickley Thick' found at 136' from the surface and 'Mickley Thin' at 194'. This might suggest that the seams had initially been identified in the Mickley area."

Duncan Froggatt sent us this account which adds more detail: "An examination of the online catalogue of the National Archives quickly shows that the Mickley Coal Company

(Dronfield) Ltd was incorporated as company number 88885 in 1906. It went into liquidation sometime between 1916 and 1932. Yes, a wide range, but that is the limitation of the online index. A trip to Kew would be required to examine the relevant Board of Trade documents to get more information on the company. There may be some more documents, perhaps mine plans, at Wakefield Archives.

As to being 'near Topley Orphanage' the current Explorer (1:25,000) Ordnance Survey map shows 'shaft' just to the south of Mickley Lane near to Mickley Cottage and the Standall Close development and another (disused) approximately 300m SW near Rod Moor. Examining the 6" to the mile OS maps (available on-line through the National Library of Scotland) reveals that these appeared between 1879 and 1919 together with another towards Birchin Lee Farm. They also show various 'Old Coal Pits' in the vicinity and 'Mickley Colliery (Disused)' on both editions. The latter was located at what is now Standall Close housing development, which many readers will remember as the Standall Tools factory.

The BGS online records fortuitously include the shaft sinking record of Mickley Colliery in 1906 - the shaft just south of Mickley Lane. This encountered the Mickley Thick coal seam at a base depth of 77' 8" (23.67 m), the Mickley Cannel Coal seam at 95' 8" (29.16 m) and the Mickley Thin coal seam at a depth of 132' 3" (40.31 m). These seams were 6' (1.83 m), 10" (0.25 m) and 1' 9" (0.53 m) thick respectively. However, the last had a fireclay seat-earth immediately below it of 1' 8" (0.51 m) thickness. Mining of the Thick and Thin seams with the fireclay would have been viable. The fireclay would be valuable as a material for making refractory bricks for use in steel furnaces.

We should remember that the seams would already have been partially worked from the earlier disused colliery. In pillar and stall working sections of the seam had to be left to support all the mass of rock above. How much was taken would depend upon the strength of the coal and rock above, the amount of propping undertaken, how much water was in the rock strata and numerous other factors. Extracting more coal from a previously worked seam would be higher risk, especially if there was no knowledge of what exactly had been worked before.

It is worth commenting that these coal seams retained the name 'Mickley' through much of the South Yorkshire and Derbyshire coalfield. This would imply that Mickley hamlet was an early location of working the seams, probably by drifts from the outcrop only a short distance away. I know nothing of the earlier collieries and very little of the hamlet's history. I think the first extant records of the name are from the late 13th century, but it is likely the hamlet is older. 'Mickley' is thought to refer to a 'great clearing' in the woods. It may have been a larger settlement of the two or three farms indicated on the 19th century maps at some time in the past."

Nick Wheat sent us another view of the coal yard, pictured below. He suggests that "the Topley orphanage reference was



merely to assist people to identify where Mickley was as it was some distance away down the hill". Nick also sent us a cutting from the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, dated March 29

1912, in which it was reported that "work was resumed at the Mickley Colliery, near Dronfield...by 100 miners, this being the first pit in the Sheffield district to restart". There had been a national miners' strike in 1912 aimed at securing a minimum wage for miners. The government intervened and ended the strike by passing the Coal Mines Act, extending minimum wage provisions to the mining industry and certain other industries with many manual jobs.

Nick Wheat also sent a press cutting featuring a photo of a tramway which ran coal down the hill towards Totley for onward distribution (below). Nick comments "Frustratingly this does not appear on any ordnance survey maps that I



have seen so the location of the bottom yard remains unknown to me and I welcome further information from your readers. The colliery was operating at least in the 1st half of the nineteenth century as a map of the proposed 'Dronfield District Coal Railway' of 1849 (a copy of which is in the Dronfield Hall Barn Trust collection and attached) shows a tramway connecting Dronfield Woodhouse colliery to its planned railway line which would have linked many Dronfield area collieries to the Chesterfield Canal and Midland Railway at Wheeldon Mill near Brimington, Chesterfield. It was envisaged that Mickley Colliery (then owned by Joseph Ward), Birkenlea Colliery and possibly Stubley Colliery coal would have accessed the line at Dronfield Woodhouse Colliery.

This would have been a rather circuitous - but still more efficient - route for Mickley coal to get to market in Sheffield, Chesterfield and beyond!"

David Owen wrote to say that following the closure of the coal mining company, "there used to be an industrial style red brick building, long and thin near the brow of the hill towards the top of Mickley Lane (where the new housing estate has been built). It was I think signed as 'Standall Tools'. I always thought it a strange location for such a business and a local told me that the building was part of a former colliery, Mickley Coal Co."

Nick Wheat writes that "local legend has it that after closure it was used as a disposal pit with all manner of farm waste (including dead livestock!) and general rubbish being tipped down the pit shaft until it was capped and the site built on with a factory."

Standall Tools was located on the site of the old mine, where the housing estate called Standall Close was built. The company went into liquidation in 2012. It seems to have been an interesting outfit. A member of the *Sheffield Forum* website posted that "The factory was called Standall tools and produced/forged/heat treated construction digging bits, moils, spades, heavy duty 'peckers' etc. Was a veritable hell hole with scant regard to H&S. I worked there for about 4 years during the 80s. Yes it was built on the site of the Mickley colliery and one of the shafts provided the company with a place to dump all sorts of rubbish." (see <https://www.sheffieldforum.co.uk/topic/427574-standall-engineering-mickley-lane-sheffield/?tab=comments#comment-8049360>). Other contributors to the *Sheffield Forum*

testify to some rather unusual practices with regard to industrial relations at the company - see <https://www.sheffieldforum.co.uk/topic/427574-standall-engineering-mickley-lane-sheffield/>

Our thanks to all the above contributors to this account, and also to David Capewell, Wayne Hodgkins, Ian Clarke and Neil Bridgwater.

Totley Primary School

Trips and visits hit the mark!

At Totley Primary, we have long believed that Educational trips and visits have huge value and benefit children in a multitude of ways. This view has been further reinforced by the restrictions we saw during the Covid pandemic putting these experiences on hold for too long. With this in mind, and being determined to make up for lost time, our curriculum is now underpinned and enhanced by a wide range of opportunities for children to get out and



about and learn outside of their classrooms. A recent example was a Y5 Geography field trip to the Longshaw Estate which saw the children experience the water cycle in action on our doorstep. They also learned key fieldwork techniques through conducting a river study in which the speed, depth, width and key features of rivers were explored.

Our Y4 Kingswood residential visit to an activity centre up on the tops near Penistone is a brilliant trip which gives children the opportunity to stay away from home for two nights and experience a range of high-octane thrills, challenges and new activities. The highlights of this year's programme included fire-lighting in the rain, a successful egg-drop scrapheap challenge, one of our Deputy Head Teachers achieving the highest ever score during laser tag and, of course, the children's favourites - the 3-G swing and zipwire! It was fantastic that all the children in the year group came along and did themselves proud by working as one big team who supported one another throughout.

So it's onwards and upwards as staff work hard to plan more great trips and visits. Over the coming weeks, we have a Y6 camping expedition, a Y5 London extravaganza and a Y1 tour of Cannon Hall Farm all in the diary - we can't wait!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

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Totley Show 2023

Totley Show 2023 is on Saturday 16 September and we are grateful to Totley Primary School for allowing us to use their premises again. We were pretty well back to normal last year and had one of our highest ever entries. We had a large increase in entries in the children's section again and we are very grateful to the two local schools for their energetic promotion of the event. Fortunately we had spread the items over two rooms and plan to do the same this year. It makes it a lot easier for people to wander around and view the entries. Consequently this means that the charity stalls will be accommodated outside in the car park.

Elsewhere in this issue of *Totley Independent* is the entry form. This gives you a full list of the classes. There are just a couple of changes - we have split 'tomatoes' into two classes and dropped one of the children's classes.

As usual the entries can be dropped off on the Saturday morning between 8.45am and 10.45am. All the entries are then judged between 11am and 1pm. The school is open to the general public to come and view the entries from 1.30 pm.

There will be refreshments available, as usual, in the dining room. Entertainment in the main hall will be provided by the superb Seven Hills Quintet and the local Rock Choir, who are making a return appearance.

We always have a good number of people who come forward and volunteer on the Friday night and during the day on Saturday. On Friday night, we set up the tables and prepare the halls. On Saturday morning the volunteers take in the entries and set them out across the two rooms.

For Saturday afternoon we are always looking for people to help with the auction and tidying away at the end. If you would like to volunteer, whether for just an hour on either day, then please do not hesitate to contact me on my email address below. You will be very welcome.

We are also well supported by donations from the local shops but if you would like to add to that list by offering a prize for the raffle then please contact me at the email address below.

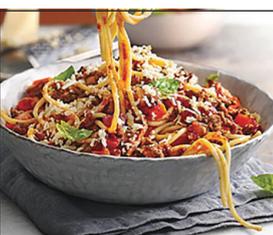
Now for an appeal! The art boards, on which we display art, quilts, photos etc. have previously been lent to us by the City Council. They no longer belong to the council and are not available to us, so if you know of any display boards we can borrow please email me.

If you like to sew, paint, bake, grow vegetables, work in wood or whatever is your hobby, we would love to see the results at your Community Show.

