

Totley Independent

Published continuously since 1977

www.totleyindependent.co.uk

December 2016/January 2017

No. 383

20p



The Army camp near Totley Rifle Range. The rifle range opened in 1900, and was closed in the mid-1990s

Totley Residents Association: What Next?

Shortly after the Totley show in September, the chair of Totley Residents Association, Hetty Moran, notified to the TRA committee her resignation from the Association. Hetty will continue to work on the committee of the Totley Show, but her departure from the TRA raises questions as to the future of the Association. "Hetty has worked very hard for the Association for a long time," said TRA Acting Chair Dominic Harris. "We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude, not only for her work on the Totley markets and her organisation of the Christmas lunch for Totley's older residents at the Shepley Spitfire, but also all the behind-the-scenes work which Hetty put in on behalf of the people of Totley."

Four of the five remaining members of the TRA committee – Dominic Harris, Norman Rolfe, Colin Ross, and Phil Harris – met in October to discuss the situation, and the immediate future for the TRA. The committee felt that the market

planned for November should not go ahead, as although Hetty had indicated her willingness to work on the Market, there was no-one on the committee who could organise and oversee these events on behalf of the TRA itself. Moreover, the TRA had applied to the Council for funding to meet the cost of the Christmas lunch but the amount awarded was not sufficient to cover all the costs and so there would have been a financial liability to the TRA if it had gone ahead – this was not something the committee wanted to risk in the current uncertain times. Both events were therefore cancelled.

The committee recognised, however, that despite the uncertainties affecting the TRA itself, there was no threat to the future success of the annual Totley Show, which, although technically part of the TRA, is organised by its own independent sub-committee. The Show committee, moreover, has enjoyed a recent influx of new mem- (continued p.3)

**A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
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readers from
everyone at
Totley Independent!**

**Don't forget
last posting
dates -
see page 21**





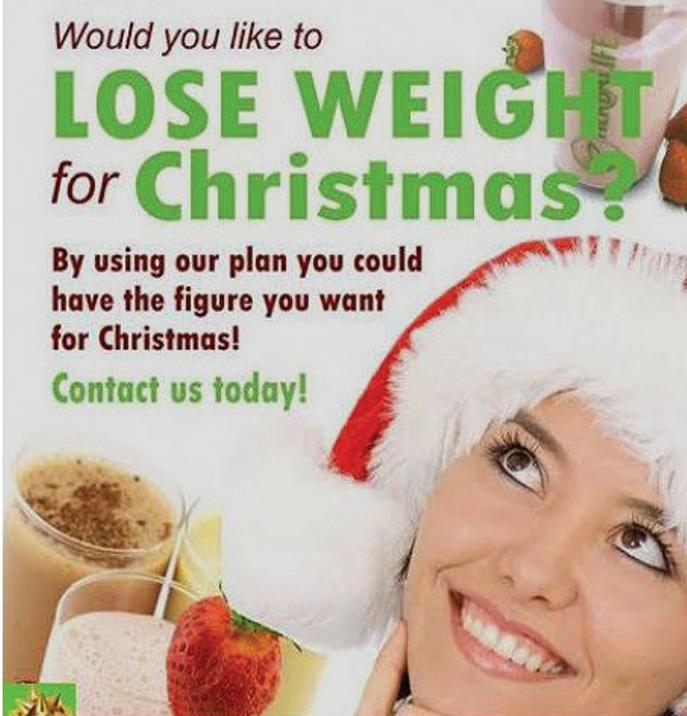
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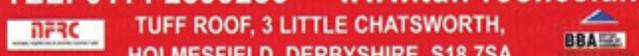
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Totley Residents Association: What Next? (from p.1)

bers, so there should be a bright future for the Totley Show.

Issues concerning the Totley Residents Association have been reported and discussed in the Totley Independent on several occasions recently. In the April/May 2015 issue, Hetty Moran made a plea for more Totley people to get involved in the TRA, pointing out that over the 30-odd years since the TRA was formed, "the issues affecting Totley have changed very little. It's important that the TRA is representative of the community and becomes a vehicle through which current concerns can be channelled, whether those concerns about traffic and road safety matters, the state of the bus service, environmental issues, or whatever." Unfortunately that plea for new committee members did not have any positive outcome at that time.

And in the December 2015 issue, Roger Hart, from his perspective as a long-standing Totley resident, reviewed the local amenities and the extent to which they were supported, suggesting that there was a need for more (especially young) people to become involved in community matters. Once again, however, this did not result in any more people becoming involved in the TRA.

"It's clear that although many issues remain the same, much has changed in Totley since the TRA was first formed in 1977," says Dominic Harris. "At first, the idea was that local people would pay a small subscription to become members. But it soon became clear that collecting subscriptions wasn't sustainable, and the membership subscription was abandoned. It's difficult, therefore, to maintain the notion that the very small number of people involved in the TRA, whether as committee members, attending AGMs, or helping with community activities, are somehow 'representative' of the people of Totley".

Phil Harris, who is also editor of the TI, wrote a discussion paper for the TRA committee prior to the AGM in 2015, in which he described the journey of the TRA from its beginnings in the 1970s to the present time. Part of that account is reproduced on this page and page 5. Given the changes in the TRA's fortunes in recent years, the committee which met last October wondered whether there was, in fact, a future for the TRA as currently constituted. As Colin Ross points out, "there has been a tendency for community issues to be picked up and acted upon by individuals and groups outside the TRA - examples would be Roger Hart's work with the police on problems of speeding in Totley, the concerns raised by SPACE over the redevelopment of the Dyson premises on Baslow Road, and the work currently being done by Friends of Gillfield Wood over the proposed flood barrage in the wood."

So is there a need - or a desire - for an over-arching community association? Should the TRA be revamped? Should there be a new organisation? The members of the TRA committee felt that there should be a public meeting in early 2017, in order to gauge the will of the community, and if no fresh impetus or solution to the present situation is forthcoming at that public meeting, then a proposal should go to the next AGM to wind up the Association.

Totley Residents Association PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Public Meeting to discuss the future of the Totley Residents Association.

The meeting will be held at Totley Library on Monday 27th February 2017, at 7.30 pm.

All are welcome! Please come along to discuss how best the needs and concerns of the people of Totley can be addressed in the future.

Totley Residents Association: from then to now

Phil Harris

In early 2015, I undertook to prepare for the TRA committee a discussion paper focusing on what the activities of the TRA might be during the next year. The first part of discussion paper looked at the history of the TRA, and this part is reproduced here for Independent readers who may be new to Totley and who may not be familiar with the Association.

"Context: A Sense of History

The TRA started in mid-1977, and at the same time the Totley 'Independent' appeared as the 'voice' of the Association. The first chair was the Rev. Alan Jockel, and he is reported in the first issue of the Totley Independent as saying that "Totley is a very mixed community with a big distinction between the older residents comprising home owners and council tenants who have settled in their homes over the years, and the newer residents, particularly those of the Aldam estate area. I think that the main function of the Totley Residents Association is to help these different groups to meet, work and play together".

Early on, the TRA sought a community meeting-place in Totley. As Alan Jockel put it, "I hope that when such a centre is available it will have the facilities to cater for all the residents, especially the elderly and the young". It is worth noting however, that the new TRA was recognised as the latest attempt to kindle community spirit after a number of previous attempts over the years had failed due to what was described as apathy.

In July 1977 the TRA committee reported that there were about 600 members. Committee members had been visiting all houses in Totley and finding it slow progress! The committee were in the process of preparing a programme of events starting in September 1977. In those days residents had to pay an annual membership subscription - 75p for family membership, 30p for individual membership and 20p for state pensioners and students. Meetings of members took place, apparently at the Heatherfield, but before too long the subscription system was abandoned, as the resources required to collect subscriptions were such that it was not sustainable.

The Association had a committee of 12, and in January 1978 the committee reported that they had been active in approaching various authorities and organisations with concerns ranging from traffic problems to the collection of rubbish, and from the lack of planning in the area to the increasing number of proposed housing projects.



The long-demolished Buchanan Hall on Sheffield City Polytechnic's Totley Site. Not the loveliest of buildings but a lot of Totley community activity went on there!

Working in collaboration with Sheffield City Polytechnic (later Sheffield Hallam University) at its Totley campus, members of the Association could use Buchanan Hall at that campus for such activities as a badminton group, a gymnasium group, and a photography group. In June 78, the TRA organised a concert by the Sheffield Youth Jazz Orchestra in that hall for Totley residents. (Continued p.5)



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Totley Residents Association: from then to now (continued from p.3)

Over the following years, a wide range of events and activities were organised by the TRA - sports days in Green Oak Park, a pantomime, a Festival of Flowers, Arts, Crafts and Music (the forerunner of the Totley Show) in All Saints Church Hall, senior citizens' Christmas parties and talks in the library.

Where did the TRA get the money for these activities? The person who was treasurer for some years from the late 1970s reported to me that between 1978 and 2009, most money was probably raised from the 'Independent', but some money came from the produce shows, jumble sales, barn dances,



Front page of the first issue of Totley Independent

sports nights, senior citizens' parties, the badminton club, yard sales and donations from the tenants section which was based on the council estate. He reports that the Association gave donations to Green Oak Park, Green Oak Bowling Club, Green Oak View old peoples home, the Pinfold, Transport 17, and various other causes.

By 2009, very few of these activities were still being enjoyed, for the usual reasons - lack of community support, the moving away for various reasons of the individuals on whom these events and activities depended, and so on. By the mid-2000s, it is clear that the TRA was still actively pursuing issues of community concern - the park, traffic issues, and so on - but there was not much involvement by this time from the community at large.

I have gone into detail about the work of the TRA during its first 25 years or so because when we consider this history it is clear that the richness and diversity of its activities during that period - despite what is often reported as poor turnouts for events such as annual general meetings - have declined gradually but dramatically over this long period.

The years 2011 - 2014

Unfortunately, during 2010-11, the TRA Committee underwent major upheaval as a result of disagreements between some of its members on a number of issues, and effectively ceased to operate as a quorate committee during the second half of that period. Despite these problems, some work was done by the Association with regard to, for instance, SPACE and the resolution of the problems over street lighting between the Cross Scythes and the bus terminus further up Baslow Road.

From the re-establishment of the Committee in 2011 onwards, however, the complexion of the TRA has been very different. After 2011, there were changes in committee membership, but more significantly, a number of groups and activities which had begun under the auspices of the TRA broke away to become independent entities. In particular, the Totley 'Independent', Totley Open Gardens, Totley History Group, and Friends of Gillfield Wood all became wholly independent of the TRA. Not only did this take a number of enthusiastic individuals away from the ambit of the Association - it also meant that the TRA no longer benefitted financially from its most significant income source, the Totley 'Independent'.

At the present time, the most visible activities of the Association have been the annual senior citizens' Christmas lunch, and a number of Farmers Markets held at different times of the year. Apart from small amounts of funding for specific purposes (such as the replacement of notice-boards), the Farmers Markets have been the sole source of income into the Association's general coffers."

Perhaps you can see, somewhere in the detail of this brief account of the history of the Totley Residents Association, something which you think might spark a renewal of the enthusiastic community spirit which marked the early years of the TRA. If so, please come along to the meeting on 27th February and together we'll see what can be done!

Sheffield Rugby Union Football Club

At the time of writing Sheffield RUFC are top of National League 3, Midlands Division. Come along to Abbeydale Park and support your local rugby club. Fixtures for the next three months are:

Saturday 3 December, 2016: Sheffield v Bedford Athletic
Saturday 17 December, 2016: Sheffield v Broadstreet
Saturday 14 January, 2017: Sheffield v Lichfield
Saturday 18 February, 2017: Sheffield v Peterborough Lions

All Kick-offs 2.15pm.

Totley Show 2016

What a success!

This year, thanks to the support of local businesses and Totley folk, we have raised sufficient funds to enable us to donate £250 to Transport 17 and the same amount to Totley CRIC.

We are already planning next year's event, which will be on Saturday 16th September, and we are really looking forward to involving the local schools again.

This is your Show! We look at what you would enjoy the most during our planning period. We need to reflect your interests, so please contact us with suggestions which can be considered by the committee. We have a very talented and involved committee, but new members and new ideas are always very welcome!

Hetty Moran, Chairman Totley Show
showchair15@gmail.com



Totley History Group

Programme 2016-17

14th Dec: Sheffield Folk Chorale at Ecclesall Church with John Kirkpatrick as special guest. Please contact a committee member for tickets.

25th Jan: Chris Corker, 'Sheffield Armament Industry to 1914. Totley Library, 7.30
22nd Feb: Robin Fielder, 'Harry Brierley and Stainless Steel', Totley Library, 7.30.

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Friends of Dore and Totley Station

Patience is a virtue! How to build a new railway, or not.

Back in 1985 British Rail decided it would be simpler and safer to remove the centre platform at Dore and Totley and manage with only one. With less trackwork and points there might have been a marginal increase in line speed on the mainline. In those days stopping trains on the Hope Valley line only went as far as New Mills where a change was necessary to go into Manchester. Not long before that, closing our station had been proposed.

Anyone with any commonsense would have pointed out, as they probably did at the time, that introducing a single track section of line on a busy route would create a bottleneck. And it certainly did! As the range of services stopping at Dore and Totley improved, the bottleneck issue has become increasingly acute. The stopping trains now go all the way, and we have a good fast service to Manchester for commuters. We should give credit to the late Peter Fox who was instrumental in pushing for these.

It is proving to be an agonisingly slow business to get the centre platform and track replaced. The planning process may have begun 10 years ago. Eventually it became part of the Manchester Hub proposals – now called the Northern Hub. Public consultations began 3 years ago, held at Abbeydale Sports Centre and in the Hope Valley. Some changes to the plans were made.

