

Totley Independent

Published continuously since 1977

www.totleyindependent.co.uk

June/July 2017

No. 386

20p



The Cross Scythes, Baslow Road, in the 1940s - or was it the 1950s? Note the Police Call Box on the right.

Totley 'Independent' 40 years old in July!

A Salute to Local (Volunteer) Heroes!

My. How time does fly.

Can it really be 40 years since we bought our first edition of Totley Independent and didn't Brian Edwards do us all proud with his interpretation of "An Independent Totley"

The magazine was launched in Green Oak Park on 4th July 1977 (Totley Independence Day) at the revival of Totley Sports Night and Totley Residents Association.

Producing a local magazine continuously for 40 years is no mean feat, especially when not one issue has ever been missed. And here is issue 386 !

However, producing a magazine is only

the starting point. How does it get into the shops and pubs? Manpower. That is the answer and for nearly forty years that man has been John Perkinson, apart from the first few months, when Geoff Nixon delivered the magazine.

John has distributed the Totley Independent, collected the receipts, organised the adverts and their revenue and even been 'Notice Board Poster Executive'. Sterling work and all in a totally voluntary capacity.

John (and ever-patient Pauline) has also managed to store hundreds of back copies, in readiness for the Antiques Roadshow, which brings back memories of the early days when the magazine came back from the printers in loose-leaf form and both John's and my family had to fold and collate, by hand, over a thousand copies, each and every month.

There have been, to date, seven editors of the magazine - Brian Edwards, Mike Williamson, John Butterwick, Maurice Snowden, Les Firth, Ian Clarke and currently Phil Harris. John has faithfully served all 7. (By far the vast majority of these stalwarts were not born in Totley, such is the attraction that the area has).

Little did I think, in those far off days, that I would be asked to contribute to celebrate 40 years of Totley Independent.

So we look forward to celebrating 50 years and hopefully the magazine will still continue to report "all things Totley" - although it's anyone's guess what the format might be!

Technology marches on.

Long live paper!

Mike Williamson



Congratulations to Totley 'Independent' for 40 years of serving the Totley Community!



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On the Beat

I'm delighted to say that as I write I have very little to report to you! Our recent spate of burglaries has slowed down, and the sequence of van thefts we recently suffered from has also abated. However, I've no reason to be complacent and would continue to urge you all to take the basic steps I've mentioned before to try and protect yourself from burglars, particularly as the sun comes out (a hopeful prediction) and we all like to spend a little more time enjoying the garden or sitting outside. Please remember if you are out at the rear of your house, make sure the front is secure - both doors and windows. At night make sure all downstairs windows are closed and locked if you have locks. Also make sure any upstairs windows you leave open for ventilation are either in occupied rooms, or locked in the vent position. Recent burglaries in other areas have seen wheelie bins used to climb onto flat roofs to reach windows left open! Another recent trend is to reach through letterboxes/cat flaps etc to get to keys left inside the door. Don't make it easy. Cold calling and telephone scams are still a source of concern. Remember - for anything you are unsure about, just say 'no thank you' politely, and shut the door or hang up the phone. Contact me if any call has particularly worried you.

In other news, I'm also very pleased to say that Woodseats is about to benefit from 5 new PCSOs. For the S17 area this means the return of Ken Blake who will now be covering Greenhill/Bradway leaving my way clear to concentrate on Dore & Totley. A little less shoe leather for me to use! Ken is familiar with the area having covered Bradway previously so is looking forward to settling back in. An extended team across Sheffield South West will hopefully allow us both to spend more time on our dedicated areas and focus on local issues. As ever though we cannot be everywhere at once so rely on you to let us know where there are any concerns or matters you'd like us to look at. At present you can contact Ken through me and we'll publicise his contact number soon. My contact details are the usual: email adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk and work mobile number 07787 881945. Neighbourhood watch members can also contact me through their local rep, if you are unsure who this might be please let me know and I'll pass on their contact details.

Wishing you all a happy, sunny and safe Summer! (We can but hope...) Thanks!

PCSO 8136 Adrian Tolson
Dore, Totley and Bradway Area Contact
Sheffield SW LPT
Woodseats Police Station
07787 881945



Transport 17

Thankfully we seem to be avoiding the kind of weather that throws us into chaos but we are having a hard time with volunteers. A classic example is that 3 drivers are all off at same time. Mike Finn might be good at spreading himself out but it becomes somewhat impossible when he is already committed to driving his own routes. Are there any able-bodied 25+ drivers willing to give us a day a week on a regular basis? Please, we really are struggling! The whole existence of T17 is a body of volunteers and unfortunately we are all getting older and not able to commit as many hours as in the past. Please contact John Savournin or Mike Finn on 2362962, Monday to Friday - 9am - 12 noon.

We would like to thank Dore and Totley United Reform Church for a donation of £200.

Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 1st July at the Cross Scythes, 10,00 to 12 noon. Everyone will be welcome as always. I am sorry I wasn't able to announce our last coffee morning but we hadn't planned it until after the deadline date. Will try to do better next time.

See you soon,
Felicity Revill

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AT TOTLEY LIBRARY 2017!

- ***Art Competition*** pre-school and school age children
"Mad About Minibeasts" - four different age categories
- ***Summer Reading Challenge***
"Animal Agents"
- ***Music and Creative Art Session*** 5-11yrs
with Jill Vincent from Broomhill Music
Monday July 24th 2.00-4.00pm
- ***Story Time*** pre-school and school age children
"Minibeasts" on Wednesday July 26th 10.30-11.30am
- ***Nature Hunt*** Families and accompanied children
A walk into Gillfield Wood led by Chris Measures
on Friday July 28th 10.30-12.30pm
- ***Dance Workshop*** 8-14yrs
part of The Children's University Festival of Fun 2017
with Amanda Holland
on Wednesday August 2nd, 10.30-12.30pm

Call in at the library for more information
or telephone 2363971

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

Correction

It has been pointed out to us that there was an incorrect statement on the front page of the last issue of Totley Independent.