If anyone has any questions please feel free to email me at the address below and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Hope to see you on Saturday 16 September.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com



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Letter to the Editor

From Nigel Poole

I am trying to do some research on "South Yorkshire Biological Supplies" who's business was above the Chemist on Baslow Road from 1958 to 1965. The owner C.J Thompson and school Biology teacher B.J.F Haller made Microscope Slides and samples for Educational Purposes and I have 3 lovely examples.

I am trying to establish if anyone knows of the exact whereabouts on of the Chemist on Baslow Road around 1960.

Any other information or photos would be of great help in my research.

Nigel Poole

(Editor's note: any information can be sent to Totley Independent, and we will forward it to Nigel)

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Friends of Dore & Totley Station

Visible progress at last

Until October those passing the station will notice that half the car park is closed. There are parking restrictions at the bottom of Dore Road that many hope will become permanent. However Abbeydale Road South along towards the Industrial Hamlet is wide and offers plenty of parking on both sides, although a little extra time is necessary to walk back.

The closure is to allow construction of the new second platform and to extend our current platform. The existing signal will be moved about 15 metres towards Sheffield. The new platforms will allow six-coach trains to stop here with full access to all doors. There is to be a footbridge with lifts. Noisy pile driving for 9.5 metre deep foundations is necessary as rock is some way below the surface, though this may have happened by the time you read this.

The basic platform work may be completed by the end of October but fitting out with all the detailed facilities for an operational station will take longer.

Work on the tracks and signalling will require a total line and car park closure over the Xmas/New Year period with a final line and car park closure in March for the tracks and signalling to be connected up and tested. Roll on April when we should be able to use it all.

Services now – TransPennine Express!

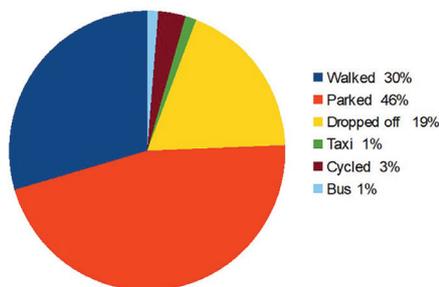
Industrial relations issues continue to blight the railway. In the last issue I hoped peace might have been achieved by now. Sadly, that looks as distant a prospect as ever.

TPE has been particularly badly hit. The pay dispute is bad enough but although they now have a rest-day working agreement in place there are big issues with how such days are rostered. Add to that the three new fleets of trains they introduced which have required extra training during Covid. The government are blamed on one side, the First Group franchise management on another, and the unions add the third dimension. Result? After failing to improve enough under a recovery plan the government is not renewing the franchise on 28th May. The Operator of Last Resort, OLA, is now responsible, as it already is with LNER, Northern and South Eastern Railways.

What difference will that make? As far as passengers are concerned, very little. The same trains will run on the same tracks, manned by the same people working to the same timetables and same recovery plan. That plan is already bringing improvements but the problems won't be fully resolved until the industrial relations problems are resolved. Until then we won't know for certain if a TPE train will run, will run the full distance, keep to time or have the full number of coaches. We must all hope that common sense will soon bring all sides together to achieve restoration of reliable services.

Car parking

It may be time to have another look at the elephant in the room. If we restore good services we'll attract more users and that will mean more cars. In 2019 we conducted a survey and found that 46% of users parked their car, 30% walked, 19% had been dropped off by car. 3% had cycled with 1% by bus and 1% by taxi.



The current car park was funded by SYPTE and opened with 129 spaces in 2013. It was full Monday to Thursday within six months. Station operators Northern and carriers of the most commuters (prior to Covid) TransPennine Express are very well aware of this. We have been lobbying all relevant parties about it since the Public Inquiry in 2016.

In 2018/19 FoDaTS completed surveys showing that by 9am on weekdays in excess of 100 overspill vehicles were parked near the station by rail users. That is currently reduced after Covid (further reduced due to TPE's currently awful service levels) but numbers are in excess of the car park's 129 capacity Tuesday to Thursday. After 9am, calculations are complicated by staff and patrons at the Summer House and Hair Union.

In 2019 SYPTE, now South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), completed a basic feasibility study for more parking. We've seen it and it fell down on multiple issues. Currently the position is that SYMCA need to completely recalculate their business case to take station activity after Covid into account, plus activity after the second platform is operational in April 2024.



The difficulty is that railway passenger numbers are calculated annually from April to March and not available until the following December. That implies a new business case might not be completed before 2026 on the 2024/5 figures - which is rather frustrating!

The 2019 Plan was totally inadequate insofar as it would only have added roughly a net 60 extra spaces on an upper deck. It would have been very expensive per space created. It would have been a visual eyesore. It took minimal note of drop off users and overlooked deliveries to the Rajdhani restaurant and vans for the Amazon box.

This is a very active issue and SYMCA have it very much on their radar. A financial window of opportunity may open but the biggest issue is providing enough extra space, possibly for at least twice as many cars, say over 150 more? So far nobody has identified a site that could achieve that at a realistic price AND ALSO satisfy road safety and green environmental concerns. If anyone has a practical solution please let us know. Without it, parking on Abbeydale Road South will remain the best overflow option.

We've lobbied for more cycle shelter space and now have room for 32/34 - mostly unused. Allied with the Bradway Action Group we've been working to get improved natural paths down through Poynton Wood to the station. A big increase in cycling won't take many cars out of the equation. Walkers will get in their cars when it rains!

Charging? We're soon to have four electric charging points. Ah, you were suggesting paying for parking? If it cost £2 a day (operators Northern's preference) experience elsewhere suggests many would park on the roads, but owners SYMCA currently have a policy of free park and ride.

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

Chris Morgan, Chairman

What's on at Totley Library



Current Opening Hours

Mondays 1pm - 7pm
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am - 5pm
Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 1pm

Totley Library Cinema

Our cinema programme at Totley Library is available for booking in person or by calling 0114 236 3971. Refreshments will be served at all these films. Raffle tickets: £3 per adult and £1.50 per child. Thursday matinee films are free for over-65s.

For details of films to be shown in February and March, please see posters in the library or visit our website at www.totleycric.org.uk

Plant Sale

Our thanks to all the people who supported our Plant Sale on 29th April! Over £1000 was raised which was fantastic and it was a lovely community event!

Overdue books

There are no fines on items that are returned late. Library users are still encouraged to return or renew their library books on time. Lost and damaged items are charged at replacement value.

Please have a look at home for any overdue books and return to the library as soon as possible. This will help ensure all our library users are able to enjoy the newest 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

Library Lottery Winners

First-prize winner in the March draw was Barbara O'Connor, and Roberta Bunn won second prize. In the February draw, first prize was won by Catherine Leach Lawson, and second prize by Susan Facer.

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 children's 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, 6-7pm

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

Story Time for toddlers and pre-school children from 10am - 11.30am (except school holidays). Children can take part in weekly themed craft activities, sing songs and listen to a story. £1 donation per child greatly appreciated.

Health Walks, 10.30am, meet at 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: <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/>

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Table top sale

On June 17th from 10am to 1pm we will be holding a table top sale, raising money for SHARE. More details can be found on the poster advert in this issue. This is the last chance to book a table. Please call Margaret Barron on 231 1831 or Elaine Ferguson on 07929 720977 if you'd like to book a table at £10.

Tables will include new toiletries and secondhand goods including bric a brac. Refreshments will include home-made cakes and bacon or vegetarian sausage baps.

Songs of Praise worship

Our morning service on July 16th at 10.30 am will have hymns and songs chosen by members of our church with an explanation of why the hymns mean so much to those who have chosen them. There'll be refreshments after the service. Hope you can join us!

Flanders and Swann afternoon tea

We'll be holding an afternoon tea on Sunday September 24th from 3 pm. Simon Copley and Jonathan Lazell will be entertaining us. More details in the next issue.

Grand jigsaw sale

After the success of last year's sale we are now collecting brand new or very good quality complete jigsaw puzzles for our next sale on October 14th. Phone or text Elaine on 07929 720977 if you have jigsaws to donate.

All our events support our 2023 charity, SHARE (Sheffield Health Action Resource for Ethiopia). If you'd like to hear more about the work of SHARE, Cariad will be speaking at our morning service on June 25th.

Elaine Ferguson



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Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

What a show! *H.M.S. Pinafore* was a cracker. The Society gets better every year. The feedback has been wonderful and if you were tempted but didn't go, you missed a treat. The audiences were from a wide age range and young and old thoroughly enjoyed themselves. When I left the dressing room I was confronted with a sea of happy faces. The critic from NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) in a substantial article heaped praise on every aspect which says volumes for the quality of the work put in by both the Artistic Director, Graham Weston, and the Musical Director, Martin Yates. He finished his article with these words:

"...I have to say that G&S is not my first love but I thoroughly enjoyed this evening, performed by a very strong Dore G&S Society to a high standard and now look forward to further productions. Thank you for the hospitality of your Front of House team. On reading this and having an evening spare, buy a ticket and you will be brilliantly entertained, as I have been".



From *HMS Pinafore* with Cousin Hebe (Sammie Jones), Sir Joseph Porter KCB (Stephen Andrews) Josephine (Rebecca Lambert), Ralf Rackstraw (David Barnard) held by a sailor guard (Chris Birch).

Pretty good eh? I cannot leave out the orchestra. For me, when I go to see a musical performance I know whether I am likely to enjoy it as soon as I hear the orchestra or accompanist. A mediocre performance by them can ruin a whole evening for me, but the one we had for the show was excellent: not too loud to drown the singers but powerful enough when it mattered. Having played myself I know how much work goes into making a sound that good. We thank them for it, it would not be the same without them.