By May this year there had been enough objections to the plans, mostly from one particular resident in the Hope Valley, to require a public inquiry. It took more than two weeks and FoDaTs along with Dore Village Society, Bradway Action Group and other parties presented well-reasoned comments on some of the details. Most of the time was taken by that one individual who is determined to stop the building of a passing loop at Bamford. The inspector left to complete his report for the Department for Transport. At the time of writing, almost 6 months later, they hadn't received it!

No doubt the inspector is writing his report with great care to avoid any challenges to his findings. There was every indication that every dot and comma may get examined to do that, even to potential legal action through the courts. Hopefully the DfT will have received the report by the end of November. They then allow themselves six months to consider it before announcing their decision. It could be sooner, but if they need to seek further information it might take longer, and it could be challenged.

Network Rail's plans for the work had a start date of May 2017, due to be completed by September 2018, allowing improved services to start from the December 2018 timetable changes. Network Rail are already behind schedule with many other projects and their total borrowing is well over their target. It seems very likely that the project won't start in May, and could be delayed a year – or even more!

Ted Hancock is writing a book about the construction of the Dore and Chinley Railway, due out next year, in which he de-

scribes the construction and early years running of the Hope Valley line. It will make interesting reading. At the current rate of progress it will have taken almost as long to plan and reconstruct our station as it took to plan and construct the entire line, including the Totley and Cowburn tunnels!

In the meantime the plans for HS2 north of Birmingham to Leeds have just been approved. Or have they? Not as far as Sheffield is concerned! The line may come down the existing track in the Sheaf Valley, or maybe go to Meadowhall, or a line near Conisbrough, or a combination of these, or maybe something else? Public consultation will take place.

The phrase "sometime, never" comes to mind for these projects, but most of us probably will live long enough to see a second platform at Dore and Totley. Whether they could squeeze more high speed trains down the tracks into the old Sheffield Midland station, and then north towards Leeds, looks rather a challenging proposition!

In recent weeks FoDaTs members have attended a number of meetings, most notably with Northern Rail when we heard their plans for the next 8 years. They're ambitious, and they want to involve us – both passengers and local communities. Six months into their franchise they're only just getting their internal structures fully into place. Most long-term staff positions are now agreed, and personnel recruited to fill them. They're finding their desks and their responsibilities, and making plans as they all settle down together. With 477 stations to look after, new trains on order, and all the retained old trains to be refurbished there's a lot for them to do.

Things can't change overnight. We're pushing for more cover at the station. That may have to be combined with the station redevelopment, but there may be scope to arrange it earlier. We plan to have some planters on the platform to brighten it up in 2017. We'd like to see the two-hour gaps in the Monday-to-Friday service filled before the second line is reinstated, and have suggested possibilities. Car parking is an issue we'll struggle to resolve. How can we get more to walk and cycle to the station?



In the last issue the unreliability of the ticket machine was featured. It hasn't had a dramatic return to health, more the reverse. Total replacement is looking increasingly likely. In the meantime Northern are manning the entrance to sell tickets most mornings. As there are now many ticket machines at Sheffield station, the conductor will be unwilling to sell tickets on the trains at standard fares. A penalty may have to be paid if a ticket isn't bought before boarding when it's possible to do so. Northern are acutely aware that fare collection was somewhat lax under the previous franchise.

Our picture this month was taken on 1st December 2010 and could make a Christmas card. With all best wishes to travellers and local residents from the Friends of Dore and Totley Station.

You can join FoDaTs by sending an email with your details to our Secretary, Nick Barnes at; nj-barnes@outlook.com or through the FoDaTs Facebook page which is kept up to date with news and opinions.

Chris Morgan, Chairman

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Situated right on the edge of the Peak District and with spectacular views across the moors, sits Little Saints Nursery, Hillfoot Lane.

Who are we?

Although we share the same site as Totley All Saints School, we are independently run. We liaise with the school, however, and have a good working relationship with them. For example, we enjoy using their Hall for indoor activities and their field for Sports Day, among other things.

We work under a Christian ethos as well as learning about and celebrating festivals from a wide range of religions.

Little Saints moved to the current site in 1975, when it became a charity-run organisation. We pride ourselves in our friendly atmosphere and have frequently been described as feeling like a "family" and a "home from home" to our children. Many members of our lovely staff have been with us for years and years!



What do we do?

We currently take children from 2 - 4.5 years old, including children using the government's 'free childcare scheme'. We also run a Breakfast Club, before school, for children and parents who may require earlier childcare.



What goes on at Little Saints Nursery?

We have two areas of learning inside the nursery; downstairs for our younger children and upstairs for our older children. There is also a kitchen, from which we often do baking and cooking activities with the children. As well as this, we have a lovely outside area, which includes; play equipment, play vehicles, sand pit, water tray, a stage for movement and music and a fenced grass area where the children often sit and eat their snacks (weather permitting!) Our children have enjoyed contributing to the outside area themselves by planting plants in pots.

We also use the Woodland Workshop in the school grounds of Totley All Saints, to carry out further outdoor activities. This term we are looking at Autumn. We have been looking at the signs of Autumn all around us and have done leaf printing,

conker painting and leaf tracing. We have had fun doing nature walks in the school grounds and also enjoyed putting on our wellies and going outside to splash in puddles!

Our newest - and youngest - children have been talking about 'My Family', making salt dough figures, learning each other's names and how to make new friends.

You are very welcome to come and visit us and we currently have some spaces available for new children who would like to join us. Please contact the nursery via the details on this page to arrange a visit or for more information.

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Summer holidays really are over (but let's hope that the clement weather continues), so now it's back to the old routine. We are well into rehearsals for our annual show next April which is to be the all-time favourite G&S operetta - The Mikado. I'm very pleased with the casting which brings Davron Hicks back to the fore as Nanki-Poo, Mike Spinks as Pooh-Bar, Alan Wade as The Mikado, Christine Stubbs as Katisha and Ian Stewart as Ko-Ko; about as strong a line-up as anyone could wish for. They are well supported by other members such as Jo Hutchesson and Sue Wilkinson. The Mikado will be on at The Montgomery Theatre from 5th to 8th April 2017, so put it in your diaries now.



Alan Wade reciting "Albert & the Lion" at our summer concert

More immediate, however, is our next public outing which will be just before Christmas when we undertake our usual Christmas Concert in Dore Methodist Church on Saturday 17th December at 2.30pm. We have started rehearsals for this concert so I now know the programme which I've called "Christmas Comforts" because there is the usual mix of light and comic offerings with plenty of seasonal content including several popular and well-loved carols as well as some unusual ones. I've even had a request for one of my favourite Flanders and Swann songs but you'll have to come along to find out what it is.

Tickets (£7 each) available from me - telephone 0114 2362299. Don't leave it too late! The Methodist Church only holds 110 so it's first come-first served. We'd love to see you there.

Enjoy the rest of this autumn weather and we'll see you on the 17th December.

Derek Habberjam

THE TIME TRAVELLERS

The Time Travellers are a group of amateur archaeology and local history enthusiasts, based in the south west of Sheffield, and hold our meetings in the Old School at Dore. We have a varied programme of walks, talks and presentations, plus taking opportunities to get involved in as much hands on digging as we can. Much of 2016 has been spent on a Heritage Lottery Funded project aimed at uncovering the ancient history of Whirlow Hall Farm and we have made some stunning discoveries. We treated the project as a huge learning exercise and arranged training in a wide range of archaeological techniques including field walking, geophysical surveying, research and especially professionally led excavating and processing of the many finds we made. These included some wonderful sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery and examples of worked flint, the most impressive being a beautiful Bronze Age flint arrow head.

As well as furthering our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman occupation of Whirlow, we made the staggering discovery that a Roman Signal Station once stood at the highest area of the farm. This confirmed our belief that the people who farmed at Whirlow in the first and second centuries had connections with the Roman military. It is also shows that at some point in time, this was the limit of the Roman frontier as they pushed their way north, subduing the local tribes in their path.

The Time Travellers haven't been confined to Whirlow Hall Farm this summer however, and several of us took part in a separate dig near Ringinglow. Intriguingly this site would have been very visible from our Roman Signal Station! Here we uncovered a Roman road that might have been used to transport minerals mined in the Peak District and linking to a wider road network that enabled goods to be sent across

the Roman Empire. This may well have included lead that was sent to Rome which, in time, had calamitous consequences for the ruling classes there!



The Bronze Age flint arrowhead

The Time Travellers aren't just about walking, talking and digging, however. Coming up just before Christmas is our annual Winter Solstice celebration where we will share a drink and a meal. This year it is a seasonal curry! This will give us the chance to chat about what we have experienced this year and look forward to 2017.

If you are interested in finding out more about the programme of activities that the Time Travellers have lined up for the next few months then log on to our website at www.thetimetravellers.org.

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It's all happening at TASS!

It's been another exciting start to the year at Totley All Saints with our focus being particularly on developing Reading and outdoor learning. We've had lots of special focus days already with Whitworks History Days for the Stone Age, the Egyptians and the Greeks. Plus we've dressed up for Children in Need and had a 'Big Me' Day where we dressed up to raise money for Action Aid to help change children's lives in the world's poorest places. That's aside from all our usual lessons, activities, residentials, visits and visitors! As we always say - it's all happening at TASS!

TASS Harvest Celebrations and Goodbye to Revd. Paul Oakley:

Our Harvest Celebration took place in October and was a special time of thanksgiving held at All Saints Church. This involved children in every year-group contributing with prayers, poems, songs and presentations. Parents and carers contributed with monetary gifts in aid of the Sheffield Cathedral Archer Project. Finally, the service was pulled together with a fantastic talk by our vicar (and governor to the school), Revd. Paul Oakley. Sadly for us, this was his last service with us as he has now retired. Revd. Oakley has worked tirelessly as a Minister in the community and as a school governor and has also been a help and inspiration to us all. We wish him every blessing, good health and happiness in his retirement! He will be greatly missed!

TASS Healthy Snack Shack Leaders and Other Responsibilities

Our TASS Healthy Snack Shack is in its third year and was initially financed as a result of Church Burgess funding. A whole host of healthy snacks are available at reasonable prices and the children are served by our Y6 Healthy Snack Shack Leaders. Other roles and responsibilities are also enjoyed by our children, such as: Merit Team Captains, School Council, Eco-



The School Council

Saints and Playground Leaders. All the children involved go through some sort of selection process from applications and interviews to hustings and public votes. The children are becoming well-established in their roles now and are developing excellent skills of leadership.

TASS Woodland Workshop

Our 'Woodland Workshop' continues to be greatly used and

provides our children with a fun and exciting way to learn in an outdoor setting. Whilst we can't use the trade name of 'Forest School', this in essence is what we have on our site. Such outdoor opportunities are well known to improve children's self confidence, resilience, safety awareness and communication skills. We also have a fully developed curriculum and children take part in a whole range of activities including: den building, wood craft, playing games and even cooking around the fire pit! Since September, we have also held 'Wild Reading' sessions where children can invite a chosen adult to sit around the camp fire and read their favourite books.

TASS Remembers

Our Remembrance Assembly for children took place on Thursday 10th November and focussed on some of the young men who actually attended TASS before later going on to fight -



and give their lives - in WWI. This certainly brought history alive for our children and helped them to focus on the sacrifice made by others during the world wars. Year 6 pupils then also visited Sheffield Cathedral on Friday 11th November for a special Armistice Day service.

Green Flag Award and Global Awareness

At Totley All Saints, we're proud of the work that we do to make our children more aware of ecological issues. We had our assessment for the Green Flag Award on Thursday 13th October and are very pleased to say that we passed with 'flying colours'! Our fantastic Eco-Saints from last year were kept on for another term as they were the ones who were all clued up on green issues and what had been done to prepare for the assessment — all under the guidance of Mrs Julie Brown (Y4) and Mrs Jill Leggett (HLTA). Our super talented Eco-Saints are: Nell Booth and Will Reaney (Y2), Evie-Louise Ramskill and Nathaniel Hydes (Y3), Hugo Deeks and Rachel Holmes (Y4), Lexy-Bee Reid and Alex Hydes (Y5) plus Hannah Lewis and Eddie Banks (Y6). Congratulations and well-done to everyone! As part of our drive to achieve UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award, all classes took part in the World's Largest Lesson in order to celebrate the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The goals were agreed last year by 193 world leaders committed to achieving 3 extraordinary aims over the next 15 years: ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and injustice and fixing climate change. The children were made aware of the goals and learned that they can play an important part in achieving them in all countries and for all people. Hopefully, our children will be a part of the next generation that brings about these changes!

If you want to find out more of the exciting things that are happening at our school, then please visit our website or email us at enquiries@totleyallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk. We'll be so happy to let you know!

Karole Sargent, Proud Headteacher

The Poetry Slot

Sally Goldsmith

In each issue, a poem from a published poet living in South Yorkshire or North Derbyshire.

BLUEBELLS

In the way that we cannot be other
than ourselves even in the deep of winter
these woods where bluebells grow

are always bluebell woods.
The blunt grey tips poke up
through the melted leaf litter.

They are entering their domain
and the light is startling to them.
They quietly jostle to get more of it.

It may be that they are concentrating
on making the blue they remember
or perhaps it will astound them.

Then they can do nothing except look
down at the earth, which is not a mirror,
learning thoughts of bluebells in a dark wood.

by Katharine Towers

The poems in Katharine Towers' new collection are small, tightly crafted, yet with the gorgeousness of miniatures. Each word chosen and placed carefully, artfully, musically. No unnecessary adjectives. No adverbs. This is one of her longer poems. Of course I partly chose it because of our own bluebell wood in Totley - as I write, under threat from the proposal to construct a huge dam.

The blueness of bluebells, is a remarkable thing, recurring each Spring. The great Victorian (but curiously modern) poet Gerard Manley Hopkins had a word for the essential nature of such things - inscape. Another of his words - instress - refers to the force which carries the inscape into our minds. For Hopkins, a devout Jesuit, this force was bound up with religion. Here, Katharine Towers' bluebells which, like us, 'cannot be other/than ourselves' offer up their own inscape, their uniqueness, out of their dark wood. That 'concentration' is perhaps both their thinking and the density of their colour. They seem sentient - 'the light is startling to them./They quietly jostle.' - though equally we know it is the writer who is thinking - 'It may be that...'