In the article about Totley Residents Association, we stated that a case had been carefully prepared, some time ago, for a community centre for Totley, and that no support had been forthcoming from the council or the then MP for the area. At the time, the MP was John Osborne, and not Irvine Patnick as stated.

We apologise for this error.

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...but his mower wouldn't go!

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Dore Classic and Performance Car Show 2017

Dore Club, Townhead Road, once again hosts the Dore Classic Car Show as part of the opening weekend of the Dore Festival on July 1st from 1pm.

It's when the locals can bring out their gleaming pride and joy for all to see. There'll be the usual mix of interesting modern classics, high-performance sports cars and some very special old rarities, plus the motorbike section. The club bar will be open with its real ales for the spectators.

Any readers interested in displaying their vehicles please contact Dore Club via president@doreclub.co.uk for more details.

De La Salle Crown Green Bowling

Crown green bowling - now is the time to try this fascinating game. The De La Salle club is looking for new members and is offering two free sessions. You can borrow the bowls. Just turn up, with flat shoes, at 6.30 any Monday evening or 10.30 am any Thursday. You will be very welcome.

The club is located in beautiful grounds next door to Beauchief Hall, off Abbey Lane, and is surrounded by historic buildings, golf courses and a deer park.

For fuller directions or more information phone Alan Haigh on Sheffield 230 3070.

Holmesfield Church Walking Group

Youlgrave Walk

On Wednesday 28th June at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from the Farmyard Inn which is at the top end of Youlgrave. We will walk through the fields to Lathkill Dale, then into Bradford Dale and back to the Farmyard for lunch (optional).

The cost of the walk is £3 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church maintenance fund. The walk is approximately 5 miles long but shortcuts are available. If you would like to come just turn up on the day. If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246 412767.

Totley Show 2017

Saturday 16th September

The Entry Form and Class Categories can be found in this issue of Totley Independent.

As I mentioned in the last issue we have some new Classes: *Domestic Section*: Open Class. Cake- any recipe, flavour and decoration. Get baking everyone, let your imagination run wild!

Fresh Produce: A plate of mixed vegetables, salad or leaves (minimum 5) and note that we have reinstated Courgettes.

Woodwork Section: Open Class

Art and Sculpture: An Original Poem.

Children's Section: An Original Poem. A decorated Gingerbread Man.

We are organising lots of fun and games for children including a Bouncy Castle.

There will be inside and outside stalls, refreshments, raffles and entertainment from the Seven Hills Quartet and the Rock Choir.

This is an annual community event organised by members of Totley community. We need your help on Friday 15th September in the evening to lend a hand setting up. On the day we need people to make and serve refreshments, act as Stewards and patrol the car park. You don't have to attend any meetings!

So if you can assist on the 15th or 16th September (or both) or if you need further information please contact me at the email below.

Let's make the 32nd Totley Show the best one ever!

Hetty Moran, Chairman, Totley Show.

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Totley Scouts

The saga of our new Scout Headquarters rumbles on. It is nearly 5 years since the council were first approached about renewing our lease. Until the lease is renewed we cannot even carry out proper fundraising for a new building as many donors won't be interested until the new lease is actually signed. Due to legal technicalities because of the long time that it has taken, there is another delay of at least two months. We do not anticipate signing the new lease until late summer at the earliest. We were asked to pay £800 for the legal notices that are required because of the delay. So we contacted our local Councillor, Colin Ross, who, I am pleased to say, acted very speedily and persuaded the legal department to pay instead, as the delay was in no way our fault.

I have letters from 30 years ago when negotiating our old lease showing it took several years then. So nothing changes!

Donations for our new Scout Hut have now gone over the £3,000 mark. We are grateful to Totley Open Gardens for agreeing a donation from this year's event. We won't know how much until later in the year after TOG have counted how much they have raised. We need a lot more money though. We have a good small group of parents who work in building services who so far have provided a great deal more in free time than we have generated from fundraising. We will be looking for donations of items such as toilets, kitchen units and radiators. Hopefully some local builders will be able to help in due course.



Congratulations to Moria, David, Thomas, Henry, Morgan and the two Evans for an excellent performance in coming second in the Hallam District Scout Scarper competition. Hard luck, there were only 5 points in it. The team had to visit various other Scout HQ's, by bus using a day-pass, and take part in activities such as obstacle course, fire lighting, sedan chair race and archery. Points were awarded with a bonus for distance travelled between bases.

Congratulations as well to Thomas Freeman, Louis Fletcher and Evan Doyle who completed their first expedition - a two-day hike from Edale to Hathersage, camping overnight halfway and cooking their meals.

We also held an archery day (in addition to the normal Friday evening session) when various Scouts came along and had a go.

Despite the weather being grey, overcast and a tad chilly, Saturday 6th May saw the beavers attending the Fun Day at Hesley Wood Activity Centre along with at least 200 other beavers. The day was filled with opportunities for the beavers to try their skills and just enjoy themselves. They had the chance to try out archery, grass sledging, pedal go-karts (some drivers needing a certain amount of help from the staff more than others) circus skills, inflatable helter skelter, bouncy castles and mini golf to name but a few. The beavers had a thoroughly enjoyable day and were sad to go home at the end, but the leaders were happy just to be able to warm up again! However, luckily for the beavers, camp is only just

around the corner so they don't have to wait long for more days out!