Ann Habberjam (yes, my other half) has been Front of House manager for the society for over 30 years and this was her last outing as such. I do not know who will take over yet it is time for her to let someone else run that aspect. The Chairman, Alan Wade, made a presentation to her after the final performance to show the Society's appreciation. The Montgomery Theatre is said to be having some substantial work done next year including the installation of a lift – at last – so we have not fixed a venue for next year's show at present. I will, of course keep you posted.

Concerts: If you missed the show we have a couple of concerts coming up with a programme which includes some Gilbert and Sullivan pieces and also music from many other shows such as *Fiddler On The Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Boy Friend*, *Joseph* and *The Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Miss Saigon* among many others. The first concert will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 1st July in Dore Methodist Church, Savage Lane, Dore S17 3GU and the second will be a broadly similar programme at Whittington Moor Methodist Church, Scarsdale Road, Chesterfield, S41 8NA at 2.30pm on Saturday 22nd July. Tickets are £9 each, available by phone on 07565 805405. Hopefully we'll see you at one of the concerts and in the meantime I hope that the weather warms up soon so we can all have a good late spring and early summer.

Derek Habberjam



Totley All Saints Church

As I write this, it is the eve of the coronation of our new King. I don't know if you'd call yourself a royalist or not but it is hard to see all the tradition and parades and not feel a sense of this being a big moment. Seeing community come together, bunting on houses, roads becoming venues for neighbours to come together, relationships made and friendships deepened seems right doesn't it?

Thinking back on the loneliness of lockdown, events like 6th May were what we were dreaming of. As Christians we believe we were built for more than being alone that desire to be part of something bigger is built into all of us. We see that in community and serving one another - that's part of our desire to make All Saints a blessing to the community. For us, though it goes even deeper than that. The Bible speaks of God not as an aloof loner but as one God in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in an eternal beautiful dance of other person centred love - a dance which we are invited to be a part of and enjoy not just on May 6th but forever.

If you enjoy community events then let me tell you about a joint churches fun day at Totley Primary School on Saturday 24th June. This is a gift from the Christians and churches here in Totley and Dore, and we hope that everyone will come along and join in the fun. There will be games, activities, food and drink, and more. It is a great opportunity for us to come together as a community and it's totally free!

Then, during the summer we're planning a series of summer socials throughout August. These will be a great opportunity to come along, meet others and enjoy a range of activities. We will be meeting at different venues in Totley, so please keep an eye out for more information on our social media channels. Everyone is welcome, we'd love to see you at one.



You may have noticed we had to close off part of the garden after some damage to the trees around the church in the recent heavy snow. We've assessed the damage and are making the necessary repairs. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Finally, the start of the long awaited work on the memorial garden has been delayed due to the weather. We hope that the work will be able to start soon and will be in touch with those who are waiting to bury ashes. If you would like to chat to us about this or anything else we'd love to hear from you - drop us an email at hello@allsaintstotley.church

Rev'd Ben Tanner, Vicar
M: 07912890512
E: ben@allsaintstotley.church
www.allsaintstotley.church

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'thanks for decorating our flat throughout; your attention to detail; finishing and helpful attitude is great' Mrs B. (Netheredge)

'you've done a marvellous job decorating the outside of our house' Mr & Mrs W (Dore)

Fishy Bacon and 'Flu

I've been looking at what Sheffielders were talking about a hundred years ago, in 1923. There were a lot of consumer complaints about 'fishy' bacon which was coming from pigs fed with fish meal. It was bad for business and bacon curers were now boycotting it. In May, the continuing 'flu epidemic was causing concern. Over 90 Sheffield people had died in a week and the weekly death rate was up by 58%. A deputation from Sheffield visited the Minister of Health at the time, Neville Chamberlain, telling him that over 50,000 people in Sheffield were having trouble paying their rates and that one in five were receiving poor law relief – a system which lasted until the Welfare State after the end of the Second World War.

Matters were really stirring in the spoon manufacturing industry. Sheffield's silversmiths were determined to beat undercutting by German manufacturers and were offering the cheapest spoons ever made. Sheffield's electro-plated teaspoons were being sold at one guinea a gross making them a penny and three farthings each. A Sheffield cutlery company announced it was negotiating a contract to make three million spoons for a well-known British retailer. Canteens of Sheffield cutlery were being sold for two guineas (£2.10p). Good quality Sheffield scissors were selling for less than the equivalent of 10p. And what about the chore of keeping the family silver clean? Sheffield was already fam-



1920s art deco Sheffield Silver Plate Fish serving fork and knife

-ous for stainless steel, and now a local company working with experts had launched a new silver alloy product which resisted tarnishing. It could still be hallmarked as Sheffield silver. Samples had been tested in the open air for two years and had kept their shine. Talking of silver, a lucky Sheffield allotment holder had dug up a King Charles I silver crown reckoned to have been worth around £16,000 at today's prices. That person could certainly have splashed out on a full price new oak three-piece suite for £9.45p – no need for bank holiday sale bargains.

On the railways, the 1921 Railways Act meant that from January 1923 the confusing list of over 120 British railway companies and over 70 joint railway companies sharing each other's lines became just four. The Great Western Railway (GWR), Southern Railway (SR), London & North Eastern Railway (LNER) and the London Midland & Scottish Railway (LMSR) became known as the "Big Four". The LMSR with its 7,790 route miles looked after Dore & Topley, Beauchief, Mill Houses & Ecclesall, Heeley and Sheffield Midland stations amongst others. Dore and Topley station with its four platforms had 60 trains a day stopping there – something we wouldn't mind seeing again! The LNER with 6,590 route miles ran through Sheffield Victoria station with a range of local and long-distance services. The LNER's "Flying Scotsman" locomotive entered service and occasionally appeared at Sheffield before it became an international celebrity. Then in 1948, the four became one when British Railways was born, rebranded as British Rail in 1965. By 1994, privatisation led to 25 rail franchises, some of which are still with us despite the end of rail franchising in 2020. More modestly and closer

to home, Sheffield Corporation introduced halfpenny fares for children on trams in October 1923.

A night out at the pictures in 1923 saw Sheffielders watching films like *Sodom and Gomorrah*, *Chastity*, *When Husbands Deceive*, *Poor Men's Wives*, *Daughters of the Rich*, *The Flirt*, *Slander the Woman*, *Memoirs of a Monk* and *Grumpy*. With titles like that, were they spluttering and choking on their snacks of the day? Did any of these dubiously named films ever become classics I wonder?

One winter night in 1922/3, Topley's ever-vigilant Police Constable had stopped a lorry driving without lights on Baslow Road. This was a local fruiterer's lorry which was being driven from Rowsley by its owner. Under the lorry sheet the constable found 1,036 yards of flannelette and 637 yards of shirt material which had been stolen from a railway wagon at Rowsley. The thieves involved were also hiding under the sheet. Nine men later appeared in court where the main offenders were given prison sentences with hard labour.

In other news, the first broadcast from Sheffield radio station 2FL was made, and the BBC produced its first outside broadcast. The chimes of Big Ben were broadcast for the first time on New Year's Eve. Customs posts appeared on the land border between Eire and Northern Ireland after the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The future King George VI and the Queen Mother were married on 26 April in Westminster Abbey. There was a General Election resulting in a hung Parliament with Conservatives winning the most seats but Labour and Liberals together winning more.

Over in Egypt, Tutankhamun's tomb – one of few undiscovered by grave robbers – was unsealed for the first time after over 3,000 years. The 'curse of the pharaohs' became big news after the tragedies that followed affecting those involved in the discovery and its aftermath. 'King Tut' was probably around 18 years old. And finally, back in Britain, selling alcohol to under-18s became illegal.

Now for the weather. It was the second wettest February ever recorded in England, and there was a White Christmas with heavy falls in Northern England and Scotland.

Mike Peart

Bradway Primary School
Summer Fair
 Saturday 8th July 12pm - 3.30pm

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Totley Show 2023

A celebration of our community and its talent in aid of local charities

Saturday 16th September
at Totley Primary School

Admission to the show will be 50p for adults and 20p for children

We would be delighted to see you at the show and to receive your entries using the entry form overleaf

The Programme

- 8.45 Registration opens
- 10.45 Registration closes
- 11.00 Judging of classes
- 1.30 Doors open to the public**
- 1.45 Official opening of the Show
- 2.30 Prize money may be collected
- 3.15 Last raffle ticket sales
- 3.30 Prize-giving followed by raffle draw and auction of donated items
- 3.45 Collection of non-auction entries

How to Enter the Show

Please feel free to enter as many classes as you like! The entry fee is 50p per entry. You can enter up to three entries in any one class; no entry can have been in a previous Totley Show. If your entry doesn't fit one of our classes please still bring it along for display. Children may enter any class. All entries are left at owners' risk.

First (£3), second (£2) and third (£1) prizes will be awarded in each class, unless there are fewer than three entrants in an adult class in which case only a first prize will be awarded. All children's entries are recognised with a certificate and all children's class winners receive a medal. Cups or trophies are awarded to all section winners. A special trophy is awarded for the 'best in show'.

You may donate your item to be sold at the end of the show, but this is not compulsory. Any prize money not collected by 4pm will be put towards next year's show. Thank you for entering!