Without anything in the poem being forced or crassly descriptive, I am able to take several pictures in my mind's eye from this quiet and lovely poem. One is of the bluebells under the snow - that 'deep' of winter, not depths, but where nevertheless, the woods are 'always bluebell woods.' Another is a harder image - of the early 'blunt grey tips' poking up. The last is the intensity of massed bluebells in flower. And then there's the interior stuff, the mystery - of the bluebells remembering, thinking their blueness into being and gifting their magic to themselves and to us. Even while they are in bloom, we come full circle as they look back at the earth which has birthed them. A poem of the deepest enchantment.

Katharine Towers was born in London and read Modern Languages at St. Hilda's College, Oxford. Her first collection, The Floating Man, won the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize for Poetry, and was shortlisted for both the Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and the Ted Hughes Award, as well as being longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award.. The new collection from which this poem is taken. The Remedies, has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. Both collections are published by Picador. Katharine lives in the Peak District with her husband and two daughters.

'There is so much to praise about the writing: clarity, generosity and grace. Katharine Towers writes with a marvellously gentle wit and a metrical intelligence.' The Observer

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The Devonshire Arms at Baslow is.....FINE!



The Devonshire Arms, Baslow, a once popular public house, restaurant and hotel, is levying parking fines on unsuspecting customers as well as those deemed "illegally" parked in their car park.

This has been happening at least since June of this year when David McHattie the latest owner placed a contract with Premier Park of Exeter to monitor parking and, issue Parking Charge notices (fines of up to £100).

The CCTV number plate recognition system installed does not however link into the premises hospitality booking systems.



A warm welcome as you arrive

As a consequence if you book a meal in advance in the restaurant and, don't read the small writing on several different signs spread around the car park, you are likely to be fined for not complying with the Devonshire Arms internal processes.

In fact you are more likely to notice the one large sign on the entrance to the restaurant which states "All Customers must be registered at the bar on arrival"

Even if you only notice this large sign and present yourself on arrival to the bar there is still no guarantee you won't be fined, as one of our Totley residents John Clarke found out recently.

"The bar was busy on a Friday night and no-one was available to give my registration to, or to ask me for it. The seven of us were quickly ushered by the duty manager into the restaurant waiting room".

Two weeks later John received a parking charge notice from Premier Park.

John explains: "I contacted both the hotel manager who said he couldn't waive the fine and I wrote to David McHattie, the owner to put my case but he couldn't be bothered to write back."

Appealing to Premier Parks resulted only in John being referred to POPLA, the only independent Ombudsman that Premier Park are prepared to recognise? But still the fine wasn't quashed. Also of interest is the fact that there is a link to pay Premier Park fines direct from the POPLA web page!



One of the signs in the car-park

Sophie Taylor of POPLA has confirmed to John that "...it is the motorist's responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of the car park...the appellant failed to register their vehicle and therefore was not authorised to park"



Another welcoming sign as you approach the front door

There are numerous reports of similar occurrences with fines being levied on Tripadvisor for the Devonshire Arms, and the Derbyshire Times has also run a piece on the situation.

The message is clear, make sure that if you go to the Devonshire Arms at Baslow, you read all the signs in the car park and, perhaps get a member of the staff to sign a piece of paper stating that you have registered your car or risk the £100 fine for using the facilities.

Or maybe you prefer to go to a more customer-friendly place?

Dr. Bike is in the building!

Dr. Bike is taking residency at Union St from November in a bid to get the people of Sheffield back in the saddle over the festive period and into the New Year.

Qualified bike mechanics will be based at the community workspace in Union Street in Sheffield city centre, to give free bike MOTs. They will fix any minor repairs on the spot and will also replace brake blocks and cables, oil chains and repair punctures. If they find anything more serious they will diagnose the problem and recommend it be taken to a local bike shop.

The sessions will run every Wednesday between 9:30 and 5:30 from 2nd November to 14th December and start again from 11th January to 29th March, at 18-20 Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2J.



Angela Walker, Cycling Projects Manager for Cycleboost, said "We want to encourage people to keep riding to work all year round and our indoor Dr. Bike clinics at Union St are a great way of ensuring that your bike is kept in a roadworthy condition no matter what the winter weather throws at you."

Although the service is free, Union St are asking users to donate food items and toiletries to their foodbank. Angela added "The service is free but we'd love you to make a donation to our Sheffield Foodbank collection when you come back to collect your bike."

For more information visit www.sheffieldcycleboost.org

All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane



Picture the scene - it's the middle of the night, more than likely it was cold and a group of shepherds are out doing what they do every night of the year - tending their flock. It's just another night, just another shift. Except tonight, something's going to happen that will change these shepherds' lives forever - it's a date that's been a part of God's plan since the moment he set the world in place - because tonight is the night when God himself is coming to earth. News of that scale is certainly worth announcing - we would be forgiven for thinking the great and the good would be top of the list to tell - people in positions of power and influence and a VIP invitation list - to be sure the news spread across the globe as quickly as possible. But no - that's not who God chose to be the first to know about this history changing event. He chose to tell some ordinary working men, in one of the lowliest jobs around, that tonight the long awaited Saviour had been born. He even sent an angel to make sure the message got to them safely - "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

I love Christmas, I love everything about it - spending time with family and friends, swapping presents, trimming the house - it's a special time of year. And I also love knowing that whatever time of year Jesus was actually born, it's at this point of the year when we can mark and remember that amazing act of love of God sending his son to live and grow as an ordinary man, to teach us God's way of living and to pay the ultimate price for our salvation - that's got to be something worth celebrating this Christmas time.

So however you spend Christmas this year, can I invite you to spend just a few moments thinking about what started all this off - a tiny baby born in a stable who changed the world forever. The message God had for the shepherds is the same message God has for us all today - "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to YOU; he is Messiah, the Lord."

As ever, we'd love to see you at any (or all) of our Christmas services - you'll find the details on this page and on the posters at each end of the church drive. You'll receive a very warm welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Wishing you a very peaceful and happy Christmas

Katie Tupling, Vicar

Services and Activities in December

We meet every Sunday morning at 10am. The first Sunday of every month is our All Ages All Together service to which families are especially welcome. Every Wednesday there is a Communion Service which also starts at 10am.

Totley All Saints Christmas Tree festival

From Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th December, over 20 Christmas trees, each one sponsored and decorated by a different local organisation, will be on display for you to come and enjoy.

The Christmas Tree Festival is open on Thursday 15th December from 3pm to 6pm, Friday 16th December from 3pm - 9pm (with mulled wine and mince pies served from 7pm) and on Saturday 17th December from 11am - 4pm. Entrance is free.

On Sunday 18th December the church will be hosting a special Christmas Tree all age service starting at 10am.

Also on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm - our annual candlelit Carol Service.

Thursday 22nd December - carol singing in three local pubs. Starting at 7pm in The Shepley Spitfire, 8pm in The Cross Scythes and finally at 8.45pm in The Crown.

On Christmas Eve at 4pm is the very popular Crib Service. Gifts to be passed on to the "Baby Basics" project will be very welcome.

Later on Christmas Eve, at 11.30pm is our candlelit Christmas Communion service.

Christmas Day starting at 9.30am - informal Christmas morning service followed by a short Communion service.

Letter to the Editor

The great fund-raising bake-off!

My daughter Olivia Newton, with Abby Shaw, Olivia Metzke, Alice Fletcher and Issy Lynch held a bake sale last Sunday for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. They raised a massive £650! I think they deserve a mention as they worked so hard, and baked and baked! For a group of 14-year-old girls, we are so proud of them. Last year they raised £500 in their bake sale for the Stroke Association - so they have done even better this year!

Moira Newton

Puzzle Corner

A Christmas Quiz!

The clues to all associated with something related to Christmas, either in reality or on Christmas cards. Each answer consists of one or more words, and the central letters of each answer, taken in order, spell out a well-known local venue.

1. a container for small items which needs two people to open
2. a jovial gentleman loved by children
3. night twinklers
4. fast movers which may fall, or be seen dancing on television
5. may be wrapped, or, here and now
6. he is not always here at Christmas except on cards
7. a Christmas Bird traditionally associated with Nottingham
8. red or white. May come from prickly surroundings or those made for kissing
9. baby visited by three men
10. greeting on many cards
11. silent without ropes, but depicted with garlands or ribbons
12. Santa Claus, reindeer and tree decorations sometimes made of this
13. traditional item of a Christmas lunch or dinner
14. beast of burden
15. flocks by night

Solution - page 32



High Peak Day

"The High Peak has a similar resonance to the Kalahari Desert, or a Madagascan rain forest," said Tom Harman, National Trust project officer for the High Peak. "It's a unique habitat only found in certain places at this latitude, and you could say we're looking after this unique habitat for North West Europe. There really isn't much of it anywhere else."

The first official 'High Peak Day' recently celebrated the forty square miles of upland moors stretching from Edale and Howden to the edge of Glossop. 10,000 years ago, after the last ice age, this landscape became a wet upland peat bog with trees and woodland among the slopes and valleys. Until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, that is, when overgrazing, industrial pollution, land management for grouse shooting and thousands of hikers footsteps changed the landscape for generations. Until now.

Three years ago, after lengthy consultations, the National Trust began work on its 50 Year plan for the High Peak Moors. A 50 year plan might seem a bit leisurely for many humans in today's world, said Tom Harman, but the upland landscape moves at its own pace.

Yet there have already been changes over the last three years, Tom said: Kinder Scout has finally turned back from 'brown to green', over 80,000 young native trees have been planted to bring woodlands back to the cloughs and valleys, and most importantly the public are beginning to notice and talk about the changing landscape.

Conservationists note the return of grasses and plants and moss, of the purple-bottomed bilberry bumblebee, the sightings of short-eared owls and mountain hares, but also note



Short-eared owl on the High Peak moors (photo: John Beatty)

the strange absence of iconic moorland birds of prey like hen harriers, peregrine falcons and goshawks.

In the past, birds of prey were routinely killed to protect grouse, and conservationists believe that 'active persecution' of birds of prey still occurs, despite it being illegal. (The law doesn't just prevent shooting, it's also illegal to disturb birds of prey and their nests in the nesting season).

A young peregrine falcon was recently found killed by shotgun pellets in the Peak District, an act condemned by Derbyshire police and by Sarah Fowler, chief executive of the Peak District National Park who said: "Killing birds of prey is illegal. We will always support the police in their investigations and continue to work with our partners to conserve birds of prey. Members of the public can help by being vigilant and reporting suspicious behaviour."

Tom Harman added: "This is their habitat, their home. Persecution of these wonderful creatures is deeply upsetting - we want to see birds of prey thrive. People who illegally persecute these birds are not welcome in the High Peak."

The long term plan for the High Peak includes the protection

and encouragement of birds of prey, and Ted Talbot, countryside manager for the National Trust in the Peak District, believes that more goshawks and peregrines would encourage visitors to the area, and could even encourage a new approach to grouse shooting.



Peregrine Falcon

"You might accept there may be fewer grouse, but you would see some really wonderful wildlife during your visit, and you'll be supporting the National Park and all this habitat restoration at the same time."

But perhaps the most important part of the 50 year plan is to inspire people to take an active interest in the High Peak. Why not join one of the conservation groups and volunteer to help, said Ted Talbot, or join a natural history group and record the wildlife you see on your travels?

"We get complacent about our countryside here in the Peak District, but I've got a ranger from the Rockies visiting at the moment, who made me understand that this landscape really is something rare and exciting and strange. He asked me: 'How many other places in the world turn purple in August and September?'"

David Bocking, National Trust

Letter to the Editor

Soulroots Youth Community

Hello there!

We at Soulroots just wanted to let you know about Soulroots Youth Community. It is a Christian charity-based youth organisation that currently operates in S17.

We want to see a generation who are passionate about their faith and relationship with God, encouraging one another, developing spiritually and committing their lives to following Jesus.

We work closely with the community, schools and churches to ensure that all who want to, can have the opportunity know what being a Christian is all about.

There are various groups and events that we run throughout the year to provide a place for children and young people to come and ask any questions or simply have a place to chat.

For information on the groups we run, check out our website at www.soulroots.org.uk - additionally, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Latifah or Andy at latifah@soulroots.org.uk or andy@soulroots.org.uk

Bananas!

I have always enjoyed fruit but what I have depends on availability, cost and what I fancy. My present fruit diet consists of mixed fruit on my morning cereal, and then what I fancy from satsumas, plums, grapes and bananas. It is some thoughts about the latter which prompted me to put pen to paper.

I have eaten sliced banana in hot custard or rice pudding. On a hot day, sliced banana with ice cream. More elaborately, the banana cut lengthwise, spread with jam, other bits of fruit added and covered in ice cream – the banana split. More simply, the banana is a great snack to take on a walk or cycle ride – it is already wrapped, light in weight, easily unwrapped and gives a suggestion of thirst quench as well as food. I have also heard that fried banana is nice, but I haven't tried that yet.



When the banana is to be eaten "raw" there are two ways of peeling it. The first I call the 'monkey' method. Small section of banana is exposed by peeling a small portion from the top of the banana thus allowing a bite or a nibble. This operation is repeated down the whole length of the banana. This has only one minor advantage. During the early part of the operation, the unpeeled part can act as a grip and serve the same function as a biscuit cone in an ice cream cornet. Later on, the strips of peeled skin gets progressively longer and tend to maul the hands and face when the banana is bitten. The other method, and the one I prefer, is to remove the skin

completely before eating. Then we have to remove the hard pimple at the base. This I have always thought has something to do with the seed but I may be wrong. Finally, we have to remove the stringy bits which cling to the banana. These vary from almost silk-like threads two more like coarse string and these have a better styptic taste.