All sections are busily planning and training for their camps over the next few months, ranging from a night away for Beavers, to a whole week for Scouts and Explorers.

Our new website (www.215thtotleyscouts.co.uk) and Facebook page are getting a lot of views. Please take a look. There is lots of useful information and news stories. You can also follow the links to Facebook (or find by searching for 215th Sheffield - 1st Totley Scout Group) and our donation page on BT Mydonate. So you will be able to get up-to-the-minute news without waiting for the Totley Independent! Also, if you are on Facebook it would help us if you follow our Facebook page. It will increase the awareness of Scouting in Totley and hopefully help with fundraising for the new building.



Sainsburys have just finished giving out Active Kid vouchers when you shopped with them. You still have time to pass them onto the Scout group. We use them to swap for valuable equipment for Scouts.

Last year we concentrated on kitchen equipment but previously we have also received play equipment, and even a Bear Grylls survival kit. With your help, we can obtain even more. Either hand them to someone you know who is involved with scouts, or simply post them through our letterbox. This year you can also post them through the letterbox of 181 Baslow Road. It is very easy to find as it is next door to the Co-op. Thank you to those of you who have already posted them through our letterbox or passed them on.

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

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Chris has Coffee with Julie Gay

This is the first in a series of meetings with people who keep Totley ticking over

Totley's Green and Pleasant face takes some polishing; and today I am having coffee with one of the people who modestly but insistently keeps it shining.

Julie Gay may not be known to you, but you will be benefiting from her caretaking; and I wanted to hear from her how she views us Totley-ites as she continues on her rounds..... and how snorkelling amidst distant coral and manta rays led Julie Gay to become one of our champions for a cleaner, litter-free Totley.



Julie Gay

As she was swimming in some of the world's most beautiful settings, she became powerfully aware of how damaging human activity can be, and how one cannot expect nature to clean up after us: we should become part of the solution. "Something should be done about all the detritus in the sea". Through direct action, and through lobbying, one can play ones part, however simply.

Closer to home, Julie began noticing how, similarly, neglect and indifference can lead to a downward spiral in the quality of our neighbourhood settings; and again felt that she would wish to reverse the process in however a modest but concerted way. So began the regular litter-picks that Julie organizes in our part of Sheffield. There are many such teams throughout the city: people who realize that their efforts can and do make a difference.

Now, there is convincing research from the Home Office which shows that neglect breeds neglect and decline. How does this work? An area covered in litter and graffiti sends a message that no-one cares, and that indeed it is OK to add to the decline, whereas a well-maintained road or park sends the message of a caring community - walking through, one wouldn't dream of littering.

Julie grew up in the rural beauty of the Vale of Evesham, until the family moved into urban Birmingham; and the contrasts

between the two shaped her sensibilities about the quality of the local environment. She doesn't condemn those who litter without thought, but she would wish to influence young people through their schools to realize what an impact we are all having, from the scale of the dropped piece of litter right through to the global effects of consumer and lifestyle choices; and how serious and immediate are the environmental challenges. Were Julie to ask her climate scientist son if the situation has been over-hyped, she knows that the answer would be a resounding "no". She, like he, despairs of politicians who dismiss the evidence in front of us.

Are we in Totley less aware and caring? From one who regularly patrols our area, with her team ("please stress that we are a team"), Julie reports that many people who see them in action are appreciative; yet this hasn't eliminated the problem; and there will probably always will be those who just don't care.

But for every astonished young teenager who witnesses an older person stop, pick up an item of litter that is not their responsibility and carry it to the nearest bin, maybe the thought gets home that we are all in this together.

Thank you, Julie and your fellow Totleyites, for your continuing and insistent presence!

Chris Spencer (Julie and Chris met for the TI interview at Rendezvous on Baslow Road)

Totley Pharmacy on Facebook!

Thank you to all of you who have passed on kind words about my articles published in the Totley Independent over the last year. However, it seems this is not the modern way to communicate; ink and paper have been replaced by computers, tablets and smartphones. More people are now getting their newsfeed through social media rather than the traditional methods of newspapers. While many of us have misgivings about these new platforms, they do have enormous advantages - mainly the speed at which new information can be relayed and the convenience of reading it across many devices. They are also free to the user.

I will continue to contribute articles to the Totley Independent and hopefully you will find my musings useful, but from now we will also be using the 'Totley Pharmacy' Facebook page to share information with the local community.



This will allow us to share information on a more frequent basis, and also on a wider range of subjects. We will also be sharing news of our regular special offers and running regular competitions. Last month we gave away 2 tickets to see Sheffield boxer Kell Brook defend his World Championship at Bramall Lane!

Please help us to make this page a success by liking and sharing the page!

Taj Singh

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

Joe Otten 230 3290
Email: joe.otten@sheffield.gov.uk

Martin Smith 0781 205 5346
Email: martin.smith@sheffield.gov.uk

Totley Rise Methodist Church

Summer at Totley Rise Methodist Church

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

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

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

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

9.30 – 10am 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.

Totley Rise Methodist Church welcomes you.... We extend a warm and friendly welcome to you from the community here at Totley Rise Methodist Church.

Everyone is welcome. You are welcome if you are a lifelong follower of Jesus or if you are a seeker, or just starting to wonder... or if you have just hopped off the bus and you're looking for refreshment for your onward journey.

Come along and meet us at one of our services or group activities.