Notes:

Recipe to be used for Dundee cake class (use a deep 7" tin): 175g/6oz plain flour; 125g/4oz butter/margarine; 125g/4oz soft brown sugar; 2¼tsp baking powder; 1 rounded tsp mixed ground spice; 3 eggs, 125g/4oz raisins; 125g/4oz sultanas; 125g/4oz currants; 85g/3oz chopped mixed peel and chopped cherries; 40g/1½oz blanched almonds to decorate.

Recipe to be used for Victoria Sandwich class (use two 7" tins): 125g/4oz Margarine; 125g/4oz self raising flour; 125g/4oz caster sugar; 2 eggs. Fill with strawberry jam.

Children's handwriting classes (on an A5 page): 6-8s a nursery rhyme, 9-11s a poem, 12-14s: a Shakespeare quote.

Totley Show 2023

Entry Form

Please complete prior to bringing your entries for registration between 8.45 and 10.45am.

Name	
Phone	
email	
Address	

Please enter the number of items you would like to enter against each class at 50p per entry:

HANDICRAFT SECTION

1	Knitted or crocheted item	
2	Decorative cushion	
3	Soft toy	
4	Sewn garment	
5	Cross stitch	
6	Quilting / patchwork	
7	Greetings card	
8	Open handicraft any medium	

DOMESTIC SECTION

9	A cake (any recipe)	
10	Victoria sandwich (see recipe)	
11	Dundee cake (see recipe)	
12	Carrot cake (any recipe)	
13	Free from (any recipe)	
14	3 Fruit scones	
15	Loaf of bread	
16	Jam	
17	Lemon curd	
18	Marmalade	
19	Chutney	

FLORAL SECTION

20	Arrangement 18"x10"x10"	
21	3 Cut home grown flowers	
22	Flowering pot plant	

FRESH PRODUCE SECTION

23	4 Eating apples	
24	4 Cooking apples	
25	8 Blackberries	
26	5 or more mixed veg/ salad	
27	3 Courgettes	
28	5 Matching runner beans	
29	5 Tomatoes	
30	5 Cherry tomatoes	
31	1 Cucumber	
32	Heaviest marrow	
33	Longest runner bean	
34	3 Eggs from own hens	

ART & SCULPTURE SECTION

35	An original poem	
36	Oil or acrylic painting	
37	Watercolour	
38	Sketch in ink or pencil	
39	Upcycled art or sculpture	
40	Open art any medium	
41	Open sculpture any medium	

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

42	Black and white	
43	Portrait	
44	Animal – domestic or wild	
45	Landscape	

WOODWORK SECTION

46	Wood turning	
47	Open woodwork	

CHILDREN'S SECTION (up to 14)

48	Vegetable animal (up to 8)	
49	3 Decorative buns (up to 8)	
50	A cake any recipe (9 to 14)	
51	3 Biscuits (up to 8)	
52	3 Biscuits (9 to 14)	
53	Decorated gingerbread man	
54	Egg cup flower arrangement	
55	Painting or drawing (up to 5)	
56	Painting or drawing (6-8)	
57	Painting or drawing (9-11)	
58	Painting or drawing (12-14)	
59	Lego model <25cm ² (up to 8)	
60	Lego model <25cm ² (9-14)	
61	Colour photo (up to 14)	
62	Open any medium (up to 8)	
63	Open any medium (9 to 11)	
64	Open any medium (12 to 14)	
65	Handwriting (up to 8)	
66	Handwriting (9-11)	
67	Handwriting (12-14)	
68	An original poem	

Official use only

Entrant number	
Total number of entries	

Total entry fee due	
Entry fee paid	



Update from Olivia Blake MP

Last month I was proud to bring the Climate and Ecology Bill back to Parliament. The climate and nature crisis is affecting people's lives right now, especially in the global south, but increasingly here in the UK as well. It is my firm belief, and one which I know many in Totley share, that nature provides our best chance to mitigate this. We cannot solve the

climate crisis without saving our key ecosystems, restoring habitats and protecting our much-loved species. But despite the efforts of groups championing nature-based solutions in our region - such as the Bentley Ings Pumping station, Lady Canning's Plantation or the Yorkshire Peat Partnership - the UK's critical carbon sinks and stores are deteriorating. In some cases, they have even become net carbon sources rather than sinks and stores.

Current legislation contains a target to halt and reverse this decline of nature by 2030. However, the absence of any concrete plan to do this means that the state of nature is on course to worsen, not restore, pushing ecosystems beyond danger points from which they may not be able to recover. That is why this Bill - drafted by many of Britain's leading climate and ecology scientists and supported by people across our city - is such an important piece of legislation. It is the only piece of proposed or existing legislation that would tackle the intertwined crises of climate and nature together to ensure a strong, integrated response. If enacted, it would create a joined-up strategy to cut emissions in line with the 1.5°C target, while halting and reversing nature loss by 2030.

This Bill would also create a temporary nature and climate assembly, made up of a representative sample of the UK population to consider expert advice and reports on recommendations for inclusion in the strategy. From working with people across Sheffield Hallam to build the Hallam Citizens' Climate Manifesto, our vision for climate action locally and nationally, I know the importance of democracy in the transition to net zero. This is in part why I am particularly proud to be championing this Bill, which puts people at the centre of this decision making. If you would like to hear more about my work on the Climate and Ecology Bill, or get involved in the campaign, please get in touch.

I have also been campaigning against the Government's cruel anti-refugee Bill, which will make it impossible for some of the most vulnerable people to claim asylum in the UK. It is a dangerous piece of legislation and an assault on the right to claim asylum. Thank you to everyone who has written to me about this Bill, which I have voted against at every opportunity.

I have also tabled an amendment to the Bill, supported by over 40 cross-party MPs, calling for the introduction of a "safe passage visa". The visa would give entry clearance to those already in Europe wishing to come to the UK to make an asylum claim and is supported by the PCS Union, who represent border force workers, and Care for Calais, who support refugees and asylum seekers in France and the UK. We owe it to every person who has died in the Channel trying to reach safety to drop the inhumane deterrence policies and look at real solutions that will save lives.

I was pleased to hear that 1,463 people in Sheffield Hallam took time out of their day to take part in The RSPB's Big Garden Watch - the world's largest wildlife survey! The native Woodcock population has shrunk by nearly 20% in the last 10 years. During the debate in Parliament I called on the Government to limit the shooting season and take proactive steps to extend their habitats, our woodlands. Thank you to the 370 people in Hallam who signed Wild Justice's petition and made the debate happen.

I am also honored to have won two awards, one from the RSPB for my work as a Hen Harrier Species Champion and another from the Climate Coalition as an MP constituency champion. I am proud to represent a constituency of people fighting for action on the climate and nature emergency and

I will continue to champion these issues in Parliament.



Hen harrier in flight

I have written to the Government calling on them to urgently stop the development of the Rosebank oil and gas field. We are facing a climate and ecological emergency. The Government should be doing everything in its power to speed up our transition to net-zero, not green-lighting a new massive oil field.

During Eating Disorder Awareness Week I spoke during the debate in Parliament about the crisis facing our services. Eating Disorder services in Sheffield and across the country are at breaking point. Demand is still going up, cases are becoming more critical and resources aren't being provided. To truly address this crisis we need a root and branch reform of eating disorder provision.

As a result of over-stretched services, I have been hearing harrowing reports of children with Eating Disorders being restrained in general medical wards by untrained staff. After raising this with the Minister, she has agreed to look at the loopholes in current legislation. I will continue to press on this until the use of restraint on all mental health patients is properly monitored and recorded - whether they are in mental health wards or not.

A parent in our constituency has suffered a serious head injury after a large piece of cladding flew off the school building, striking her on the head. After raising this issue in Parliament, the Schools Minister has agreed to meet with me to discuss what urgent support can be given to the school to carry out repairs. Ministers need to take urgent action to address this crisis before anyone else is harmed. I've also written to Gillian Keegan to demand urgent action to reverse cuts and ensure schools are safe, before anyone else is harmed.

As always, if there is an issue you would like me to campaign on or an event in Dore that you would like me to attend, please do get in touch. Or if you would like to hear more about what I have been getting up to, you can sign up to my monthly newsletter on my website.

Olivia Blake - MP for Sheffield Hallam
olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk
<https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/>



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A 'Dispensometer' in Totley: Unique to Sheffield

It has been my luck to need more medication in the last few months, both emergency and repeat prescriptions. I have discovered the Dispensing machine outside Totley Pharmacy to be an excellent service for repeat or non-urgent prescriptions.

I had to register for the service, not a complicated process. When I have a prescription to collect, Totley Pharmacy sends me a text with a code to input on the buttons of the machine, and like a drinks vending machine it dispenses your medication into a chamber at the bottom within a few seconds.

I can see the benefits of this machine for both sides. I can collect at any time of day or night, to suit my routines, and I am not clogging up the Pharmacy waiting to have my prescription made up. This must take the pressure off the staff in the Pharmacy, and make waiting times much quicker for people who need to collect urgent prescriptions.



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I heard from a friend who uses a pharmacy in another area of the city that waiting-time for urgent prescriptions there can be as much as an hour, because people are collecting both urgent and repeat at the same time.

Another added benefit of this machine is that it has a canopy over it, so you can collect without getting soaking wet!

This is apparently the only such dispensing machine in Sheffield, and I think we are very fortunate that Taj has had the foresight and willingness to invest in this expensive piece of kit, which improves things for both patients and Pharmacy staff. I have nicknamed it the "Dispensometer".