We often hear items of news concerning changes by mutation of genes. This can be a natural event producing slow changes, or by human intervention with more immediate change. My idea is that this is the reason for the appearance of stringy bananas. I am sure that 90 years ago when I was a nipper, bananas didn't have strings. Cynical readers will no doubt suggest that this was because my mother carefully removed them before she gave it to me but I don't accept this.

My first idea was to submit a letter for publication to the prestigious science journal "Nature", outlining these thoughts and suggesting some research on gene modification to inhibit the string growth. However I quickly decided my letter would never be published for three reasons. First, I am not known to be a research worker in bananas or any other plant growth. Second, I am not known for my expertise in any related area, and third, the editorial board would quickly and unanimously decide that I was bonkers.

A great pity – if my idea was followed to a successful outcome, future hands of bananas would not carry the familiar label "Fyffes", but a different one – "Ashford Stringless", and my great-great-grandson, a perky little chap, might be heard one day to say "hey dad, look at this banana! It's got my name on!"

Come to think of it, I have no sons to carry the name format. And would you believe it, my banana this morning had NO strings!

Don Ashford



John Morton, a *Totley Independent* reader who now lives in Stafford, has sent this photograph of the Totley Labour Sports day in 1945. John explains that he was only 3 months old at the time so did not take part!

We thought it would be interesting to see if anybody recognises themselves as one of the youngsters. If you do, please let us know (the editor's address is on the back page) and we'll pass the information on to John!



**Friends of
Gillfield Wood**

Diary for December and January

December

Sat 10th: Friends of Gillfield Wood practical conservation morning with the help of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am, Baslow Road bus terminus. Refreshments, tools, etc. provided. Please wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing. All levels of help required and advice given. Check our website at www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com – any late changes of venue will be published there.

A Very Happy Christmas to all Totley Independent readers. Please follow us on Twitter and get involved with our events in 2017. We will be bringing you further Bird Walks and other talks and events, as well as our monthly Practical Conservation Mornings.

January

Mon 9th: Talk on the 'Wild Plants of the Porter Valley' with Kenneth Balkow. The title of this talk is also the title of Ken's book. Ken will take us on a photographic feast along the Porter. He is very happy to chat with us about the plants he has recorded; with some unusual native species and interesting garden escapees. Join us in Totley Library at 7.30pm.

Sun 22nd: Friends of Gillfield Wood practical conservation morning run with the help of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am at Baslow Road bus terminus. Refreshments, tools, etc. provided. Please wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing. All levels of help required and guidance given. Do also check our website at www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com – any late changes of venue will be published there.



STOP PRESS: From November 2016 to July 2017, Friends of Gillfield Wood have secured another Heritage Lottery Fund to explore Gillfield Wood in more detail. With the aid of Professor Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University, this will build on the previous surveys carried out in 2013. The focus this time will be on our woodland heritage and the Totley Brook watercourse. You can keep up-to-date by visiting our website at www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com.

Better still, why not join us; £5 single annual subscription, £8 annual family subscription.

Paul Hancock



Transport 17

Hello everyone, this is our last column for 2016 so will put in as much as possible. Several of you missed me at the Totley Show - my gear box collapsed on my car and as I live over at S12 I had to arrange for the lovely John and Pauline Perkinson to come across and collect our goodies on the Friday, so an incredibly huge thanks to them both and also to Wendy Trotter who 'manned' the stall with Pauline. We took around £50 and as you know we are always grateful for everything you give to us. As most of you will be aware we were fund-raising for refurbishing the office, which had not been improved for over 20 years. Well well well, you really are the best supporters anywhere! We knew we would need approximately £10,000 and we made it so not just a big thank you, a mega mega mega thank you to you all. With the cash that you donated and the 150 hours of labour that were contributed, we are now looking fabulous. I nearly drove straight across the road when I first came up Mickley Lane and the window stood out like a huge beacon. Mike Finn and John Savournin have excelled themselves by working in the mess and are now seeing the fruits of all their labours. The only remaining thing to do is the carpet but that is going to have to wait until the new year as exhaustion is setting in.

The other wonderful news is that the new vehicle, courtesy of a Government grant, is now up and running (see picture below). It has taken a while but it arrived early in September. If any of the passengers would like to pass comments we would be glad to hear from them. Thank you one and all.



We will be preparing for the Christmas Fayre later this week. It doesn't matter how hard we try to fit in with everyone but there are always hazards that hit us; I just hope they are all surmountable. By the time you read this the event will have happened and we hope everyone will have had a wonderful time and not eaten the Cross Scythes out of their wonderful mince pies!!!!

We have a new objective for 2017 - more drivers and escorts. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who work tirelessly, but we are getting desperate for some new blood to boost them. You need to be very patient and also able-bodied, as the job is unlike most others. Training will be given to appropriate candidates. We look forward to hearing from you.

My final 'thank you' goes to our wonderful team, without whose continued efforts our services would not be available to you.

I am closing with every possible good wish to you all for Christmas and 2017 - may it be happy and healthy for us all.

God bless and take care.

Felicity Revill

What's on at the Library



Volunteer Libraries nominated for an Outstanding Achievement Award

We are very pleased to announce that the volunteers at Totley Library, along with fourteen other volunteer libraries across the city, have collectively been nominated for an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Sheffield Make a Difference Awards. These new awards, organised by Voluntary Action Sheffield, aim to celebrate and acknowledge the quality and diversity of work of our local voluntary sector, and the huge impact that this has for our city. We are very proud to be shortlisted for the award, and the winner will be announced at the end of November so we will let you know in the next edition of the Totley Independent if we have been successful.

Sheffield Council Cabinet is due to vote on 30th November whether the support for the volunteer run libraries will continue from April 2017. The recommendation from the Council's Library Service is that the volunteer run libraries should receive a grant for a further three years to cover our basic running costs and continue to receive a package of professional support including van deliveries to transport books and training. We are cautiously optimistic that this will be approved, and will report back in the next edition of the Totley Independent.

On 5th November we were pleased to take part in the BBC's Lovetoread campaign. Totley's very own Rony Robinson, who presents on BBC Radio Sheffield, visited Totley Library and hosted a book group with library users. People brought along their favourite book of all time, read small passages and ex-



plained why it inspired them so much. There was a broad range of books from classic favourites like Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, to American Literature like J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* to one of the longest novels in the English language Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*.

On Friday 25th November we hosted a sell out fundraising concert by Pete Garratt, Ken Atkinson & Geoff Heppell. It was a highly enjoyable evening of traditional and contemporary folk music in the company of these three stalwarts of the local folk scene. We would like to say a big thank you to Pete, Ken, Geoff and everyone who came along to make it such a fantastic night.

As the cold weather is now firmly upon us why not consider coming along to one of our Film Club screenings. We run three films per month for adults, families and the over 65's. Upcoming films are:

Sunday 11th December at 2pm for families- Singalong Frozen

Friday 20th January at 7.30pm for adults- Bridget Jones's Baby

Thursday 26th January at 4pm- over 65's Film Club TBC

Sunday 29th January at 2pm for families - The BFG

Friday 17th February at 7.30pm for adults - Jason Bourne

Thursday 23rd February at 10.30am for families - Finding Dory

Thursday 23rd February at 4pm - over 65's film club TBC

The film club is free to library members, though we encourage everyone to buy a raffle ticket to help raise funds for the library. Raffle tickets cost £4 adults and £2.50 children. Ice-creams, sweets and drinks are available to purchase. Tickets are available in advance from the library or on the door.

The over 65's Film Club is free to library members, funded by players of the People's Postcode Lottery. We can provide transport for those with walking difficulties with Transport 17 for a small charge. Please contact the library if you would like to put your name down for the over 65's film club.

We are also on the lookout for new people to join our film club team of volunteers. It's a fun way to support the library and you get to see the films we are showing. We need people who can help set up the screen and projector - it's fairly easy to do and full training is provided. Please email totley-library@gmail.com or pick up a volunteer application form in the library if you are interested in getting involved.

Christmas Opening Hours

Totley Library will close at 5pm on Wednesday 21st December and re-open at 10am on Tuesday 3rd January. If your books are due back during the festive season, the due date will be automatically changed to 3rd January so you will not face any extra fines when we are closed.

Totley Library Lottery

In the September draw, the first-prize winner was Anthony Sampson and the second-prize winner was Mary Love. In the October draw, the first-prize winner was Abbi Bell and the second-prize winner was Sandra Allsop.

Regular events and meetings at the Library

Monday:

French for children - 10 am toddlers and babies; 3.40 reception and Yr 1; 4.10 years 2-4; 4.40 years 5 to 6.
Readers Book Group, every first Monday, 1.30-2.45 pm
Friends of Gillfield Wood, occasional Mondays, 7.30 pm onwards. Talks on local nature and conservation. See posters, the Independent Diary, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com
Councillor Surgery, second Monday every month, 6.00 - 7.00 pm

Tuesday:

Basic ITC Sessions, 10am - 12 noon. To book, phone Heeley Development Trust on 0114 250 0613.
Craft Group, 2.00 - 4.00pm
Poetry Group, last Tuesday in month, 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Wednesday:

Coffee Morning, 10.30 - 12 noon
Toddler Story Time, 10.30 - 11.30 Craft activities, singing and stories.
Health Walk, 10-30 - 12 noon. One short and one longer ranger-led walk. Tea, coffee and biscuits in library afterwards.
Totley History Group, occasional Wednesdays 7.30. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters in library, the Independent Diary, or www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk
Yoga sessions 7 - 8.30 pm, Wednesdays (except when History Group meets). For more details call Ann Zielonka on 0114 2361585 or 07929736966. Beginners welcome

Thursday:

Friends of Gillfield Wood, occasional Thursdays, 7.30 pm onwards. Talks on local nature and conservation. See posters, the Independent Diary, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com

Natasha Watkinson

What's been happening at Totley Art Group?

Since our last news item, we have grown a little. There are now five people in the group. We have had several sessions, sharing our work, having a good chat about what we have done and how, and have also painted in members' gardens. Bit chilly for that now! We took picnic lunches and visited the Chatsworth Sculpture show together in October. The show had varied responses from the group and provoked much discussion. We plan to go further afield occasionally, perhaps to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the Hepworth Wakefield, or to the Sheffield and Manchester galleries.



But visiting galleries is not the main point of the group. Making art is. We are submitting postcard-sized art to a national competition which requires one person to do a tiny painting on one half, then to pass it to another person to complete the other half! An unusual idea with interesting results. You don't need to be in the group to join in - just get in touch to find out how!

Our November session is based on mono printing and will be an opportunity for people to try something they may not have done since leaving formal education. And December might be more of a social event with a glass of wine or two!

If you'd like to join us we meet once a month or thereabouts. The group is for people of all abilities - there is no formal tutor and no pressure. Creativity in a friendly environment is the key note. Our first session in the New Year will be on Monday 16th January, time and venue to be confirmed. If you'd like to join us, call Sue on 0114 2363331 or 07940 557879, or Chris on 0114 2351767, or email motivatetocreate2016@gmail.com.



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Totley All Saints Christmas Tree Festival

Back by popular demand, the Totley All Saints Christmas Tree Festival will be held in the church on Totley Hall Lane from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th December. Over 20 Christmas trees, each one sponsored and decorated by a different local organisation, will be on display for people to come and enjoy.

The Christmas Tree Festival is open on Thursday 15th December from 3pm to 6pm, Friday 16th December from 3pm – 9pm (with mulled wine and mince pies served from 7pm) and on Saturday 17th December from 11am – 4pm. Entrance is free.

On Sunday 18th December, the church will be hosting a special Christmas Tree all age service starting at 10am. Why not go along and make this the start of a very special Christmas time!



£2.8m National Lottery grant will help Wildlife Trust protect 'Sheffield Lakeland'

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust has been granted initial approval for a £2.8m Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to set up a special 'Landscape Partnership' aimed at protecting and improving the city's unique 'Sheffield Lakeland' area.

The project, part of HLF's Landscape Partnership (LP) programme, will deliver an exciting programme of activities across an area that stretches from Langsett to Redmires and from the edge of Sheffield city to the moorland slopes of the Peak District National Park – an area referred to as Sheffield Lakeland in the 1950s.

Organisations such as Yorkshire Water, Sheffield City Council and Bradfield Parish Council, as well as community groups, residents, farmers and land owners, have already expressed their support for the project and will form part of the steering group.



Activities planned include managing woodlands, heaths and grasslands to benefit people and wildlife; improving footpaths and access for all across the area; finding ways to naturally improve drinking water and reduce flood risk in the city; repairing drystone walls; celebrating local heritage, music and history; offering farm visits, school and family activities, strolls for older people; as well as providing volunteering and training opportunities in heritage conservation.

There are also plans for a community grant scheme to fund small projects that help to look after and share local heritage with others.

Liz Ballard, Chief Executive at Sheffield and Rotherham

Wildlife Trust, said: "This landscape is an often forgotten part of the National Park and Sheffield but it is absolutely stunning and has some really important wildlife and fascinating local history. It is an important part of Sheffield's 'Outdoor City' and we want to work with partners across this landscape to deliver a great project with local people that conserves our natural environment and heritage.

This is such an exciting opportunity for Sheffield. We are so pleased to have got through the initial stage of this national scheme. Landscapes are shaped by nature and people over hundreds of years, and so this project is about celebrating what we love and enjoy in this area now as well as looking after it for the future. We will be using the development fund to work up our project ideas in much more detail, building on all the enthusiasm and support we have already received from so many people and partners across the area."

Wildlife conservation plans include the support and protection of owls and other birds of prey found in the area, which have been declining in recent years. Another rare species that will benefit is the internationally threatened white-clawed crayfish, which has experienced a dramatic fall in numbers due to the presence of the larger American signal crayfish – an invasive species increasingly prevalent in British waterways. There are also plans to improve access and understanding of some of the city's lesser-known pre-industrial sites that are found in the area, including ancient monuments and burial mounds.