Men's Breakfast: Totley Rise Methodist Church, Saturday 10 June at 9.30am. John Kirkman will give a talk on Birds of Prey.

Would you like to begin your Saturday with a complimentary English breakfast and great conversation?

Men's Breakfast meets on occasional Saturdays during the year at 9.30 am. Our speakers have covered topics ranging from football legends to life as a long-haul airline pilot. All men are welcome - no pressure, and an easy environment. For more information see the Church website or contact Richard on 236 3157, evenings.

Focus Church: Totley Rise Methodist Church, Sunday 11 June, 3.00-4.30pm

A special church for people with learning disabilities and cognitive difficulties. The service is a time for worship, creativity, fun and fellowship . . . and an opportunity for carers to chill.

The services are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3 – 4.30pm. The July service will be on the 9th. If you are interested, please come along or if you would like to know more, please contact Sue or John Freeman

on 0114 2366819 or email sueandjohn6@talktalk.net. **Please note there is no Focus Church throughout August.**

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 has 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!

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 2.0 – 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 0114 2369002.

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.

Holiday Club: Monday 14 August – Wednesday 16 August, 5 – 11year olds. 9.45am – 12noon, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Games, fun, crafts, a quiz, stories and prizes. There is a charge of £5 and please book your places as soon as possible. Phone Rachel 07912 352543

Totley Open Gardens: 8th and 9th July. The Quiet Garden at Totley Rise Methodist Church will again be part of the Totley Open Gardens and will be selling plants to boost the funds that go to local charities.

Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter: Every Tuesday, 12.00noon -3.00pm, TRMC Centre. They may natter and chatter but they are certainly productive. 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: 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 Deano 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.

Friends of Gillfield Wood

Bird Walk

www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com

29 April 2017: What a strange week it had been weather wise; wind, sleet, snow, rain with a bit of sun occasionally breaking through. Come the day of the walk, Saturday, when there had been no prediction of rain, we woke up to a dull overcast morning, and as we gathered at the Scout Hut off Aldam Road at 0800, rain was lightly falling.

However, despite the weather, it was an excellent turnout of members and non-members – twenty-five in total, the highest attendance for one of our quarterly bird walks. There was, as always, plenty of friendly chatter and laughing as we prepared for the off. Then the beautiful rich song of a Blackbird from a nearby garden was heard, and was pointed out to the group. Everyone fell duly silent to listen and enjoy. This was accompanied by the delightful song of a Robin, so often heard but not always recognised. Certainly, two good starters to help members of the group learn their bird song if they wished!

Then suddenly, the loud explosive song of a male Blackcap was detected. So often this bird sings from dense cover and is not always easy to watch singing for any length of time but on this occasion, it remained on bare branches at the top of a large Ash tree for all to see. Pleasingly everyone got good views of this handsome warbler - greyish brown with its distinctive black cap. This bird had probably just arrived from a winter in Africa, a summer migrant, and was hopefully here to breed successfully in our own Gillfield Wood - what a nice thought!

As the group moved slowly away from the Scout Hut, the trilling song of Wrens rang out from various places to our left and right. And as we all stood together in a clearing, that well-known cooing of Woodpigeons could be heard. It was here, as Blue Tits called and moved amongst the bushes, that we had a small bird dart over our heads and when it returned on the same flight path in undulating fashion, its bullet-like shape was noted, as were its short wings and blue-grey upperparts. Together these confirmed it was a Nuthatch. As it was being explained that Nuthatches have a number of different calls, and can descend head-first down a tree, unlike Treecreepers, another tree-loving species was heard to drum from a nearby tree. It was a Great Spotted Woodpecker. Although we got very close we just could not spot this elusive bird amongst the branches above our heads. It even moved and drummed again in an adjacent tree, yet no-one managed to see it fly across the gap - that's bird-watching for you!



Nuthatch (photo: Andy Brewster)

It was in this same clearing that we heard the distinctive and continuous "chiff-chaff" song of another early summer visitor as it worked its way through the tops of some trees: the song a wonderful sign of spring. This small bird was of course a Chiffchaff; a member of the leaf-warbler family - a *Phylloscopus*. It is always a delight to watch this warbler - a restless feeder, only 11cm long, with grey brown upperparts and a lovely yellow tinge to the lighter colours below.

And so we moved on. We left behind Dunnock and Bullfinch calling, and another Blackcap singing from the deep vegetation around us, whilst one lucky member caught sight of a smart little Tree Sparrow high in an old Oak tree. This would be one of a handful of Tree Sparrows that seem to be just holding on in this local area. Our next stop found us watching a Blue Tit going to a nest box at the edge of the wood, the box being one of a dozen that have been erected by the Scouts. Hopefully it will successfully breed this season because Blue Tits and Great Tits had a hard time nationally rearing young last year due to unfavourable weather conditions.



Goldcrest singing (photo: Andy Brewster)

Here we also watched a pair of colourful Mandarin Ducks waddle up the bank at the side of Topley Brook and settle down quietly together underneath a Hawthorn bush. We wondered where they might be breeding in the wood this year.

As we stepped inside the wood a variety of common woodland birds were heard singing but suddenly everyone stopped and stared as a wonderful Jay flew into a tree next to us! You almost felt you could touch it! And then another one appeared close by. You didn't need binoculars to appreciate this member of the Crow family with its pinkish-buff body colour, the blue and black in the wings and, when it moved, the white rump. No raucous call this time, just great views.