I have witnessed people coming into the Pharmacy being incredibly rude and demanding. We should all remember that people working to help us should be treated with respect and thanks for the work they do.

Jennie Street



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Councillors' Update

In the recent election Joe Otten was returned as Councillor for Dore & Totley ward with 56% of the vote and a majority of 2,585. The City Council remains in no overall control with 39 Labour, 29 Lib Dems, 14 Greens, 1 Conservative and 1 Independent. At the time of writing it is not clear who will be chosen as Leader of the Council, or how the Council intends to change in light of the damning report from the street tree enquiry, but hopefully both issues will be resolved soon. However we are pleased to report that local resident Colin Ross is the new Lord Mayor and will be taking up this prestigious role on 17th May. Well done Colin!

One of the key local issues facing the Council over the next few weeks is the planning application for a very substantial development on the site of the Dore Moor Garden Centre.



This is a key test case for protection of the Green Belt around Sheffield and it could have long-term impact on the protection of green space around Totley. We expect the case to go before the Council Planning Committee in late May or early June and we will keep you updated on the outcome.

In other news the rotation of speed detection equipment around 8 locations in the ward is nearing completion and we will soon have a more detailed analysis of speeding traffic at problem locations around the ward. The results will be shared with the council Highways department and the Police to allow a fact-based discussion on what further measures are required.

Current casework also includes items such as road maintenance (including parts of Prospect Road and Baslow Road), overdue repairs to council housing and the potential location of bike stands. As ever do get in contact if we can help with any council related issues.

Martin, Colin & Joe

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

Money down the drain!

I always check the amount of water we have used when we get a bill, but haven't read the small print, "Surface water". Apparently, a law changed in 2011 regarding the costs for processing foul water.

A brief explanation: surface water should be relatively clean water, which has run off a roof or from the surface of a yard or drive. Foul water is that which we don't like to talk about, but includes toilets, baths, sinks, wash hand basins, washing machines and dishwashers. If you wouldn't drink it, it is "foul water". That goes via a drain to a sewer.

It appears that the water Companies have been charging us for disposing of our surface water, when, in some cases, the water goes to a river. This is the case in much of S17. In Totley, houses built on the railway side of Baslow Road, may have their surface water discharge into the Old Hay Brook. Marstone Crescent, Stonecroft Road, The Green, The Grove, The Quadrant and Terry Road are properties most likely discharging into the brook. The street gullies may (most likely will) also discharge that way. Don't put waste water down a street gully, unless you are prepared to drink it! Properties on the Bradway side of the main road may have their surface

water discharge into the Totley Brook. This is only a guide, E&OE!

Where does money come into this? Reading the small print will show how much of your water bill was used to treat the surface water from your property. (Mine is about £12-50 per quarter) However, such water is NOT treated by the water Company, so they owe us a refund for the past 6 years (why 6 years I don't know and the lady I spoke to didn't either).

If you want to claim, make sure that there are no connections made to your surface water drainage that shouldn't be (it is illegal to do so – it is too easy to fit a dishwasher or washing machine to a downpipe), as you may be in trouble, but certainly will not be entitled to a refund. Properties may be surveyed before a refund is given. I was told it would take them 5 working days to decide if I am entitled (they have exceeded that), but my property might also need a survey which will take longer. Yorkshire Water don't give a specific number to call, but I got a call back from 01274 250549.

I am joining two friends to research the source of foul water entering the Old Hay Brook, from the Akley Bank area of properties. Please keep children away from the stream, in case the water is contaminated. I once, professionally, dealt with 55 cases of dysentery from such a source.

Roger Hart
07831 305881

Olivia Blake MP visits Friendship Lunch

Olivia Blake MP was a special guest at the recent Friendship Lunch at the Shepley Spitfire which was a huge success. Olivia really enjoyed the event and spent time chatting to guests. This event which was initially started with kind sponsorship by Age UK Sheffield and People Keeping Well continues to go from strength to strength due to the enthusiasm of the



the Manager, Tracy Shaw, and her team. Kathy Markwick, Freelance Community Consultant (0772 9528844), who launched Friendship Lunches in South Yorkshire seven years ago said "This event is almost fully booked every month and it is lovely to see 'old' and new faces. Guests are treated to a delicious two-course lunch and live entertainment. It is an excellent tool in our quest to combat/reduce loneliness and social isolation."

The event is held on the last Friday of the month - tickets are just £12 and must be booked in advance. Jo Woodward, Community Development Officer said "These events are a fantastic example of businesses and organisations being truly part of their community. The numbers of people attending have been staggering, which demonstrates the need for this kind of provision to prevent loneliness and isolation".

Kathy Markwick
Freelance Community Consultant
0772 9528844



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Neighbourhood Watch

Recent Facebook comments about 'cold callers' around the S17 area raised a few questions about what a No Cold Calling Zone is and how it was so designated. Back around 2015-16 there were three separate NHW areas, Dore, Totley and Bradway who all cooperated with each other to provide a range of information and help for all its members and residents in general.

At that time the whole of the area was plagued by rogues including a notorious family from the Woodseats area, offering to repair your roof, clear your garden and various other offers to relieve you of your money and often demanding more and more money without completing or even starting work.

Trading Standards were inundated with complaints about these rogue traders and along with South Yorkshire Police provided documentation (shown below) on the benefits of No cold Calling Zones and getting approval from the residents to apply for such a zone. This involved sending out notifications of the proposed NCCZ so that residents would have the opportunity to voice their concerns and /or approval for the scheme. The late Keith Hill did the work for the Dore & Totley areas, whilst I did the same for the Bradway area. I cannot remember any concerns from Keith Hill's consultation but we only had one negative comment from all the Bradway residents.

The results were confirmed by Trading Standards and the three areas, Dore, Totley & Bradway were officially approved as No Cold Calling Zones. Trading Standards then supplied

and installed a number of NCC signs around the locality, albeit only a limited number. Unfortunately many of these signs were removed and lost when the lamp posts were replaced around 2017-18. Lack of funding prevented these signs being replaced.

Moving on to 2019 it was recommended that the three NHW areas be amalgamated into one larger group to be able to benefit from various funding opportunities and other benefits. The proposed amalgamation to S17NWA was presented to the membership and was unanimously approved, bar one objection, at the Annual General meeting in June 2019. Subsequently a revised Constitution and a new enlarged committee were approved and a bank account opened under the S17NWA name.

The benefits were almost immediate when an application for funding from the local council ward pot was approved, allowing the group to purchase various items, including NHW signs. Subsequent funding from NHW National has allowed the group to purchase two further packs of NHW and new NCC signs; these will be installed around the S17 area as soon as we can. We initially install the signs on all road entrances to the area so that no one should be able to say they did not know they were in a NHW or NCC zone. The next phase is to try installing signs on as many developments as possible so that again no one should be able to say they did not know they were in either a NHW or NCC zone.

Les Day

Great turn-out for Tree-Planting in Totley parks!



The Totley Hall Park tree-planting team.....



.....and the Green Oak Park squad!

Walking Blue

15 Questions For a Dog with 15 Nails

1
Blue I am a dog. What do your neighbours say about me?
Sally They smile in public, but in private they say you are far too big and not posh enough to live in our bijou terrace on Le-Mont (built 1877).

2
Editor I am the Head Eater. My editorial rules for this edition say that there have to be exactly 726 words and two pictures. And no vulgarity of course. You'll remember what the Dore and Totley Methodists tried last time?

3
Blue Can I have a drawing of my predecessor Jack for the readers of the *Totley Independent*?
Sally Good idea. Here's one from our niece, then aged 11 1/2.



4
Blue How can I be a greyhound? I'm not grey. I'm Blue. I'll ring the vet.
Vet The vet here. Next?
Blue How can I be blue? I am black. Not black and blue.
Vet Can I have your credit card number? Next?
Another Vet I think my examination is over? He is not a whippet. Whippet is a cruel name. I'd rather you paid me in cash.

5
Sally It must be time for some music?
Local Radio DJ Hi folks! Sorry, but no being silly Sally or you'll be sorry Sally.
Sally Sorry.
Local Radio DJ And here from their 1963 45 rpm extended play disc is — Oh no I'm being sacked.

6
Editor Please tell us three dog-eared jokes while I nip in the Fleur, Sally?
Sally 1. What do you get if you cross a sheepdog with a jelly?
2. What do you call a dog magician?
3. Why didn't the dog want to play football?
Editor Answers on my bottom

7
Vicar (*Speaking posh*) Pray, why aren't Tetley (sic) greyhounds allowed to be buried in Tetley's grave yard?
Totley History Group (founded 1066) Because there isn't a graveyard in Totley.
Blue I'm three years old in dog years. That means I've had one fifth of my life. Rony has had four fifths of his. So he'll go first, vicar.
Doctor Ronnie won't live much longer at all, if he carries on with his drinking. Put his credit card in that machine please.

8
Vicar (*Speaking posh again*) Does any perishioner need to know the only animal with a name in all the Babel? Read Proverbs 30 29-3. If you could just put your pieces of silver in my collection box

9
Local Radio DJ Hi folks! My favourite Beatles song with a dog in it is on a record issued in Canada in 1963. It lasts 2 minutes 3 seconds. I can't remember what it was called, can you? But my close friend John Lennon had a bulldog called Sally.

10
Blue Why do we greyhounds have to eat gravy bones? They aren't bones and they aren't made of gravy because if they were we'd leak all over the kitchen.