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said "Our historic landscapes are incredibly important to people's wellbeing and need to be protected. Some of the landscapes we are funding today are in the most remote parts of the UK; others form an important backdrop to some of our largest cities. What they all have in common is the potential to make people's lives better, which is why they are so richly deserving of National Lottery money."

A development grant of £240,000 has been awarded by HLF to enable Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to develop its plans and seek final approval for the full grant amount of £2.8 million at a later date.

Remembrance Sunday, Totlely War Memorial





Over the Hills and Far Away...

Prior to 2015, Cross Country running had never really been a sport on Totley Primary School's radar. However, with the support and encouragement of one of our parents, Rachel Biggin, we entered a small team into the Sheffield Schools Cross Country competition for the first time last season. We soon discovered that this is a hugely popular and well organised event across the city, with regular Saturday morning races in a range of locations throughout the season, attracting hundreds of runners. Very quickly, news of heroic exploits on muddy, windswept hillsides began to emerge and a ripple of excitement began to spread through the junior classes. Before long, numbers of interested children grew and our race team was into double figures.

This season, buoyed by the success of Team GB at the Summer Olympic Games in Rio, things have gone from strength to strength. We held our first lunchtime training run in October, with around 30 enthusiastic children giving up their



lunchtime playtime to hit the trails and footpaths around the school. We are so lucky in Totley to have stunning countryside on our doorstep and we certainly made the most of this, with our first run taking us across the fields and through Gillfield Woods – much to the surprise of a few startled sheep! Steve from Totley AC Fell Runners was kind enough to join us and give us a few tips en route. This included some post-run drills at Totley Hall Park to boost our race pace.

Now the team continues to grow, with more girls involved each time. We even have our own flag! So thank you to

Rachel for lighting the blue touch paper and well done to our committed and determined runners who give their all each time they race. Long may it continue!!



Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher

Hathersage Carollers

The Hathersage Carollers will, as usual, be singing their local village with traditional carols over the Christmas period. All are welcome to join them. They will be at the following venues -

19th December: The Millstone Inn, 9.0 pm
 21st December: The Plough Inn, 9.0 pm
 23rd December: The Scotsman's Pack, 9.0 pm
 28th December: The Little John, 12 noon

Latest Dates for Christmas Post!

For mail to UK addresses:

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Thursday 22nd December Special Delivery Guaranteed
Friday 23rd December Special Delivery Saturday Guaranteed

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Thursday 8th December Caribbean, Central and South America
Saturday 10th December Greece, Australia, New Zealand
Wednesday 14th December Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland
Thursday 15th December Canada, Finland, Sweden, USA
Friday 16th December Austria, Denmark, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
Saturday 17th December Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg



The David Clover Festival of Singing

Reg. Charity No. 1043131

Singers' Platform: 27th & 28th January at St. Andrew's Church, Psalter Lane
29th January, at Kenwood Hall

Festival Weekend: 3rd & 4th February at Dore & Totley U.R.C.
5th February at Kenwood Hall.

The David Clover Festival of Singing (DCFS) is a competitive singing festival which has been held annually since 1980 - the only one in Sheffield and probably in the north to be dedicated solely to singing. This year we are pleased to announce that Lesley Garrett has agreed to be our Patron. We are affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals, of which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron.

It is administered by the City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir in memory of the Choir's founder, Dr. David Clover, who was appointed as Musical Advisor to the City of Sheffield Education Department in 1965. After his untimely death in 1979 the Teachers' Choir at that time



David Clover

decided that there should be a fitting and lasting tribute and memorial to his work and *The David Clover Vocal Prize* was established which later became *The David Clover Festival of Singing*.

The Festival is open to all singers from the age of nine, and its chief objective is to foster this branch of music-making which was always one of Dr. Clover's greatest loves - singing.



Lesley Garrett

A new exciting initiative was introduced in the Festival held earlier this year with the introduction of the Singers' Platform which was open exclusively to those young singers who have moved, or are moving into university or conservatoire training. We were delighted with the response as 22 singers entered 45 class entries. The singers came from far and wide and the adjudicators and audience were all impressed by the excellent standard.

Another new class is to be introduced in 2017 - an Ensemble Class for up to 8 singers. We look forward to harmonious singing.

Professional adjudicators will again give critical and supportive comments, one of whom will be our President, Professor Mark Wildman, who is Head of Vocal Studies at the Royal Academy of Music.

We look forward to another great Festival and hope that the competitors will all benefit from the experience - some of them whom may go on to forge professional musical careers as have many previous winners.

As with all organisations we are reliant on donations from sponsors and the support of people who come along

to listen to the singing. At present the main sources of income come from the City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir, fund raising events and 'David Clover Festival Friends'. If you are interested in finding out how you may support the Festival, or any other information about it please see www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk.

Macmillan Coffee Fundraiser

Congratulations to the customers of The Shepley Spitfire: what a wonderfully successful time we had! £483 was raised for this worthy cause.

The picture is of "The Dream Team": Kirsty, Jamie, Oli, Molly and Abby with additional support from Hetty.



The bakers who supplied appetising cakes, biscuits and buns, to you, many thanks, you made the day.

The Silent Auction was very well supported, and thank you to Jim Whitley, Tim Ashmore and Angela Harpham for donating such excellent prizes.

Our thanks also extend to all the local businesses who, once again, generously gave their support.

We are looking forward to further charity fundraisers.

Hetty Moran and Kirsty Alvy

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Walking the Hashtagdog....

We're supposed to go walkies on Saturdays? Where've you been ?

The library, Jack.

What were you doing in the library? We already can't move for books in our house . They're In the attic. On the stairs. In the kitchen. All over the front room. Under the beds. On top of the piano. In the cellar. In the lav. And in the dog kennel and you haven't even got a dog kennel even if you've got a dog.

We weren't in the library for books . We were hashtagginglovetoreading.

What's that mean when I'm at home?

It means a seventy quid fee for me from hashtaglibrariesSCL and the READING AGENCY , whoever they are when they are at home, for sitting round a table with the cleverest women in Totley who'd hashtaglovetoread, and talked about Rebecca, a Suitable Boy, Lucinda Riley, Ragged Trousers, Snow Gooses, Catchers in the Rye, and Jane Austen twice. Oh, and then we talked about grilled grapefruit because of Nigel Slater.

Why was it Jane Austen twice? Do the cleverest women of Totley like motor cars?

Motor cars?

Austin motor cars?

Bit of a dog of a joke that Jack.

Well I feel a bit left out. Were there any dogs in any of the books you talked about when you were hashtagginglovetoreading?

I thought you might ask that. So I've just googled dogs and Jane Austen, and there are no matches. A Suitable Boy is 1300 pp but it didn't seem to have any dogs. The Snow Goose is mainly goose, but Paul Gallico himself had a cat called Thomasina. There's a different Nigel Slater who breeds German Shepherds in Buxton, but the glorious Ragged Trousered Philanthropists is less about our canine comrades and more about when the glorious sun of socialism will rise (455 pages from now). Hashtag!

Do you know what a hashtag is?

It's like a sharp sign from music, but it leans to the left a bit more. It's also an octothorpe because it has eight legs.

What's it mean though?

...I don't know.

Well, I've been googling it on your I-pad while you were hashtagchuffingabout in the library. In 2009 a bloke called Chris invented it, and it was a metadata tag when he had.

...I'm more into books Jack.

You've never finished a Jane Austen book, and you confessed that at the library?

Yes but -

And you don't know what metadata is, or anything about The Great Mystery of The Hashtag?

What mystery?

There used to be a sharp sign that leans from the left

on your sit-up-and-beg Imperial typewriter in 1959? When you went up to Oxford like you still tell everyone you did? And were the first person in your family who ever did ? Look, second from the left on the top row above the 3.

Yes ! But what's the great mystery there Jack?

How could you have a hashtag to hashtag the internet on your 1959 Imperial when there was no internet ? And what's grilled grapefruit?

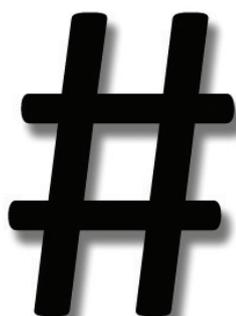
It's what Nigel Slater has for breakfast. He gets a grapefruit. And grills it . And he was the most popular book all morning at the hashtaglibrary when we hashtaglovetoread. But -

But you can't eat grapefruit Rony because you're on statins? To stop you dying? Not that they will...

Thanks .

No thank you. So can we have our walk in the woods please before you are hashtagdead or they get hashtagflooded?

Rony Robinson and Jack



Women's and Girls' Rugby riding high in Sheffield

Impressively Sheffield Ladies are the highest level rugby union team in Sheffield. As they play at the RFU level three in Ladies North 2, that's just two leagues away from the top flight Premiership.

They've had a storming start this season, being unbeaten while also scoring at least four tries and picking up every point available. The Ladies have beaten all the top sides which leaves them just the three bottom sides to play before Christmas and they could well reach the half way mark with a clean sheet and maximum points.

The future looks good for ladies rugby as the Sheffield Swans girls rugby cluster have moved base to Abbeydale Park. This thirty-strong South Yorkshire-wide group of girls bridges the gap from mini-rugby to senior ladies, running three age groups - U13's, U15's and U18's, ensuring a future supply of women players. The Swans have announced their main shirt sponsor is Guy Salmon Land Rover which adds to their growing list of company supporters including GRI Group, Ecclesall Design and Build, Digital Micrometers Ltd, and Mr Rubble.



Sheffield secure another bonus point win - photo by Frank Womak

Any girls interested in playing rugby with this very friendly bunch, can either just turn up at 6.30pm on Thursday evenings at Abbeydale Park or email info@sheffieldswans.co.uk

Home Fixtures for December and January:

Dec 3rd: Tigers v Tyndale
Dec 3rd: Sheffield v Bedford Athletic
Dec 11th: Sheffield Ladies v Kendal Wasps
Dec 17th: Sheffield v Broadstreet
Jan 7th: Tigers v Stourbridge
Jan 8th: Sheffield Ladies v Preston Grasshoppers
Jan 14th: Sheffield v Lichfield
Jan 21st: Tigers v Harrogate

Gardening Tips for December and January

I have just come in from the garden. It's looking quite colourful (early November) - the sun was out, but it is turning cold. We had a slight frost last night so we will have to install the insulation a.s.a.p.

The tomatoes have almost finished. The few that are left on are only good for cooking. I will have to make some green tomato chutney for the show - it should be nicely mature by then.

I've got winter veg in the raised beds. The slugs are nibbling them. I am making some beer traps in the hope that they get a bit drunk and fall in and drown. It's a forlorn hope, but perhaps the frost will nobble a few. I will try nematodes again, but this cannot be done until the warmer weather arrives. They did make a difference earlier this year.

The mild spell we had recently kept the lawn growing well, especially after the autumn winter feed, so we might have one or two mowings before the really bad weather sets in.

I recently bought an electric water pump and it's working a treat. It moves the water from the water butts at the lower edge of the garden which catch the rain water off the barn roof, and pumps it up to the water butts at the top of the garden near the greenhouses. I think the electricity is justified because it only takes a minute or two to empty a large butt. It is good that we can use this water, which has been difficult to use in the past as we find it a bit of a chore carrying heavy cans now. The seed and plant catalogues are arriving so we can all start dreaming. When you are planning what to grow, bear in mind that it might be more economical to buy plants, considering the cost of heating propagators, and maybe losing some seedlings.

Do not get carried away with some of the new vegetables which are available: no point in planting stuff which no one likes. I tried some Tomolina plants which my daughter-in-law gave me. They grew like triflids, spread all over the greenhouse. The fruit was encased in a paper-like cocoon similar to phisalis, and was about the same size as a money-maker tomato. But there the similarity ends. They had very little flavour - more like squash - and were very sticky and soggy in the middle. We won't be growing them again, though my son liked them!

We have had a good crop of apples this year. We have eleven cordons, all different varieties. Four of them had a rest year. Most of them store well and the barn is a very good place for storage as it's nice and cool and dark. We are just clearing the greenhouses, ready to install the insulation. We are a bit late because the tomatoes are still fruiting. They will have to go as the weather is getting colder, as it's very difficult to put up the sheets of bubble insulation with plants in situ.

We have been rained off in the garden, so I'll have to find some indoor jobs to do. I will finish of this epistle in good time (the editor will be pleased!)

Don't forget to check on any produce in store, and remove any suspect items before they contaminate the good ones. Dahlia tubers should have any signs of rot cut away and the wound dusted with flowers of sulphur. Keep an close eye on any cuttings and remove any which show signs of mould or mildew.

It's getting time to make your Christmas lists! Include a few nice things like a new wheelbarrow or a lawnmower (powered!) or a new sunbed...you never know, nudge-nudge, wink-wink!

New Year resolutions will need to be made soon. Let's hope you include making an effort to enter in the Tooty Show in September. You've got plenty of time to plan your exhibit - try one or two categories you have not tried before: that lovely piece of artwork or woodwork that needs finishing, or some of those great photographs you took on holiday. I bought a new camera this year so I will be entering some of my pictures. Take a look at the schedule (it was printed in the TI) and you could win a certificate (I'm certified you know!) or even a cup!

Well that's all for this year, I look forward to, and hope you all have, a happy and healthful new year, and enjoy all your gardening endeavors.

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

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

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

Rod. Pick over plants in frames or cloches, and remove dead leaves etc. and dust with fungicide.

Dig and prepare new beds. Place insulation over frames at night to give extra protection from frost, and ventilate well on sunny days. December is the last chance to plant out late tulips. If you haven't given your flower beds a slow-acting fertiliser for a year or two, now is a good time (January). A dusting of hoof and horn or bone meal will do your flowers a world of good. Hoe it into the top inch or so and the worms will do the rest. Stand well back in the spring, as the flowers burst forth. If you want to increase your stock of Perennials or if you have some plants ready for the various charity stalls or swaps, you could take root cuttings. Dig up the plant to be propagated, or cut a portion from one side. Wash off as much soil as possible so that the roots can be separated from each other and cut off the sound roots about the thickness of a pencil. Divide into sections about 2 inches long (5cm).