The song of Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush were heard, compared, discussed and added to our tally as we slowly walked the footpath through the wood. The Mistle Thrush as usual was singing from the very top of a large Larch tree so it tested our neck muscles as we bent backwards to pick it out amongst the branches above our heads. Strongly marked

with large spots on a puffed out chest, this bird was in full song.

By now the weather had improved so it was decided to continue the walk outside the wood and do a short circuit through the fields on the north side of the wood - that's the Totley side, quite often referred to as the fields of Totley Hall. The hope was to see some new species for the morning. Immediately, the call of Goldfinches was detected as they flew out of hedgerow trees and headed towards the wood - a good start! Then the metallic call and song of Chaffinches were heard. As our eyes scanned the new habitat around us, a pair of Stock Doves was spotted in a hedge at the far end of the field we were in. Smaller and slimmer than a Woodpigeon, their flapping pale grey wings, with no white markings in the wings, drew our attention to them. Often overlooked, these birds of wooded farmland are always lovely to see. They nest in the holes of trees, and so are in competition with Little Owls which do similar.

The clouds had now lifted, and it was brighter and warmer, so it had been mentioned that there was every chance of seeing a bird of prey. And then sure enough, a cry went out..."Buzzard!". Before we knew it, with all eyes to the sky, one, two, four birds were "picked up" flying, drifting and soaring. One of the birds was even being chased by a Carrion Crow above the east end of the wood. They twisted and turned in the sky, the Crow clearly wanting to move the Buzzard away from its territory. There was much excitement within the group as everyone had excellent views of one or more of these special birds that now hunt and breed successfully in our area.

Moving on, the distinctive rattling call of Lesser Redpoll in flight was heard as a small party suddenly appeared from the wood to land in a large Oak tree by the side of our path. It gave us a great opportunity to study these little finches through a telescope, as they chattered and fed amongst the opening foliage. Their yellow bills, red fore-crowns, white wing-bars and heavily streaked bodies were noted and some adult males were picked out of the flock of thirty or more, as they have such a super pinkish-red flush to the breast. It was also really nice to hear members of our group getting as excited to encounter these birds as they were to watch the Buzzards.

Time was getting on, so once again we had to drag ourselves away and head on to our start point. Needless to say we still had plenty more opportunities to see Great Spotted Woodpecker as we heard their calls and more drumming. However it was only when we were coming to the end of the walk that we were alerted to a number of short sharp "kick" calls and then we managed to see two birds, almost certainly a pair, as they flew out into the open from the edge of the wood. White, black and red flashed before us, as both birds shot across the corner of the field. Someone mentioned they had not realised just how quickly Woodpeckers can fly, especially when in a downward trajectory.



Peacock Butterfly (photo: Andy Brewster)

To make it a true Bird and Butterfly Walk, in the final stretch, it was pleasing to encounter a solitary Peacock Butterfly

which landed on a grassy track in front of us: with wings wide open it was close enough for all to admire. Certainly the weather had improved throughout the morning, so it was a fitting end to the walk when this butterfly appeared to indicate sun and warmth and then a beautiful Swallow with long tail streamers shot over our heads as if to say "Don't worry, summer is on its way!" All agreed it had been another very enjoyable walk. Out with nature and good company....a perfect start to the weekend!

Chris Measures

The next of our quarterly bird walks is planned for Saturday August 12th. We will be meeting at 8am at the Scout Hut off Aldam Road. It is "come and go" as you please, and don't worry if you don't have a pair of binoculars they are certainly not essential, so we hope to see you there.

Please remember that you will be made very welcome on any of the events run by Friends of Gillfield Wood and you do not have to be a member to attend. If you happen to be interested in one of our outdoor events, no experience is necessary to take part, so do come along and join us. Just check out the diary of FOGW events in this publication or go onto and explore our website www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com. You will find that we have indoor meetings in the library when we invite guest speakers who usually present illustrated talks. In addition we have conservation work mornings on a regular basis in the wood for anyone wishing to get involved.



Totley History Group

Programme 2017

28th June 'Days of Sunshine and Rain - Peak District Rambling in the 1920s'. A talk by Ann Beedham with words and photographs from the life of George Willis Marshall who

who was a keen walker and who took lots of photos in the 1920s and 1930s as he wandered the hills of Derbyshire with his friends. They were pioneers of the 'right to roam' and took part in the famous Kinder Trespass of 1932. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

26th July: 'The History of Newspapers in Sheffield' a talk by Alan Powell. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.

Please note that there will be no meeting in August.

27th Sept. David Templeman, 'The Final Journey: Mary Queen of Scots'. Totley Library, 7.30 pm.



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The Poetry Slot....

..... for just this issue becomes the Gillfield Wood Song Slot!

Sally Goldsmith

This month, how could I resist featuring a song composed with children and parents after a visit to our very own Gillfield Wood? The workshop to create it was part of our Woodland Trust Tree Charter activities. Tootley Library agreed to partner and help us. You can hear a rough recording at <https://soundcloud.com/sally-goldsmith/gillfield-wood-song>

Gillfield Wood is often the site of surveys, walks and conservation activities, all organised by the busy Friends group. But making a song, and with children too - now that's more unusual, and perhaps the reason why only two little lads turn up, one with his mum, one with his dad on this Sunday May morning. (Worried about 'nature deprivation'? Come on parents - take them to the woods and join in our activities!) We meet at the end of Tootley Hall Lane by the field gate. I explain that once, hundreds of years ago, the fields here were wood too. Then I hand out pencils, leaf shaped green notebooks. And we're off.