11
Audiologist Want to tell me about your famous ears?
Blue My famous ears go all tickly in a nice way if you rub your knuckles right inside —
Audiologist Can't hear you. I take cheques.

12
Totley Headteacher Want to brush up your Shakespeare?
A T.O.A.D. Oh lovely, darling.
Totley Headteacher In which scene of which play are you like a greyhound in your slippers?
A T.O.A.D. Henry the Fifth darling. Or Henry the Fourth darling. It's one about killing foreigners anyway darling.

Editor I think we should now have a little picture of Blue's family by Bridie, aged 8.



Totley Headteacher He looks a bit like a Guttigadus Gobolabou. And it would help if some people could count.

13
Blue How can I have I only got 15 nails but 4 feet?
The Green Un Because somebody unnailed you on the track at Owlerton when you were always and in all ways named Always a Blue. And you were, till you weren't, so now you aren't. So who's buying this time?

14
Sally Answers to the dog-eared dog jokes?
1. The collie wobbles.
2. A labracadabra.
3. It was a boxer.

15
Local Radio DJ The song I couldn't remember? It's Who Let the Dogs Out by Baha Men. It is in the Junkanoo genre. Thank you and good night.

726 words.

Rony Robinson and Blue

Totley History Group

Unfortunately, April's meeting with 'The History of Painted Fabrics' was a victim of Covid when the speaker, Hilary Widdowson, had to cancel at short notice. The talk will be rearranged for a future date.

Pauline Burnett was able to fill the breach with a recently developed talk based on her book 'The Dore & Totley Minesweeping Trawlers Comforts Fund'. The knitting group's extensive correspondence could be seen and the roll of men at the North Shields minesweeping base they supported has also been further researched.

A short AGM was held prior to the talk. Chairman Norman Rolfe reported on the group's return to more normal attendance numbers following the Covid break and welcomed Sam Callaghan to the committee. He is already helping with the revision of our website as it moves to a new platform to keep pace with inevitable digital advances. Jan O'Connell was also thanked for her successful first year as Speaker Finder. We lost two of our stalwart committee members in this last year - Jean Byron who has resigned, and Jim Martin who sadly died. Both had been committee members since THG inauguration and the support they gave is greatly missed.

Anybody who feels they would like to join us would be most welcome. The committee meets approximately three times each year and the various jobs that help to make the group run smoothly are divided between us.

Future Programme

Wed June 28th 7.30pm, 'The History of Pharmacy' by Dr. Jenny Stephenson. Totley Library, 7.30pm. Non members welcome

The following events are open to members only, due to the need to limit numbers

Saturday June 24th 6-8pm: A celebration to mark Totley Hall's 400th Anniversary, hosted by resident Bette Phillips.

Tuesday 25th July 10.30am. A visit to Sheffield Hospitals' Archives (NGH) places limited.

For details of the above, or to book a place, please contact

secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk asap

There will be no meeting in August.

Totley Open Gardens 2023

Totley Open Gardeners will be opening their gardens this year on the weekend of 1st and 2nd July from 1-5.30pm. It will be the 21st year that we have been running this event.

There will be about 13 gardens and an allotment on Mickley Lane taking part, with a great variety of styles. There are gardens full of colour, a woodland garden, gardens with lots of shrubs, very colourful gardens, long herbaceous borders, quirky gardens, gardens with sculptures, gardens growing fruit and vegetables, and children-friendly gardens.

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

All monies raised will go to support the local community organisations that TOG has supported over the years - Cherry Tree Children's Services (35%), Transport 17 (25%), Totley Scout Hut (30%), and Totley Library (10%). We also accept donations to help us raise a good amount. Since TOG began in 2002 we have distributed nearly £47,000 without any restrictions as to how the beneficiaries spend the money.

One garden will be selling cream teas, and there will be plants, books and other things for sale in other gardens. Toilets will be available in several gardens.

Put the dates in your diary and come along to see our gardens - you will find inspiration, ideas and information everywhere. Also helping to contribute to the amount raised at the TOG weekend, the Totley Yard Sale, held on 14th May, and the Totley Vintage Fair, held on 3rd June, will boost the funds we can distribute.

For more information please contact me on either 07527-929-592 or jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

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Interview with Chinese Balloon Artist Kenneth Ho from Hong Kong

Interviewed by Gay Riley

How long have you been in Totley?

10 months with my wife, Christine, who is a nurse, and our 2 boys, Phainos, age 8 and Hesus, age 4.

What brought you here?

Perhaps we are a bit like Paddington Bear, travelling to new places! We like the freedom and the education for the children. They can run around and play and learn. In Hong Kong there is a lot of pressure, especially now Communist China has taken control. Christine can work here and the boys love their school at Totley All Saints. We all love going to Totley All Saints Church. It is just like our church in Hong Kong and the people there are so welcoming.

How did you learn your skills as a balloon artist?

I have a mission to bring happiness to others. I learnt from other balloon artists, and courses, learning to work together with others, and so I was invited to join them on projects and increase my experience. Many of my designs are now in a Japanese style because this is the most popular style in Asia. I always use high quality biodegradable balloons.

What was your job in Hong Kong?

Most of the time I did big balloon displays for events such as conferences, concerts, weddings, annual dinners and fund-raising events. These were so big that other artists also contributed, but here in the U.K. there does not seem to be an interest apart from parties, especially for children. The most popular models are for Disney characters such as a princess, Pokemon, Spiderman, Mario and animals such as unicorn, rabbit, cat and dinosaur.

For a special 80th birthday in Totley, I made a Phoenix. It took over 8 hours to make. I had to research this and work out the style and practice so that it would keep a perfect shape.

When I had finished and delivered it I felt very satisfied and happy that I had brought joy and happiness to those who saw it. That is why I enjoy my modelling. I hope I will find more big projects to do!

Contact details: sifu.kman@gmail.com

Facebook [Kenneth's Balloons](#)

Instagram [kenneth.balloons](#)

Contact number 07394 096246





Totley Rise Methodist Church

Grove Road, Sheffield, S17 4DJ

Totley Rise Methodist Church aims to be a church in the community and for the community, increasing an awareness of God's presence, celebrating God's love, caring for people, helping people to grow and encouraging people to follow Christ.

Events in June and July

We'll be hoping for good weather as we support and participate in two outdoor events in quick succession!

On Saturday 24th June at Totley Primary School, from 1pm to 4pm, we will join with other Christians and churches in S17 to hold a Family Joy Event - a joyful free gift to our community. There will be plenty of activities for kids, plus refreshments. See poster below!

24th June 2023

Totley Primary school

Joy

FAMILY FUN DAY

Slides
Fun games
Bouncy castles
Face painting
Storytelling
Music and more

familyjoy.co.uk #familyjoy-S17

A joyful free gift from Christians and churches to our community in S17

The following weekend, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July from 1pm to 5.30pm, we will once again be one of the Totley Open Gardens, which can be visited in support of local charities and organisations. Programmes giving entry to all the gardens can be bought for £5 from Totley Library during June.

Regular Services Information

9.30am most Sundays - **Toddler Praise**. A 30-minute service for pre-school children and their parents/carers, preceded by refreshments from 9:00am

10.30am **Mid-morning Service** every Sunday. An informal and contemporary service usually lasting approximately 1 hour 15 minutes, with a monthly Communion. Children usually leave the service for Junior Church after the first 15 minutes or so, except on the 4th Sunday of the month when the service is even more informal for **All Age Worship**.

3pm on the second Sunday of each month **Focus Church** takes place. This is a time of worship specially structured for those who have learning disabilities and cognitive difficulties. We also support **Outdoor Church**, a movement where

families with children can meet (usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month) to learn more about God's world and the Christian faith through an informal nature-focused time of fun and worship. See facebook.com/groups/outdoorchurch

Tuesdays at TRM

Tuesday is a busy day for us, beginning with a **Prayer Meeting** from 9.30-10am in the church. We focus on prayers for the community, for the world and any situations needing healing and the touch of God's hand.

From 10am until noon our free **Welcoming Places Coffee Morning** in the church lounge provides an opportunity for anybody to call in for free refreshments and a chat with others from the community. This began as part of the need for warm spaces for people to use when energy costs began to soar, but will continue through the summer. During the school holidays (except for the 8th and 29th August) the coffee morning will include children's activities from 10am to 11am, and baby singing from 11am until noon.

Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter immediately follows the coffee morning, running to 3pm. This is a busy and friendly group, offering tea, coffee, biscuits and most importantly, friendship for up to three hours. Young and old, men and women are all welcome. Feel free to bring a packed lunch.

Pushchair Club

Babies and toddlers aged from 0 to 5 years are welcome to join us, with their carers, on Thursday mornings from 10.30 to 12 noon. Every week in term time, the Pushchair Club fills the TRM Centre, giving children, their parents and carers a place to come together, play, sing, chat and enjoy refreshments.

LEGO Walking Group

Let's Enjoy Getting Older Together! The LEGO group usually meets at the church at 9.15am on the second Friday of each month then drives into the local area for walks of about 5 miles.

Room Hire

We make our facilities in the TRM Centre available to hire for a variety of purposes, from community groups to birthday parties. There is the large church hall with a stage, and room hire also includes the use of kitchen facilities if required. For information, details of room charges and online booking requests, please visit our website.

The Quiet Garden

All are welcome to find stillness and peace in the Totley Rise Methodist Quiet Garden. You are invited to come, sit and wonder about our creative God. It is a place of tranquillity and offers an opportunity, in the rush of modern life, to lay down your concerns. You can do this any time during daylight hours.