Trim off small fibrous roots and cut the bottom of the root diagonally and the top straight so that you know which way up to plant it. Insert into pots of cutting compost with the tops just buried. Water well and stand in a frost free cold frame or propagator, if you want them to root faster. Plants with thin roots can be multiplied in a similar way, 3 inches, (8cm) long pieces laid horizontally in the compost, (dusted with fungicide). Cover them with another 1-2 cm of compost and



water well. Some of the plants which can be done this way, are *Acarlthus*, *Brunnera*, *Caenothus*, *Dicentra*, *Echinicea*, *Eryngium*, Japanese anemones, *Nepata* oriental poppies, phlox *Rhus*, *Verbascum* etc. Remember that root cuttings taken from variegated plants will turn out green and NOT variegated.



Oriental Poppy

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

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

Shrubs, trees and fruit: Do not let snow hang on conifers - it can break off branches and spoil their shape. Firm in any newly planted trees and check all stakes and supports, making sure they are firm. New fruit trees can be planted now if weather permits (keep roots moist and frost free prior to planting). Prune apple and pear trees, removing cankered branches. Prune fruit bushes and canes, check grease bands and renew if necessary. January is a good time to give fruit trees a tar oil winter wash, so choose a fine and wind-free day.

Blackcurrants will benefit from feeding in January as they like plenty of nitrogen. So, a top dressing of Sulphate of ammonia or nitro chalk at 4-6oz per well-established bush. Sprinkle it thinly over the soil and keep it away from the stems. Newly planted blackcurrant and raspberries should be pruned back severely, with blackcurrants to 2-3 inches from ground level, and raspberries 6-9 inches above ground. In mild spells, plant out deciduous trees, hedging plants, stored or heeled-in shrubs.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Dead-head faded flowers and pick over all pot plants. Water sparingly. Keep bulbs fed and watered after flowering, but move to a cool spot. Increase humidity around indoor *Cyclamen*, *Azaleas* and *Winter Cherries*. Use insecticide to control aphids and white fly. Paint patches of scale and mealy bug with methylated spirit. Plant *Amaryllis*, *Lily of the Valley* and indoor *gladioli*. Pot on *Cineraria*, *Primula* and *Slipper Flowers*. Examine all bulbs placed in the dark. They should be about ready to bring into half light conditions prior to bringing into a light warm house.

Don't rush them though. Seedlings and cuttings should be kept as near to the glass as possible, and stake up *Schizanthus*. Sponge over large leafed evergreen plants with half a teaspoon of milk stirred into a cup of water. This will make them nice and glossy.

Make sure the greenhouse glass is kept clean. Cut back old geranium plants, shortening the growths to a joint or bud 6-9 inches above the pot. Replant the plants, shaking all the soil from the roots. Replant them in the smallest pot into which the roots can be placed, and use ordinary John Innes compost or similar.

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



Gloxinias

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

Please bear in mind that these notes cover two months when doing the various jobs.

Have a Happy Christmas and a lovely gardening year!

Cheerio for now,

Tom

Councillor Surgeries

Liberal Democrats:

2nd Monday in month 6-7pm, Totley Library, Baslow Road.

2nd Saturday in month, 10.30am to 12 noon, Dore Old School Hall, Savage Lane, Dore.

Contact details:

Colin Ross 235 1948
Email: colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk

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Totley Rise Methodist Church

Winter at Totley Rise Methodist Church

9.00 am Early Services (1st and 3rd Sundays). A quieter, more traditional service.

9.30am (2nd and 4th Sundays) Toddler Praise aimed at the under 5's and their parents/carers

10.30 am Mid-morning Service every Sunday. An informal and contemporary service with a monthly Communion

6.30 pm Reflective Worship: every Sunday. A quieter space for worship and listening to God

9.30 – 10 am Tuesday Prayer, every Tuesday. Prayer for the world, community and for healing and wholeness in the Church

There is a creche available plus Youth/Junior Church at all morning services.

Christmas at Totley Rise Methodist Church

Sunday 18 December, 6.30pm: Carol service with Angels

Saturday 24 December, 4.00pm: Crib service with a chance for children to dress up and join a nativity scene

Sunday 25 December, 10.00am: Christmas Day Family Service. Join the Angels as they welcome the newborn King

Journey to Bethlehem: 3rd and 4th December. This popular re-enactment of the Nativity story by Totley Rise Methodist Church attracts over 1,000 visitors every year. Free 30-minute tours for all the family, with tours starting at 4.15pm. Booking essential. Telephone Susan Kirkman on 0114 2361971

Messy Church: We hold a Messy Church on a Saturday afternoon most months. Every Messy Church has a particular theme. All are welcome - contact Rachel Wilson on 07912 352543 for more details on themes etc or just turn up. Tea and snacks are included.

Messy Church is not just a club for Kids to come and do activities - not just a bridge into "normal" church - not just a social activity for Saturday afternoons. If Messy Church isn't any of these things then what is it?

Messy Church is an all-age way to help people discover Jesus, not just church families but the whole community. A relatively new concept, it has now spread internationally (Denmark have to call it something else as they don't have a word for messy in their language!). This happy mixture of games, craft activities, food and lively

worship, all based on a bible theme, is bringing families together in a new and special way. Churches that have been providing Messy Church are finding that it is creating a new worshipping congregation in its own right. Messy Church is here at Totley Rise.

Come along and give it a try - you won't be disappointed!

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes it messy?

Just think of all the fab things mums and dads would love to do with kids but avoid because of the cleaning up afterwards. We did bubble painting - blue paint everywhere! How the children managed to stay clean was a miracle, so please don't come in your best clothes Messy church can be messy!!!! We painted a huge Goliath cut-out, stuck together and had a great time learning that God is there when things seem too big and too difficult for us in life. We need to ask for courage, believe and follow.

Ah...I thought food would be involved - more mess?

Yes, the idea is that mums, dads, kids and helpers all sit down and eat together. It's a time to sit and share, chat and eat together.



Journey to Bethlehem

Pushchair Club: Every Thursday afternoon, 1.30–3.00. Babies and toddlers 0-5 years come together with their carers to play and chat in a Christian atmosphere in the TRM Centre.

For more information contact Rachel, our Family and Children's Worker, on 07912 352543.

Little Lights: Wednesdays 1.30pm – 2.30pm during term time. A chance for Mums/carers, babies and pre-school children to meet for songs, fun, snacks and crafts all based on a bible story. Contact Rachel on 07912 35243.

Meeting Place: Every other Wednesday 2pm – 3.30pm. All parents and carers are welcome with their babies and toddlers. There will be a bible story, singing, prayer and a chat with each other to discuss the challenges of parenting. Tea and coffee are provided. Contact Rachel on 07912 352543 for further information.

Tuesday Ladies 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Lounge. About 35 ladies consisting of both church and non-church members meet to enjoy speakers or a quiz or beetle drive.

Sometimes the evening includes food such as salmon and strawberries or cheese and biscuits. If you would like more information please call Janet Savage on 01142369002.

Coffee morning Tuesday, 10 am–12 noon, TRMC Lounge. Come and meet new and old friends from the community and chat over coffee and biscuits.

Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter: Every Tuesday 12.00noon -3.00pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Centre.

They may natter and chatter but this busy and friendly group has been a great success. They aim to include more people from the area, even the housebound. Housebound does not mean isolated. The group provides wool, needles and a chat for those who can't travel to the church. Young people are welcome too. There are skilful, lovely ladies ready and willing to help those new to knitting and sewing.

Many charities benefit from the group's work: Butterfly Wings (still-born babies), Sheffield premature baby unit and the Christmas shoebox appeal. Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind have adopted knitted Ellie the elephant as their mascot and have given a certificate of grateful thanks. Members can knit/sew (a sewing machine is available) for their chosen charities.

Maxine, the organiser, says that all the ladies love coming. Men are also welcome. You can stay for as long as you like for up to three hours. We offer tea, coffee, biscuits and, most importantly, friendship.

Sheffield Citizens Advice Bureau

Every Tuesday, 10 am-12 noon. No appointment needed. Drop-in free confidential Advice Service. Advice on legal, financial, employment, benefits and any other matters.

Room Hire at Totley Rise Methodist Church: Available Monday to Saturday. We have a variety of rooms for hire, which include the use of kitchen facilities and audio-visual equipment. Please contact the caretaker, Dean Duke, for more information or to make a booking, on 236 0389 or email Deanoj on deano1972@sky.com. Or visit our website for a booking form and details of room sizes and charges.

Hear our sermons

If you are unable to come to Totley Rise Methodist Church on a Sunday morning, you can still hear the service as a podcast online. Just visit our website www.totleyrise.co.uk and find a selection of recent services at Podomatic Podcast Page.

For more ongoing events see this issue's Diary, p.34

Totley's Dave Tilly climbs Mount Manaslu for charity!

In the last issue, we featured a letter from Totley man Dave Tilly in which he explained his plan to climb the 26,914 ft high Manaslu in the Himalayas, in order to raise money for the charity Action 4 Diabetics (A4D). Here Dave recounts his experience of the climb. After reading this account, if you wish to donate to A4D, go to www.justgiving.com/a4d.

My journey began on the 28th August. My aim, was to climb and summit Manaslu, the 8th highest mountain in the world in the Nepalese Himalaya. It's been a lifelong dream since I was about 5, but my climbing dreams owe much to Totley Cubs and Scouts and in particular to Mick Stokes, John Lawrie and Tony Marples.

I also wanted to raise money and awareness for A4D (Action for Diabetics) which is a charity that is close to my heart. This is two-fold. Jerry Gore (one of the charity's founders) is a close friend of mine. Jerry runs Aplbase.com which is a chalet and accommodation rental business providing excellent accommodation for climbers on the best ice routes in Europe. Jerry is a type 1 diabetic himself and I was truly amazed when I first met this 'tour de force' of a climber and man.

Second, my Dad was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in his mid 30's. Whilst it changed his life forever, constantly having to test and monitor his blood sugar levels and control it with injections of insulin, he coped incredibly well. He lives an almost normal life, especially after the developments in insulin over the years. Whilst living with this condition can be difficult at times, it's very treatable and manageable, but without insulin, my Dad would have died a painful death over a long period of time.

Without insulin, blood sugars rise to dangerously high levels. Sugar untreated by the body is like shards of glass running around the bloodstream. It damages the internals of the body - eyes bleed, limbs' capillary systems are destroyed leading to amputation. It's not a fast process and victims suffer over time without life-giving insulin. And the damage is nearly always irreversible.

A4D was set up to help children try to overcome this suffering and provide them with basic medical care, initially in Myanmar. As the charity grows this area will expand, but only with your help. It's so simple and effective! Your donations directly translate into providing insulin for these children, allowing them the chance to grow up and take part in a normal life.

The people who run the A4D charity don't take a salary. They bear the costs of fundraising themselves, and this is the second major reason I support this charity, - with many other charities, as little as 5% of the donations may actually reach their intended recipients!

Jerry inspired and tutored me to become a stronger, better climber, so it was my sincere pleasure to undertake the task

of climbing the world's 8th highest mountain to raise funds for and awareness of this great charity. Here is my account of this adventure - the biggest challenge of my life!

We left Kathmandu on the 3rd Sept and spent the next 8 days penetrating the Himalayas towards our objective, Manaslu. We would start at 600m and all being well, climb all the way to 8163m to the summit. It's a long drawn out affair as you have to make many forays up the mountain to become acclimatised, getting the body to make the necessary adaptations to allow you to survive at such high altitude. And this after an 8-day hike in!

The aim was to summit without supplemental oxygen. This effectively lowers the altitude you experience by approx. 2000m if used and is immeasurably safer. Without it, you risk frostbite to your fingers and toes, HAPE and HACE which are both deadly in many cases - fluid on the lungs and swelling

of the brain, respectively. Bottom line, it's no walk in the park!

One of the big questions I had was what the options are for rescue and/or help. Helicopters can only fly so high because the air becomes so thin they cannot generate lift. They can get to base camp at 4800m, but above that, you're on your own with the team around you. Having spent several weeks going up and down the mountain, sleeping at various heights and camps to force the body to acclimatize, we had a good weather window on 2nd October.



Summit push: We camped at camp 4, 7,400m and ate and drank ready for leaving the camp at 11:30pm. Our team was five people plus Sherpa support, one per person, two using supplemental oxygen and three, including myself, without. All Sherpas had oxygen. I was first to leave camp with Ben Canes, a veteran high altitude climber guiding/climbing over 7 trips, but that elusive summit had remained unclimbed even for him. Yuri and Mardana left at 12:30pm on oxygen and finally Sean left at 1:30pm. Sean is an incredibly strong climber, but this was his first attempt without oxygen.

When we left, the temperature was minus 20°C, plus the wind chill factor. It was pretty windy, but nowhere near desperate. After about two hours, my left foot was freezing, despite my anticipation that it would warm when I began to move for a while. I stopped to take a pair of socks off (my boots felt too cramped), and put new batteries in my heated socks. This had almost no effect and my toes continued to bother me, despite wiggling them continuously for the entire push. Within two hours, the other guys had caught me and Ben, and as I stopped to try to warm my feet, Ben passed me and I was alone on the mountain, with KB my climbing Sherpa.