The veteran oaks at the edges of the fields are beginning to dress themselves in spring frocks. The wood stretches itself before us. We turn our heads like owls to take in its curve, the glimpse of moors behind us, but it's the dandelion clocks which attract the lads - hundreds of them, perfect soft globes across the field. We crouch, look, blow them to find out the time. Over the ladder stile, and we're into the wood's dark, bluebells and wood anemones scattered like little lamps. We look up at leaves 'spattered' against the sky, down at the perfect bells 'like little hats', across at the 'worming stream,' listen to a crow 'creaking'. I set them the challenge to walk on the path for a while, making no noise at all. They do, creeping, and a woman comes toward us and starts to creep too! We close our eyes, listen to the call of chiffchaffs, the 'tripling' stream. Later, we find the old hollow oak with its 'octopus arms' and its rope swing. It's bark is "dry and cracked". We harvest our words.

Back across the park to the library where with the words from our leaf notebooks, the back of a huge roll of wallpaper and some markers, we write the song, finding a tune with the help my accordion. Afterward there is cake from the lovely library volunteers.

The Song of Gillyfield Wood

Chorus: I am Gillyfield Wood
Sitting in the fields,
I am Gillyfield Wood
And I can see the moors.

1. Welcome through my dandelion clocks,
You can clamber over my stile,
Into the haze of bluebell hats
And listen to my tripling stream.
2. My leaves are spattered against the sky,
My branches twist and turn so high,
Chiffchaffs chaffing and creaking crows,
Follow my worming stream that flows.
3. Come inside my dry cracked oak,
Swing and swing on its octopus arms,
Crouch inside - it's like a house,
Creep under my leaves like a quiet mouse.



Closing our eyes and listening on the bridge



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Join Hare and Hatter on their enchanted Wonderland Walk!

You don't have to fall down a rabbit to join Alice on a magical adventure...you simply have to join Hare and Hatter's Wonderland Walk!

Children of all ages – and their parents too – will love discovering the dream world of Lewis Carroll's classic fantasy novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* as they take part in a special afternoon of adventure and support St Luke's Hospice.

Join the March Hare and the Mad Hatter at 2pm on Sunday July 2 in Ecclesall Woods for the most imaginative 5k sponsored walk of the summer.

An experience for all ages, the walk is a fantastic new opportunity to have fun with the family and raise vital funds for St Luke's care by raising sponsorship as a team or family.

"Every kilometre you walk together will help us continue to be there for people across Sheffield, when they need us most," said St Luke's Events Co-ordinator Greg van Heeswijk.

Beginning on Limb Lane in Dore, participants will journey through the enchanting Ecclesall Woods with family and friends, experiencing wonderfully creative and interactive areas that tell the story of Alice from Lewis Carroll's wacky Wonderland.

At the end of the walk there will be celebrations for all with games, food, drink and music.

The registration fee is £16 per adult and £11 per child with under the age of four going free.

"As this is a woodland walk, the path is rugged but accessible for hardy wheelchairs and buggies," Greg added. "More information about this event will follow soon but in the meantime if you have any questions, please email us at hareandhatter@hospicesheffield.co.uk."



Young St Luke's supporter Aurelia Broadhead as Alice

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Gardening tips for June and July

it's bank holiday, which does not make much difference to us retired oldies, except the gym is a bit busier at our usual time, or the garden centres are crowded with all those expectant gardeners looking for some exciting garden goodies. It's raining – typical English bank holiday. I thought it would please the editor if I got this copy into him earlier and I am not keen to get wet and there is nothing that can't wait in the garden.

The bedding plants are hardening off in the cold frames, all the cutting and other plants. The veg garden is starting to look organised with lettuce (now ready after overwintering) and sweetcorn – I've never grown it before but new strains have been developed for our climate so I'm giving it a go. We do like it on the cob with a coating of butter – delicious!

The raspberries are looking good after a poor start and a lot of the broccoli is almost finished. A new batch is already planted ready for next spring – it really is worth growing - half a dozen plants give more than enough for four people for quite some time and it is very good for you. The greenhouse is very crowded with plants waiting for the warmer weather. We have geraniums, begonias, asters, petunias, fuchsias, phlox (popstars) French and African marigolds..... By the way the English Marigold (calendulas) I planted in the new top garden have given us a real treat and have come on really well.

The ginger lilies are on standby. I hope they come good, as they are quite a good talking point and give off a lovely perfume. I am sticking to my old favourite tomatoes, Sungold. They are small (one bite!), orange and have a superb flavour; and also Moneymaker which my neighbour grows and passes a few over the fence. They are the traditional type, red, and good flavour and very prolific – 30 on a truss is not unusual. I am looking forward to sampling them usually around my birthday on July 13 (nod nod wink wink!).

Cucumbers and courgettes are on standby waiting for space in the greenhouse. It won't be long now until the Topley show comes round again. The schedule is in this issue of Topley independent. I hope you will give a bit of thought to having a go at some of the entries. It's not just veg and flowers you know! You can join me in entering a Dundee cake (come on fellas, let's show them a thing or two!) In the domestic section I came second last year. Photography could have done with more entries. Take a look at the schedule and see if you can brush up your artwork, finish knitting that lovely jumper, let's see some more woodwork – you never know, you might win a prize or a medal. Medals are for the children's sections so get them cracking on a Lego model, colour photo etc.

We recently visited Bodnant Gardens in North Wales. We went by coach and on the way down we met a good Samaritan. The coach had a problem with fan belts or something and had to stop fortunately it was outside a public house. The landlord saw the predicament and took pity on 40 or so pensioners and offered us the use of the pub and a cup of coffee and a bite to eat if anyone wanted. We were there for about an hour – this was about mid-morning. When the coach came back from repairs, we had all got to know everyone and enjoyed the break! We arrived at Bodnant around 1230. The traffic was quite light so the driver had made up for the lost time.