Getting and Staying in Touch

The best source of further information is our website, www.totleyrise.co.uk which publishes our weekly notices and offers links to video recordings of many of our services. You can also submit prayer requests, and we are on Facebook at facebook.com/TotleyRise

If you can't find what you need on the website, you can email enquiries@totleyrise.co.uk.

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Totley Scouts 215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group

Well, the weather seems to be turning and we are really hoping that summer is on its way - meaning we can get outside more and have adventures in the fresh air.

Our sections have great summer programmes planned so that we can get out and about as much as possible. We also have summer camps planned and everyone is really looking forward to those.

The Beavers have been very busy earning badges and recently enjoyed celebrations for the King's Coronation. We had a walk to the chip shop where we practised our Green Cross Code skills and have started our Gardener Badge where the Beavers all planted some seeds to take home and grow. We are looking forward to walks in the woods, camp fires and preparing for our Summer camp during the next half of the summer term.

The Cubs have also been busy and have an action packed term ahead. We also celebrated the King's Coronation with crafts and activities and are doing our Gardener Badge. The Cubs planted lettuce and herb seeds to take home and they have monitored how they have grown over a few weeks. The second part of our badge has seen the Cubs tidying up around the Scout Hut ready for our Spring Fun Day and making bug hotels to encourage the wildlife to our little plot of land. We are looking forward to campfires, backwoods cooking and walks in Derbyshire over the next half term and finishing off with our Summer Camp.

We have been thrilled to have a new Scout Leader join our Monday Scouts and the Scout have got a busy programme learning skills for their Scout Camp in June. These include camp first aid, camp gadgets, cooking on fires, menu planning and much more. The Scouts have also taken part in some District events with other Scouts from around Sheffield.

In April we celebrated St George's Day with a family treasure hunt around Totley. We had a great time with families following clues, collecting leaves and finding St George's lost dragons on the route. Well done to the Drew family who were our winners. We also took this opportunity to present a very special award to one of our leaders. Mick Hollindale, our Scout Leader, was awarded his 50 year long service award by our Group Scout Leader, Sue Bridgens. It gave us the greatest pleasure to award Mick his award and to say a heartfelt 'thank you' from all those past and present whose lives he has been part of.



Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader
hallamadccubs@gmail.com

Totley Scouts are on the hunt for new Leaders!

Fulfilling, fun and motivational - just a few of the ways volunteers describe their experience leading or helping at Totley Scouts. We've successfully recruited new leaders for our Beavers, Cubs and Scout troops in the past year, and it's wonderful to see how much they're all enjoying their roles. However, we do still need more adults who are keen to try new things and have fun to join our team of Scout Leaders, to help us continue providing fantastic opportunities to local young people in our two thriving Scout troops.

Our Leaders are people just like you but working together they make extraordinary things happen by providing a wide range of activities on a weekly basis. You might think you need to have worked with children or young people to be able to become a leader, but actually, our leaders have all sorts of different backgrounds. Amongst our current leaders and helpers, we have an operations manager, a project manager and civil servants, whilst others are in teaching or childcare. You don't have to have been in Scouting yourself, either! We are open to boys and girls from all faiths, backgrounds and abilities, and welcome everyone.

What do you have to do?

We meet weekly and are looking for someone to join our team of Leaders. If you can't be there every week that's OK, we understand and welcome you when you can come. Perhaps you could help us plan some of our fantastic activities or day trips instead. Whatever time you have to give, we can find a role for you that you will find rewarding.

If this sounds like it could be for you, please contact us for more information or a non-committal chat about how you could help, by emailing our Group Scout Leader Sue Bridgens at hallamadccubs@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

From a Marstone Crescent resident:

A Big Thank You.....

.....to the team that turned up to help clear the heavy fall of snow that cut off Marstone Crescent and Stonecroft Road.

The team worked so hard to get a one-track clearway to the main Baslow Road (we used to have a local farmer with his tractor for this). But now we are grateful for the above team.

It helped local residents to go to the few shops that managed to stay open. Also the clearway enabled a local resident doctor to get to work at the Northern General Hospital. Well done to the NHS. So 10 out of 10 to everyone who helped. Hope the above team will read our thanks in the next issue of the *Independent*.

Totley Sporting Chatter Group

We meet at the United Reform Church on Totley Brook Road, on the first and third Friday of each month from 10.30am until 12.30.

We're a small group - mainly retired guys - that meet to chatter about sport, and to enjoy each other's company, socialising and visiting Sporting events together.

Our groups a friendly lot, aimed at providing mutual well being. We cover all sports with chatter, quizzes, films, speakers and social events over coffee and biscuits etc.

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Transport 17

Firstly, a special thank you to all those who supported us at the Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th March, whether it was donating prizes for our raffle and/or chocolate bonanza stall, donating plants, helping with the planning and preparation beforehand,

delivering posters, or helping us on the day. We had a wonderful morning and raised a total of £760. It was lovely to see both old and new faces at the Cross Scythes pub. The funds we raised at this event will be used to recruit and train new volunteers (see more below). We have been especially grateful to Ben and his team at the Cross Scythes who have supported our fundraising events over the years. We wish them all well on their new ventures.

Despite the fabulous ongoing support we receive from the local, and wider community, this month we write with a plea for some specific help. We are in desperate need of new volunteers to enable Transport 17 to continue to maintain a consistent service to the lunch and social clubs we currently visit, and hopefully increase the number of passengers we are able to take, and the organisations we assist, in the future.

Over March and April this year, Transport 17 has had to CANCEL 30% of our bus journeys due to a lack of volunteer availability. Running an average 7 or 8 services a week instead of our usual 13 has meant that a significant number of older and vulnerable people have not been able to get out and socialise with others within their local communities. This is impacting on their mental health and wellbeing. We know from research that loneliness is linked to early deaths, and that in fact, the effect of loneliness on mortality is comparable to that of other well-established risk factors such as smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity. Approximately half a million older people go at least 5 or 6 days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all. Our passengers regularly express their gratitude at being able to get out, socialise within their communities, and being able to join others to eat a meal. Betty, one of our regular passengers tells us "I wouldn't be able to come out without T17. It gives me friendship, food and gets me out".

Volunteering in the community can have many benefits. Better mental health and wellbeing, increased confidence and self-esteem, sharing talents and learning new skills, valuable work experience, gaining a sense of achievement and purpose, and feeling part of the community, are just some of the things our volunteers say they get from giving their time to T17. Volunteering can combat loneliness, stress, social isolation and depression. It can help you meet new people and create new friendships, which can help you feel more connected and valued. It is also an opportunity to 'pay it forward' or to give something back.

If you enjoy helping people and would like to give something back to your local community, come and find out about the volunteering opportunities here at Transport 17. We have a small, friendly group of volunteers who would be really pleased to show you around and tell you more about what we do. We welcome individuals who would like to help on a regular basis each week, those who could offer some time less frequently (e.g. fortnightly, monthly), and also those who might be able to offer some time on a more flexible basis. There are a variety of roles available, including helping with fundraising, and planning and organising events. However, what we are currently most in need of are minibus drivers and passenger assistants.

- **Minibus driver:** You would drive the minibuses that provide door-to-door group transport for older people who wouldn't otherwise get out, enabling them to socialise in their local community. You would always be accompanied by a passenger assistant. The time commitment can vary between 3-4hrs and longer days of 6hrs. Full training and induction is provided and funded.
- **Passenger Assistant:** You would provide assistance to those older people who are less mobile, to and from their home to bus to venue, and ensure they are comfortable while on the bus. The passenger assistant works alongside

the driver often making up a regular and consistent team of two. Full training and induction will be provided and funded.

Each individual has their own reason for volunteering and their own ideas about what it will do for them. There's no right or wrong approach, it's all about exploring the opportunities available and finding one that is right for you. The most important thing about volunteering is that you should enjoy it and that it's a rewarding experience for you, as well as for the people you help. Our volunteers enabled Transport 17 to complete 516 passenger journeys in January 2023, an average of 129 per week. This is in comparison to 346 passenger journeys in January 2022, an average of 86 per week. Many of these passengers only have this one opportunity each week to get out of the house and socialise with other people. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in finding out more about volunteering with Transport 17, please contact us on 0114 236 2962, by completing the contact form on the website at www.transport17.co.uk, or by emailing us at volunteerco@transport17.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fiona Smith

Every Swift Counts

It's no secret that I absolutely adore swifts.

My name is Chet Cunago and I run Sheffield Swift Rescue. Based in Totley I'm a specialist swift rehabilitator. Last year – with the help of Pet Samaritans, I managed to save 47 swift chicks.

They have lived in their perfectly evolved current form, since dinosaurs roamed the earth, never landing. They exist in our atmosphere in (almost) constantly flight. Only ever landing in their nests to have their young, swifts live in the skies like fish exist in the oceans. They eat, drink, mate and even sleep on the wing. One of my favourite swift tales is during WW2 a fighter pilot, engines off, behind enemy lines, reported a cluster of birds hanging silently and motionless, in the skies just beneath him apparently 'sleeping'? One caught in his engine... an adult swift. They're magnificent, like no other bird on earth, their nearest relative is the hummingbird.



Sadly, our swifts are in desperate trouble, their numbers have plummeted by 58%. As we renovate and repair our roof spaces, we're inadvertently destroying their nest sites, on an industrial scale. Swifts are nest faithful and tragically they often fatally injure themselves trying to get back in.