It became colder and colder. I yearned for the sun to come up, but it didn't relent. Glancing at the time, it was 4.30am - still an hour before I would see the sun. As I approached 8,000m I began to reach the limits of my resolve. I was utterly exhausted, spent of all energy, and shivering violently with no light. I have read tons of mountaineering literature to learn about what it's like, to try and make it safely back when I finally took this challenge. I asked KB to radio to Ang Phurba (our leading climbing Sherpa), to ask him where they were. I could see headlamps ahead in the distance, but

couldn't tell how far away they were. The call came back to say they were at the second summit rise, going for the top. I knew they were at least an hour ahead of me. As I realised this, I heard Ed Viesturs voice in my head, saying 'getting up is optional, getting down is mandatory'. As the snow began to move and change in front of my very eyes, mildly hallucinating, I suddenly felt like I had just woken up and found myself in this position. I decided enough was probably enough and it was time to turn around, not wanting to be left on the side of this mountain as a relic. I also thought about my wife, Felicity. I thought, 'it's not fair on her to keep pushing'. So I told KB it was time to descend - still a massive undertaking!

KB got on the radio and then offered me his oxygen mask. He told me that we could get to the top if I took it. The difference it made was incredible! My left foot was warm in five minutes flat and I felt revived. I began to struggle upwards once more. The work was still unbelievably hard even with the oxygen, but just about manageable, and I wasn't hallucinating any more!

An hour later we arrived on the summit! The wind was kind enough to die momentarily, to allow me to get out the hand-made flag I had made with the logo for A4D and my wife - two messages I wanted to convey from the summit. It all seemed very matter of fact. Get the flag, get the photo and get off this mountain! The time was about 8am.



Dave at the summit with home-made flag!

My decision to use the oxygen was bitter-sweet. I had said 'I would rather get to 7800m and turn around, than use oxygen'. Yet I had taken it to finish the last 140m. At first I felt I had failed. But on reflection the offer of the oxygen from KB simply meant allowing me to stand on the top. It seemed sabotage to refuse and not finish what I had started, when I was so close.

After organising the photos I wanted, I didn't use any more oxygen and decided it was all downhill from here. We began to descend, but, off oxygen, it was excruciatingly hard work!

After several hundred meters of descent, I made the phone call I had promised to my wife. It was 3am UK time, but Felicity answered right away. I explained I had made the top, but not without oxygen. It was so good to hear her voice, and I sobbed, barely able to speak to her.

Several hours later (I can't remember how many) we arrived at camp 4 where I collapsed and lay in the snow. I wanted to just sleep and rest. The Sherpa Phurba Rita (15 Everest Summits to his name) said we had to continue to go down once he had stripped camp 4. But I lay there until pushed out of camp. As we approached camp 3, I felt they had stripped this camp as well. I said to KB, call Ang Phurba and ask what is going on, as I couldn't go on any further. The message came back over the Radio: 'camp stripped, descend to camp 2'.

I felt finished, yet I had no choice. I knew that every metre we descended meant more safety for us. Like a zombie, I staggered down towards camp two, hoping this ordeal would be over soon.

Arriving at Camp 2, Ben was there. We hugged and congrat-

ulated each other. I was beginning to come round and felt I had more energy, a side effect of the thicker air no doubt. Ben was packing his rucksack and said we were going all the way to base camp. I just laughed, but began to pack up and, with a 25kg load, imagined myself as a true Sherpa, vowing to dump a load at camp 1 and send up someone else the following day to get it.

Base camp was still 5 hours away and we had to descend through the ice field, which at this time of day would be getting more and more unstable as the sun baked it. This passage could be the most dangerous part of the entire climb.

As if the day's events had not tested me enough, we arrived at the four- ladder crossing. I could do nothing but laugh. Instead of crossing a single crevasse, as we had done on ascent, now I was expected to jump across the first crevasse onto a snow ledge like something out of 'Cliffhanger' with Stallone, and then onto what I can only describe as a joke of a ladder crossing. The ladders were literally falling apart, and curved down into the crevasse as the lashings had loosened over time. If they would take my weight, it would be a miracle, but with no other options, off I went. Arriving at the other side, having been hyperventilating all the way across, a feeling of relief overwhelmed me. I then held the ropes tight for Phurba Rita and KB to cross. They followed, very carefully!

Arriving at Camp 1, I set off right away for base camp ahead of the Sherpa. With the light fading fast and the temperature dropping, I realised I had no head-torch or suitable clothes (they were all in the packs of the others or in tents). After an hour of descending off the glacier and the moraine, I had to sit and wait for someone to come down with a light. The two Sherpa arrived half an hour later. Luckily the weather remained fair. Finally arriving at base camp at 8pm, a shell of my former self, I had one drink and fell into my tent, exhausted but having achieved the summit and full descent all within 24hrs. There was no elation, only sleep!

As you can imagine, It was an experience I will never forget!

Dave Tilly

Give Bridge a try!

Bridge is one of the most popular card games, and surely the greatest of them all, offering immense challenge and enjoyment over a lifetime.

Sheffield Bridge Club welcomes you to an open afternoon to try Bridge and Minibridge. Quite a few Topley residents play Bridge at the club, based at 6 Thornsett Road in Nether Edge. There are afternoon and evening sessions for players of all standards, and we try to encourage a friendly approach to this absorbing pastime. There are also regular lessons where you can learn with others.



The Club is holding an open afternoon on 11th December, from 1.30pm to 4pm, where you are welcome to call in and give the game a try. Children and adults can try both Bridge and a simplified game aimed at children aged 8 and above called Minibridge, which provides an ideal introduction to the complete game.

Everyone is welcome - it's all free and complimentary refreshments will be served.

Sheffield Bridge Club
6 Thornsett Road, S7 1NA
0114 - 2550844

Glyn Foley

Organic Gardening

I was delighted to read in the last issue of Totley Independent about the nature walk - a library event for children and their parents organised by Jill Hnat.

Despite gardening organically for many years and providing habitats for wildlife, including many wild flowers, it must be about ten years since I have seen a ladybird here. Unfortunately, I am surrounded by gardens which do little for wildlife and this does limit the wildlife in one's own garden, although there have been plenty of other insects this year in mine.

It is so important that children are taught about the natural world and how it supports human life. They need to know the difference between organic and inorganic gardening and farming and what defines native flowers and other plants, as opposed to foreign, introduced and cultivated plants - and how these all effect our soil, wildlife, food and health in different ways.

Schools, of course, especially primaries, include natural history in their curriculum and children are taken to nature reserves etc, which I am sure is beneficial in many ways. However, schools are pressured to improve standards of the basics and so time is short. Also, many teachers are not sufficiently knowledgeable themselves to be able to teach the subject and answer children's questions. Not that I can talk!! While I have been aware for forty years or so of the environmental damage caused by human activity, and have created an organic wildlife garden, I did not know many native wild flower names until about ten years ago when I started to plant them.

Two years ago, I found a very rare species - a young gardener who understands the importance of organic/wildlife gardening, but is self-taught. He told me he always wanted to learn about plants at school, but, while there were plenty of lessons on the "birds and the bees", there were none about plants!!



A good crop of hips on my native Dog Rose

This year, sixty varieties of wild flowers have bloomed in my garden. Though slightly less than last year, bees have been active since February (it was quite mild at the time) until mid-October. There have been fewer butterflies too, and nationally, as highlighted by the results of the Big Butterfly Count and the State of Nature Report, but Orange-Tips were around as a result of planting garlic mustard, which they love, last year. There was also a brief visit on the Field Scabious by a Red Admiral and a Painted Lady. Large and Small Whites were around too. There were few moths around at night, but it was interesting to see small brown moths among the long grass bordering a pond during the day.

All the flowers were visited for weeks by other insect pollinators which were abundant. The ponds had lots of frogspawn and in August tiny frogs were sheltering in the long grass. One pond is inhabited by newts, and very young ones have been out at night, seeking damp places to hibernate.

The garden has been full of birdsong, with many birds pottering on the beds looking for insects and seeds among un-cleared leaves and debris. Nuthatches and Tree-Creepers and their young have visited quite regularly too.

In August, two hedgehogs appeared in the evening, since when I put out (soaked) dried meal worms every night which they enjoyed. The visits ended in mid-October when it got colder so presumably they had hibernated. They looked in good health and also kept the slug population down.

It has been so rewarding and I hope that children (and their parents) will be encouraged to develop their gardens in this way as we need to support wildlife and protect the environment in every way possible. The younger we start . . .

Marian Tiddy

Dore Wassail Walk 2016

The tradition of Wassailing dates back several centuries and was associated with Christmas and New Year as early as the 1400s. It was a personal way of passing good wishes between friends and family in their area. In Dore the tradition is celebrated as the annual Wassail Walk, sponsored by Dore Village Society. Last year around 80 people of all ages joined to share winter views and conversation while following paths across Blacka Moor.

The Wassail is a guided walk of not more than five miles, taking around two hours and is designed to gently wake up the limbs after Christmas, and perhaps brace you for more New Year festivities. The pace can be leisurely to suit individual preference, allowing breath for conversation, but enough to stir up the heart and lungs.

As before, the Wassail tradition continues back at The Old School, gathering inside for glasses of mulled wine and warm mince pies. Once again, a hot, spicy fruit punch will also be available. Why not make it a family occasion or bring friends and visitors to enjoy the seasonal atmosphere in Dore.

The 16th Wassail Walk this year will be on Tuesday 27th December, starting at 10.00am from The Old School, Savage Lane, Dore S17 3GW. All ages are welcome - please wear suitable walking shoes with a good grip on the soles.

Why not put the date in your diaries now - we look forward to seeing you!

***Dore Wassail Walk:
Tuesday 27th December
Starting 10am from The Old School, Savage Lane, Dore***

On the Beat...

The festive season fast approaches! Where has this year gone? I'm coming up to my first anniversary on the S17 beat so please forgive a moment of reflection on the year gone by.

Firstly can I say thank you to all the people who have taken the time to contact me or talk to me in the street during the last few months. Its been pleasing to know that people are actually reading my columns in this magazine and finding them useful (sometimes!) I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know people across the area and have been impressed by the many groups and organisations I have spoken to and how dedicated these groups are to providing a service to the community. I'll admit to being floored by some questions I've been asked at Rainbow groups and I've learned a few things myself from the more "mature" groups I have visited. I've attended some great community events and met some lovely people.

I'd like to say a special thank you to members of the S17 Neighbourhood Watch who have helped me out with a few issues in the area and kept me advised of things I may not have known about. They are a very committed and enthusiastic group and its been a pleasure (mostly!) to attend their meetings. If you are hesitant about whether Neighbourhood Watch is for you, I'd recommend getting in touch with them to find out more. If you don't have their details contact me and I'll pass them on. *(continued p.31)*

I've also enjoyed visiting all the local tea and coffee shops which are all fantastic in their own way. If you see me in one please don't hesitate to say hello, I'm more than happy to have a chat over a teapot. However please don't interrupt if I have cake in front of me... !

Crime wise we've had a mixed year with a number of burglaries earlier on tailing off in the summer but just starting to pick up again, particularly where properties have been left empty for one reason or another. Please don't let your vigilance drop with the temperature. Burglars love Christmas as houses are full of shiny new things! Keep an eye on your neighbours as well as ensuring your own security and let us know if you have any suspicions about vehicles or people in the area. Vehicle crime is also still an issue, particularly the theft of tools from vans. Please don't leave items in your vehicle overnight wherever possible and always make sure doors are locked if the vehicle is to be left unattended. Finally, a repeat from previous columns regarding door to door tradesmen - please say no unless you can thoroughly verify their credentials.

As ever I can be contacted by email on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or via mobile during duty time 07787 881945.

Hope you all have a fabulous and safe Christmas.

PCSO 8136 Adrian Tolson



Forests of the future on Totley Moor

As winter draws nearer, many of us are looking forward to spending time curled up inside by the fire. But for the team of staff and volunteers at the Eastern Moors Partnership (EMP), the colder months are the optimum time for tree planting and this year they're focusing on the woodland creation project on Totley Moor.

The location below Brown Edge and behind the brickworks has been recognised as having potential to greatly improve both the wildlife and landscape value of this area. Being located on the moorland fringe provides us with an opportunity to maintain a rich mosaic of habitats, of which woodland will form a significant part. Woodland is limited within the Peak District National Park and restoration and creation of native woodland has been identified as a conservation priority.

The new woodland will link into other woodland in the surrounding area, extending the green corridors out of Sheffield. This area is an important route during bird migration and it is thought that establishing woodland along this passage would be beneficial to many of the bird species passing through. It will also provide valuable habitat for the usual woodland and woodland edge bird species, some of which are listed as target species for the area (lesser spotted woodpecker, spotted flycatcher, hawfinch, marsh tit, redstart, pied flycatcher,

wood warbler and tree pipit). Species, such as gorse, will be planted to provide scrub areas in the existing dry heath which could be used by nightjar.

In total, the EMP plans to plant 5887 trees, between early December 2016 and the beginning of March 2017. Planting the native mix of Alder, Hawthorn, Holly, Rowan, Oak, Birch, Willow and Gorse is the first step towards restoring broadleaf woodland in the area and the associated fauna and flora. 70 per cent of the woodland will develop through natural regeneration, with tree planting used to provide a seed source for natural regeneration to then occur.

The Eastern Moors Partnership is looking for groups of volunteers to help with the task. Last year, schools, scouts and office groups joined us for a day or half-day of planting in an area of woodland creation on Ramsley Moor. This year we're hoping again that the local community will step up to the task. Planting trees is hard work but hugely rewarding, knowing that the 'whips' planted will hopefully grow into a great forest for future generations to enjoy.

For details on how to volunteer, contact bryony.thomson@easternmoors.org.uk

Totley Pharmacy sponsors local football team

We are proud to announce our sponsorship of the under-9s team of Brunsmeer Athletic FC especially as it will be their 50th anniversary next year.

A partnership with a local football team is an extension of so much of our work and our philosophy to help our patients stay healthy through healthy living and exercise. This is especially important at a time when the NHS is creaking under the weight of ever-increasing costs and we are told that if we stay fit we can help.

If you would like advice on staying fit and healthy (or even improve your health) just call in next time you are passing.