The gardens are vast and quite hilly with enormous trees and very colourful shrubs. The rhododendrons and azaleas were very colourful and a pleasant surprise lay around every corner – the spring flowers were just finished but the tulips were in abundance and gave a colourful backdrop to the other plants just emerging. Of course as with all these coach trips, the time there is never enough. It takes 24 gardeners to service the 32 hectares of ground. The lakes we saw from a distance because the legs at this stage were running out of fuel though we did see a small waterfall and the ornamental gardens. I think another trip is in order to see what looks like being a spectacular rose display – the only one we saw was a lovely scented rambler going over an archway. I would certainly recommend a visit but bear in mind that you would need a bigish garden to copy most of the layout – though you might pick up a few planned ideas for your plot.



Bodnant Gardens, North Wales

Don't forget the tips offered two months so don't go mad in the first month and find yourself a bit in front on the second, like I very often do!

June

Flowers: Keep an eye on all newly-planted bedding and other plants, and keep them well watered during dry spells. A bit of liquid feed added to the water now and again will give an added benefit, but keep it off the leaves if it is sunny when you are applying it. Stake and tie any taller plants as they grow, otherwise they will be damaged or broken by the wind.

You can lift and divide hardy primulas such as primula denticulata, primula japonica etc. as soon as they have finished flowering. As alpine plants in the rock garden finish flowering, trim back the growth to keep them neat and compact.

Biennials such as Canterbury Bells, wallflowers and sweet williams may be sown now. Bedding plants should be safe enough now from frost, so if you haven't planted them, do so now. Place chrysanthemums in their summer quarters, standing them on ashes or gravel to give good drainage, and keep them well watered.

Divide mossy saxifrages if they have a brown centre. Discard the brown pieces, and replant the green clumps in a semi-shaded place in a good humus soil, leaf-mould or moss peat, and keep well watered for a few weeks. Deadhead peonies after flowering and cut back oriental poppies.

Vegetables: Keep all vegetables well-watered and fed, especially during dry weather. Plant out outdoor tomatoes, sweetcorn, runner beans, marrows and ridge cucumbers. Plant out leeks for winter/spring use and celery for autumn/winter. Sow leaf chicory, endive, spinach and leaf beet for use in autumn/winter. Make succession sowings of beet, carrot, dwarf beans, peas, lettuce, salad onions and radish. Take cuttings from rosemary and sage, and root in pots on a window sill. Pick any vegetables as soon as they are ready - this will encourage more cropping.

To help rhubarb build up new crowns for next year, stop picking. Any flower shoots that appear should be removed and the plants should be well watered and fed. They would also

appreciate a top dressing of compost (I put custard on mine!! Ha ha!). Pinch out the tips of broad beans.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Keep newly planted shrubs and trees well watered. Remove the dead tips of cotoneaster and cherry. Don't forget to pick the seed of laburnum, especially if there are children around. Give azaleas, rhododendron, camellias and hydrangeas a feed of sequestrine. You can take semi-ripe cuttings from quite a lot of shrubs and trees, and root in a frame or window sill (not in bright sun). Keep fruit-tree trunks clear of weeds and grass.

Trim apples and pears after the June drop of fruitlets. Don't let newly-planted fruit trees produce flowers, but pick them off to encourage strong plant growth for the future. Tie in a support growing blackberry and loganberry, and check supports on other fruits. Cut out any badly cankered apple branches. Summer-prune gooseberries, grapevines and red and white currants.

Greenhouse and indoor plants: As the weather gets warmer (we hope) ventilation is very important. Watch out at the beginning of the month and be ready to close up if the temperature drops. Most plants are happy at 16C (or 60F). As usual, watering and feeding is the order of the day except, of course, for the ones that are resting. Stand pots on damp pebbles to maintain humidity. Pot up cuttings taken in May. Watch out for aphids etc. and deal with them when they're seen. Smoke cones can be very effective, but don't use them if you have seedlings growing - and some cucumbers don't like them either. Keep an eye out for mildew and spray or dust with an effective fungicide as soon as possible. Sow *calceolaria*, *cineraria*, busy lizzy, French marigolds and indoor primulas to use as pot plants.

Take cuttings of most indoor and greenhouse plants, such as fuchsia, heliotrope, kalanchoe, plumbago etc. Leaf cuttings can be taken now from African violets, rex begonias and echeveria. Established fuchsias can be given a new lease of life if they are taken out of their pots, the old bottom root screwed off and the plant re-potted in fresh compost - but don't damage any new paler roots as you do this. Nip out the side shoots as tomato plants develop. Stop them when you have five or six trusses. Regular feeding improves flavour.

Lawns: Clean up, raking regularly. Get into a cutting and feeding routine. Keep edges tidy. Don't worry about your lawn drying up in dry weather - it soon recovers when it rains. Keep the mower set high during dry spells, and try to keep children and animals off.

July

Flowers: Regular dead-heading will encourage many plants to give more flowers. Water and feed regularly. Give sweet peas, dahlias and chrysanthemums a liquid feed, then mulch them, so that they will give better flowers later (just about show-time). Clip over alpine and rock plants as they finish flowering. Cut and dry everlasting flowers when they are at their best. Sow forget-me-nots, Brompton Stock, pansies and violas for planting in the autumn and spring. Watch out for aphids and caterpillars and deal with them as soon as they are seen.