Fitting swift bricks (a nest box similar to an air brick- £35) into your property or employing 'swift friendly' roofing practices when undergoing repairs can greatly help. Search 'Sheffield Swift Network', they have lots of advice on their website and can recommend swift friendly tradespeople. You can buy the bricks from [Swift Conservation.org](http://SwiftConservation.org)

In the peak of the season (July -September) I care for swifts 16-18 hours a day, and normal life completely comes to a screeching halt! In 2022 I left my house twice in 3 months when I had to dash to the reptile shop in my pyjamas, having carelessly (I blame sleep deprivation) left swift food out of the freezer.

Swift chicks arrive with me and are usually in a pretty sorry state, severely dehydrated and usually around only half their ideal weight. My job is to stabilise them, and get them up to a perfect migration weight, as soon as I release them, they head straight to Africa and won't land for three years so they have to be in top condition to take on such a mammoth journey and exist their lives on the wing.

Swifts are STRICTLY insectivorous. I feed them a combination of crickets, locusts, bee drones and flies every two hours 8 or 9 times a day. I house 4 chicks in a box, they love being together, they climb into each other's nest cups and begin to preen each other and sing. It's truly glorious to witness. The heatwave last year was particularly challenging as over heating chicks were coming to cooler air (*continued p.29*)

Every Swift Counts (from p.28)

at the opening of their nests, and falling to the ground. I had so many, I had to paint nail varnish on their little claws to be able to tell them apart.

It's incredibly difficult work but the privileged insights into their behaviour are a joy. Every morning (my day starts at 5am and finishes at 12am), I am greeted by boxes of baby swifts all singing eagerly for their breakfast. As they grow (swifts take around 6 weeks to be ready to fledge) I get to witness them performing their 'press ups' and hear them flapping furiously as they strengthen their wings ready for their journey ahead. Then, I get to release them. Swifts tell you when they're ready. They stop singing, and for days, they stare endlessly at the skies out of my window.

There is nothing more gratifying - and heartbreaking- than releasing a swift which may have been in my care for 5 weeks, and I usually have a little cry. I drive to an open park or moorland- away from buildings, place them on my flat palm above my head and wait for them to take in their surroundings and the wide open world around them. They begin to flap and fall towards the floor, then those perfect wings stretch open and lift them into the sky....and they're gone. South. To Africa.

So, when our swifts arrive back in May, keep your eyes peeled. If you see one with a pink dot on its second toe, left foot, that's Rita.

Caring for swifts isn't cheap. I spent £1400 in one season, but as swift extinction becomes a real possibility, we are slowly realising that every swift counts. These swifts only fly free thanks to your wonderful donations. If you could contribute the address for donations is paypal.me/ChetCunago

Search 'Sheffield Swift Rescue' on Google or Facebook or email sheffieldswiftrescue@gmail.com

If you find a swift on the ground don't hesitate - contact <https://sheffieldswiftnetwork.org/emergency-contacts/>

We have a fabulous swift group locally too. S17 & Totley Swifts are on Facebook or you can email swiftsoftotley@outlook.com

Chet Cunago

Tête-à-tête

On the 29th of April, any stranger walking by the library would notice its well maintained grounds covered with tables full of plants of all kinds in all sizes of pots and household containers.

Yes, it was the annual plant sale for raising money for the library. Drinks and home made cakes were on hand for throats and welcoming tummies. It was a most enjoyable event for all ages and backgrounds.

As might be expected, there seemed more women there than men - around two thirds to one third - at any one time, with most over the age of 50. There were also small numbers of young children and a few teenagers about, with few signs of smart phones and electric games ruling the

roost. There were around 60 visitors at any one time, with many more overall, and some from outside of Totley itself.

There were also conversations between residents who hadn't seen each other for too long, with smiles and greetings all round and, of course, exchanges of knowledge on what forms of life were being purchased during the two hours allowed. It also looked as some new friendships were being made.

Luckily, the weather held up with lots of sunshine, followed by a short bout of raindrops but only an hour after closing time. And the socialising was such that a wet morning wouldn't have kept many away. Even the dogs on leads were very well behaved - what more could anyone have asked for?

Well, there could have been. I wonder, say, if recently crowned King (Philip Arthur George Charles) could have dropped in our local plant show, since he's not only interested in Nature's offerings but also for saving the globe that we occupy.

He's also a long-standing environmentalist with a history of conservation, organic farming and especially climate change which will eventually affect most forms of life that provide us (and all our animal relatives) not only with food but the very air we breathe plus the added bonus of attractive greenery and flowers of colours and shapes that make our lives a lot more worthwhile.



I don't know if anyone would have asked his Royal Highness that talking to plants has any impact, but if so, it could be by making them resistant to harmful bugs, inclement weather or anything else that could cause them damage. Perhaps, one day, he could let us know what he actually says to them to keep them well and then to convey it emotionally. Better still, he might eventually publish a book on the subject. No doubt

it would be a very best seller.

Unfortunately, he now has more on his plate than a visit to Totley would allow, but there's always next year. Some decades ago when I worked at the Children's Hospital in Sheffield, he actually did a royal visit there.

It was a grand day that the Children's Hospital patients and staff would never forget. It's almost certain that all those he listened to and spoke with, especially the children - now fully grown adults - will keep in mind when they have chats with their own foliage.

One of the doctors who showed him around informed me that he was apparently in no rush. He spoke to everyone in his usual friendly manner and spent much more time doing this than his schedule would permit..

Looking back to when he was still a prince, he never seemed in a hurry except when on the back of a polo pony, although I don't know if he spoke to any of his four legged friends or ever received a straight reply from a horse's mouth.

Perhaps if we try hard enough, a full sized racing mount from the Sport of Kings will be in contact one way or another. Something to look forward to.

Arthur Kaufman

Stop Press: This just in!

Friends of Gillfield Wood: Friday evening, June 30th: All are welcome to join Totley Swift Group to watch Swifts flying around our local hot spot near Green Oak Park. Meet at park entrance on Mickley Lane at 8.15pm for a stroll lasting one to two hours. Dress appropriately for the weather although if it's very rainy the event will be cancelled. Book a place by emailing fogwsecretary@gmail.com.

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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
SLIMMING WORLD Totley Rise Methodist Church, 5pm and 7pm. Call Sarah on 07577 070797
- TUESDAYS** **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. For more information call 0114 2351206
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-3pm
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
YOGA CLASS 1.15 - 2.45pm at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church. Contact Rachel (qualified level 4 BWY teacher) 07708 996984 or yogaq@hotmail.co.uk
WELCOMING PLACES COFFEE MORNING open to all, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am to 12 noon
TAI CHI Dore and Totley United Reformed Church 4-5 pm. Contact Bernice on 07999 617387
- 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 278 942
COFFEE IN THE LIBRARY 10.30am-12.30pm. Come and have a coffee and a chat
STORY TIME for toddlers and pre-school children at Totley Library from 10am - 11.30am (except school holidays). Children can take part in weekly themed craft activities, sing songs and listen to a story. £1 donation per child greatly appreciated
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
YOGA CLASS 6.30 - 8pm at St Johns Church Hall Totley. Contact Rachel (qualified level 4 BWY teacher) 07708 996984 or yogaq@hotmail.co.uk
- 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, 12-12.45pm with Laura. An Age UK and People Keeping Well weekly exercise class. £4 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

JUNE

- SUN 4th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Practical Conservation Morning.** 10am. Meet at end of Totley Hall Lane.
SUN 11th & 25th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES 1pm - 5pm - Abbeydale Road South. £2 per ride per person. Car park closes 5pm. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com
WED 14th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10am in Room 1, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Mike Waters on "Coconuts and Atolls". Guests are always welcome - we are always looking for new members.
SAT 17th DORE & TOTLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Table Top Sale 10 am - 1 pm.
WED 21st DORE GARDEN CLUB Rosy Blackmore: The Growing Garden - Flowers at Knabb Farm. This evening will feature a seasonal demonstration at the height of the flowering season. Rosy will show us how to make the most of arranging and tying the cut flowers from our gardens. Doors open 7.10pm for 7.30pm start at Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors welcome £4.00.
SAT 24th 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.
WED 28th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP, talk by Dr Jenny Stephenson, "History of Pharmacy". 7.30pm, Totley Library. Non-members welcome.

JULY

- SUN 9th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES 1pm - 5pm - Model Engineering Exhibition and visiting locomotives running.** Abbeydale Road South. £2 per ride per person. Car park closes 5pm. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com
WED 12th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB, 10am, Room 1, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by John Stone on "My favourite equations". Guests are always welcome - we are always looking for new members.
WED 19th DORE GARDEN CLUB Mick Brown: Garden News from Chatsworth. Mick will be telling us about the latest initiatives at these magnificent local gardens. Doors open 7.10pm for 7.30pm start at Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors welcome £4.00
SUN 23rds MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES 1pm - 5pm - Abbeydale Road South. £2 per ride per person. Car park closes 5pm. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com
SAT 29th 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.
SUN 30th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Stream dipping with Paul Hancock and SCC Ranger. 1pm to 3pm. Check website for more details.

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 (copy dates are 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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'Totley Independent' for August/September

The next issue of the Totley Independent will be published on

Saturday 29th July
COPY CLOSE DATE for this issue
will be
Saturday 8th July



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Printed in the UK by
The Magazine Printing Company
using only paper from FSC/PEFC suppliers
www.magprint.co.uk

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