We also want to pay back to the community that has kindly supported us over the last 20 years and believe Brunsmeer are a good fit. They are a club which coaches children in the right way and they try to encourage good life values through football coaching. All the boys are a credit to the coaches and it was a pleasure to see their smiles when they were presented with the new kit. Hopefully this partnership can inspire more youngsters locally to get fit

As the season continues we will keep you posted about the team's progress on our Facebook page. Home matches are played at the Dore Recreation ground on Sunday mornings so feel free to come along and offer your support to local children.



The football shirt!



Totley Scouts

At the beginning of the summer I told you that we are to get a new scout hut. Well we are progressing our plans and working out building costs etc. We are also starting our fundraising. Our Explorer section is entering a competition for a large prize towards building a new hut. We are keeping our fingers crossed. Whilst I hope to have a full budget by the time of my next article we think that we will have to raise well over £100,000 in cash. We are also hoping we will be able to raise additional contributions in kind and people providing some free services. If you would like to make a donation please look for the 'Totley Scout Group' page on the BT MyDonate charity donation site. All donations will be gratefully received and help Totley get a new Scout Hut.

Lissy our Beaver leader has been working hard with the beavers all year and has awarded two more Chief Bronze Scout Awards, to Henry Barlow and Harry Wynn. This is the highest achievement awarded to beavers and takes a lot of commitment and work to fulfil all the requirements necessary. Henry Barlow has also been a very busy beaver. Before the summer holiday he set himself a challenge to make as much money as he could for a charity called Roundabout which helps homeless teenagers. He decided he would do an 18.3 mile bike ride along the Monsal trail- bearing in mind he had only ever ridden approx. 3 or 4 miles before this. He did lots of training to work up until the big day, which took months of planning, setting up a sponsor page and getting to know the charity more. In the end he raised just under £700 for the charity! So a massive well done to Henry! The Beavers also had a camp in June at Walesby forest. They arrived at 9.30am on Saturday morning, all fresh faced and full of

excitement for the weekend ahead. There were a variety of activities planned over the weekend including turning the beavers in to superheroes, where they could make their own costumes, and test their super powers in the Cave Maze and on the Low Ropes. They also enjoyed a fantastic campfire and boogied the night away at the disco on the Saturday night before having Smores and a hot chocolate before bed. Lissy is now looking forward to camp next year.



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Could this be our new Scout Hut?

And John Lawry our Explorer Scout Leader has this to say: "The Explorer Scout section has focussed on outdoor activities this Autumn. They have worked with Friends of Gillfield Woods to prepare some land near the Totley bus terminus on Baslow Road to generate a wild flower meadow; they have organised and run their own hike camp in the Hope valley and a night hike around Totley Moss. They have met at Hills-brough swimming pool for a swimming session followed by food; and have also run their own mechanics evening and cooking evening. If you like these activities, and are 15-18yrs why not drop by on Friday evenings to give Explorers a try? Or if you are an adult, enjoy these activities and think you could help me, give me a call (07899-662-818). Thank you. John Lawry, Explorer Scout Leader."

As John implied he could do with some adult help. Especially as after Christmas he is expecting a few more Scouts to move on to Explorers. Our Explorer unit is growing rapidly and regularly attracting more girls and boys. So please, if you are over 18 and would like a rewarding hobby please call John.

Richard Frost, Chairman, 1st Totley Scouts
TotleyChair@aol.com
0114 236 3603

"Down the Aque"

To some of us this refers to the aqueduct, although some may refer to it as "down Akley Bank". This tale, albeit longer than it should have been, is, hopefully the conclusion to one which started in May 2015, and upon which I reported in the last edition.

Regular readers may recall the tale about sewage leaking into the Old Hay Brook from a pipe situated up Akley Bank. I was alerted to the problem by a leading microbiologist who walks his dog in the area.

Cutting a very long story short, I had the good fortune to make contact with a technician from Yorkshire Water. He has been very diligent in his research, testing and explorations, eventually finding a blocked sewer, beneath a garden at a property on Baslow Road. The owner had no knowledge of the problem, as the inspection chamber had been buried by previous owners, whilst levelling the garden.

The technician arranged to have the chamber lifted, the blockage cleared and modifications made to prevent sewage, in the case of a blockage, from entering the top water system, which is designed to drain into the river. He and his manager kept me fully informed throughout their work, and are now monitoring the outfall to ensure that, after 8 weeks of it not discharging, the problem will be declared as resolved. At the time of writing it is over one month without discharge.

Curiously, I heard about a gentleman who had lived in Totley, been away for a few years, and returned. He told a friend that the pipe had been discharging when he left and was still discharging when he returned. My concerns over my efforts taking 17 months to get this matter resolved, pail into insignificance, compared to the time which he, and presumably others, had known about it.

Roger Hart, MCIEH

Solution to Puzzle Corner: a Christmas quiz

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. cracker | 8. berry |
| 2. father Christmas | 9. Christ child |
| 3. stars | 10. a Merry Christmas |
| 4. skaters | 11. church bells |
| 5. present | 12. chocolate |
| 6. snowman | 13. plum pudding |
| 7. goose | 14. ass |
| | 15. sheep |

And the well-known local venue is "Chatsworth House"

'Man with Pram' launches autobiography

No doubt you've seen him. You've probably even read about him. But you've never heard his incredible, inspiring story told all in his own words – until now.

John Burkhill – Sheffield's famous 'mad man with the pram' – has penned his long-awaited autobiography. Published by RMC Media and funded by the people of Sheffield via a Crowd Funding website, it's the fascinating tale of a truly unique life.

'Distance No Object: Sheffield's Man with the Pram' is full of moving memories, insightful pictures from John's own archive and a fair old dose of Yorkshire humour. The book costs £9.99 – with every penny donated towards John's personal goal of raising £1 million for Macmillan.



John, from Handsworth, aged 77 said, "Most people know a little about why I do what I do – many think I'm completely barmy but there are things in this book which I've never really talked about publicly before which people often ask me about. This is my way of telling everyone where it all began, the challenges I've faced and why I love the people of Sheffield so very much."

From his early days in Sheffield to his antics as a teenager, his fundraising races and walks across the country, to the celebrities (and royals!) he's rubbed shoulders with along the way, it really is quite a story.

Wearing his green wig, giant foam hand and pushing his colourful pram - complete with mascot Biggles – John has become a familiar sight on the streets of the Steel City. Even at 77 years old, he spends almost every day walking around Sheffield collecting money for the cause closest to his heart, Macmillan Cancer Support. It's an amazing level of dedication – and one inspired by a terrible personal tragedy.

John's beloved daughter Karen went into hospital for a routine operation, but complications meant she ended up on life support, and she died soon after. Within a year, his wife June passed away from cancer. For John, this loss was a devastating blow – but the tragedy spurred him on to devote his life to helping others in need.

Having raised thousands of pounds for various causes over the years, on his retirement at the turn of the Millennium John decided to focus on one charity in particular, Macmillan. Since then, he has collected more than £350,000 for the charity – but the determined pensioner says he won't stop until he's reached £1 million. Rob Turner, Senior Fundraiser for Macmillan, "John is incredible, and when he came to me

twelve months ago and told me he had written a book – and said "let's get it published" – I knew we would face challenges getting it written, printed and of course into shops. But the thing I've learned from knowing John over the years is that nothing is impossible."

In his green Macmillan outfit, with wig to match, John looks quite the character. But his awe-inspiring achievements have won him personal recognition too. In 2012, he was voted by the people of Sheffield to be a torchbearer when the Olympic torch relay passed through the city. A year later, he was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's honours list.

Co-written with RMC's Adam Kay, 'Distance No Object' tells these stories and many more. And as part of John's fundraising mission, all proceeds after costs from the sale of the book will be going directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

But what's the story behind John's famous pram? To find out, you'll have to get a copy of the book for yourself – and help Sheffield's 'mad man' towards his magical million pound goal in the process. For John Burkhill, distance really is no object.

'Distance No Object: Sheffield's Man with the Pram' is available from Amazon priced at £9.99. To find a local stockist near you, email madwalkerjohn@gmail.com.

Street Tree Felling in Totley

You may have noticed that the controversial early morning street tree felling on Rustlings Road by Endcliffe Park has been all over the national news recently. Residents on Greenoak and Aldam Roads in Totley and maybe others have just received letters from the Council asking them to complete an online survey from November 25th until December 9th. This should detail trees at risk. If you are opposed to these mature trees going, it is really important that you reply. Most trees are not diseased or dangerous, benefit wildlife, help control pollution, keep your houses warmer and give us joy to boot. High failure, short lived, small species as replacements will never do this. There are other technical ways trees could be prevented from obstructing pavements. The council and the contractors Amey have taken almost no notice of city residents opposed to felling so far, but are back footed by the negative publicity now, so anything could happen.

Trees on Abbeydale Park Rise - the ones which delight us all at Christmas with their lights - are due to go soon, as are some trees on The Grove and other roads in Dore and Totley though residents are still fighting hard to keep them. Save Dore Trees have a Facebook Page. If still standing, there will be Christmas Carol event under the trees on Abbeydale Park Rise at 5pm on December 17th.

No matter where you live in Totley, if are at all concerned about the trees on Aldam or Greenoak Roads please contact Sally Goldsmith goldssally@googlemail.com as we may be starting a campaign here to save those that are healthy.

Sally Goldsmith



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TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

- MONDAYS** **COFFEE MORNING**, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am-noon. Transport usually available on request. Tel 236 0872 before 9.45 am.
TAI-CHI, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 11.30am-12.30pm
RAINBOWS and GUIDES, All Saints' Church Hall, 5.45pm-9pm
- TUESDAYS** **SLIMMING WORLD**, Abbeydale Sports Club, 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm, Jo Elsey: 262 0523 or 07590 545253
PILATES, The Old School, Dore, 9.15-10.15am. Phone Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372
COFFEE MORNING. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am-noon
KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT & CHATTER Totley Rise Methodist Church, 12 noon - 3.00pm
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU. Drop in, free, impartial, and confidential. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am-noon
CRAFT GROUP. Totley Library, 2pm
JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON, 2-4 pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom. A weekly afternoon of all forms of recorded jazz, plus discussion. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.
- WEDNESDAYS** **PILATES CLASSES**. Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 9.00-10.00 and 10.15-11.15. Contact Caroline - Tel: 0781 722 0324, email Carolinenorth1@me.com, www.pilatescarolinenorth.co.uk
COFFEE in the Library. 10am-11.30am
STORY TIME in the Library 10.30-11.30am. Craft activities, songs and a story for pre-school children. Call in at the Library for more information.
TODDLER GROUP. 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Andy Holmes 0114 236 2088
HEALTH WALKS. 10.30am, Totley Library. Phone Tina, the Health Walk Ranger: 0114 203 9335
MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING. All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm
CHILDREN'S FITNESS CLASSES for pre-school girls and boys aged 2-5. New class on Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 10.10, Abbeydale Sports Club. Free taster sessions. See www.minimovez.com or call Steph on 07838 818743.
- THURSDAYS** **BELBOBICS**, United Reformed Church, 9.15-10am, email: jenny@belbobics.co.uk or tel 07816 850132.
NCT COFFEE GROUP FOR DORE TOTLEY & BRADWAY, 10am-noon, for mums & babies/toddlers, various locations. Phone Lucy Street 07837 000405 or email: lucy@streetr.plus.com for further details
ROCKCHOIR, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd, 11.30 - 1.00pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276
PUSHCHAIR CLUB. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1.30pm-3pm. Tel. 07912 352543 for details
PILATES CLASS. Pilates classes run by a qualified Pilates Instructor and Physiotherapist for all abilities and ages. Class is held on Thursday 1.30pm - 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road. If interested call Emer on 07792422909.

DECEMBER

- THURS 8th, FRI 9th and SAT 10th: DORE MALE VOICE CHOIR** Christmas Concerts, Dore Parish Church, 7.00 pm. For tickets or further information please email enquiries@doremalevoicechoir.com
SAT 10th: FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10 am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 16.
WED 14th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Spitewinter Concert. Sheffield Folk Chorale and special guest John Kirkpatrick, at Ecclesall Church, Ringinglow Road. Time and travel arrangements t.b.a. Traditional and new seasonal songs
TUES 20th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: Christmas Party. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.

JANUARY

- MON 9th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD**: Talk on the 'Wild Plants of the Porter Valley' with Kenneth Balkow. Totley Library, 7.30 pm. For more information see page 16.
WED 11th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by John Doornkamp 'Water-The Journey of a drop of Water from Clouds to the Oceans and back again' Visitors welcome..
TUES 17th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: Gerry Kersey, 'Radio Encounters with Celebrity'. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.
WED 25th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: Chris Corker, "The Sheffield Armament Industry up to 1914" Totley Library, 7.30 pm.
WED 25th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Cdr. Alan Yorke 'From Defeat to the Turning of the tide in the Pacific' Visitors welcome.
SUN 22nd: FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10 am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 16.

Mark and Sally Fletcher invite you to

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Saturdays 12.00 to 3.00pm and 6.30pm. to 9.00pm (drinks - open all day)
Sundays 12.00 to 9.00pm
Phone 01433 630 423

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 Totley people know about, please send details to Totley Independent (copydates are provided on the back page or on our website at www.totleyindependent.co.uk) and we'll do our best to include the information on this Diary page!

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Proof readers: Chris & Margaret Spencer

Items for publication may be left at or sent to:
2, Main Avenue, Totley, Sheffield, S17 4FG

www.totleyindependent.co.uk

Printed by PREMIER PRINT DIRECT

www.premierprintgroup.co.uk

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT for February/March

The next issue of the Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on

Saturday 4th February

COPY CLOSE DATE for this issue

will be

Saturday 14th January

Published by Totley Independent CIC. Totley Independent is a registered Community Interest Company, number 07750166. We welcome letters about local affairs and will publish as many as possible. Items will not be considered that are submitted anonymously. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or the editorial staff and must not be attributed to them. © Totley Independent 2016