Garden pinks of all kinds can be increased by cuttings or pipings taken now, as can dianthus. Set them in a sandy soil in a shaded place. Prune early-flowering clematis (white and pink Montana) thinning out overcrowded stems and cutting back where necessary to keep plants within bounds. Standard fuchsias like plenty of water, so water regularly when the weather is hot and dry. Floribunda roses do not need disbudding but remove faded flowers regularly, and when the whole truss has finished the stem should be cut back to a prominent bud. Thin out dahlia shoots if they are getting overcrowded.

The first week of August is the latest time to plant out colchicums, autumn flowering crocuses and hardy cyclamen. Bulbs should be planted 6 ins apart in well-drained soil, and cyclamen are best bought as pot grown plants. Most lilies should be planted in October or November but the hardy Madonna Lily is an exception and it must be planted during August. Don't plant too deep - an inch of soil above the bulb is ample.

As rambler roses finish flowering they should be pruned. Disentangle the growths from the trellis and cut out at ground level those that have carried flowers. Keep the new stems made this year and tie them neatly in place - these should flower next year.

Vegetables: Clear away early vegetable plants as soon as the crop is harvested, and fork over the site ready for follow-on crops. Stop feeding onions at the end of July, and as the leaves start to yellow, bend them over to encourage larger bulbs (ready for the show!). Water marrows regularly and apply a high potash feed. Cut cucumber and marrows as soon as they are ready - don't leave them on the plant (except the one for the biggest in show). Plant out winter cabbage. Do not allow celery to dry out or it will run to seed. Runner beans should be kept moist: one way is to put lawn mowings or garden compost or even straw round them, as the object is not so much to feed the beans as to keep in the moisture (though do not use mowings that have been treated with weed or moss killer).

Butterflies may look nice flitting about the garden but the white ones are busy laying eggs which will hatch and scoff your cabbages before you can, so deal with caterpillars when seen, squashing any eggs you find on the leaves. Brussels sprouts will benefit if a little soil is pulled up around the stems. The fourth week of July is a good time to pick herbs for drying. Tie the shoots or leaves in small bundles, suspend them head down, in a cool, airy shed or room, not in strong sunlight. August is a good time to sow spring cabbage; the plants should be ready for setting out at the end of September.

Trees, Fruit and Shrubs: Water and mulch around azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangeas and magnolias. Cuttings can be taken of many shrubs: some need a bit of warmth to start with. Thin pears and plums if the set has been heavy. Any plum branches showing signs of silver-leaf should be cut out and burnt. In August cut out the raspberry canes to ground level as they finish fruiting. Retain six or seven of the strongest canes for fruiting next year. Feed blackcurrants with a high nitrogen fertiliser, and prune as soon as the crop has been gathered. Cordon and other trained apples should be summer pruned to keep them in shape, and to check their vigour. Mock orange, jasmine, wisteria and clematis can be pruned once they have finished flowering.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Keep a close check on the temperature and humidity in the greenhouse. You may need to water twice a day, avoiding mid-day if possible. Morning and evening are best. Damp down staging and paths to keep things cool and use all ventilators. Pinch out tips of tomatoes when they reach the eaves and continue to take out side shoots. All plants should be shaded from bright sunlight. Tip cuttings can be taken from geraniums, fuchsias, cherry pie, regal pelargoniums etc. Plants indoors need shading and spraying, except for the hairy leaved plants, which do not like water on their leaves. On nice days give them a spell in the garden - they will enjoy the fresh air, and you could talk to them whilst you are lazing about in the deck chair. You never know, they might answer back (depending on what you are drinking at the time). Watch out for white fly, aphids etc. and deal with them as soon as you see them.

Lawns: Cut (not too close) and trim regularly. Make final preparations for seeding a new lawn in July prior to seeding at the end of August.

That should keep you busy for a bit!

Cheerio for now!

Tom



All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane



Services in February and March

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.

What's it all about?

Do you remember Whitsuntide? Whit sings in the park, Whit walks of witness, new Whitsun clothes. Things change and nowadays for many people Whitsuntide (or Pentecost) passes by largely unnoticed. However, in the Christian calendar Pentecost was and still is a hugely significant event.

It marks the day when the disciples, still reeling from the amazing events of Easter Day and the resurrection, were waiting for the helper that Jesus had promised them. They didn't know what to expect, but when the helper arrived he did so in spectacular fashion. A noise like a great rushing wind, tongues of fire, and everyone able to speak in foreign languages and yet still be understood. This was the Holy Spirit, the special helper promised by Jesus. Of course the crowds dismissed this bizarre behaviour, laughed and accused those who behaved like this of being drunk. And yet many of those same people believed the message that the disciples took far and wide.



Over two thousand years on, some people still look at the Christian church and see only bizarre behaviour and can't see how the message could have any relevance to them, yet others believe and try to follow the teachings of Jesus. Starting in July there will be a series of sermons exploring just who this man Jesus is and tackling some of the big questions about him and the Christian life. Services start at 10.00 on a Sunday morning and you would be very welcome to come and see for yourself.

Liz Hayden (Churchwarden, Totley All Saints)

Rev. Tupling's Licensing

On 13th May at All Saints, we were delighted to hold the licensing service for our new vicar, Revd Katie Tupling. Katie was licensed by the Bishop of Doncaster, the Rt Revd Peter Burrows, and the service was attended by fellow clergy, family, friends and members of All Saints and Christ Church, Dore (Katie's other church).

After a very uplifting service, everyone enjoyed afternoon tea in the church hall and a great time was had by all!!



Photo copyright 'Images by Toby'

Totley Open Gardens 2017



Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July

12.30 pm - 5.30 pm

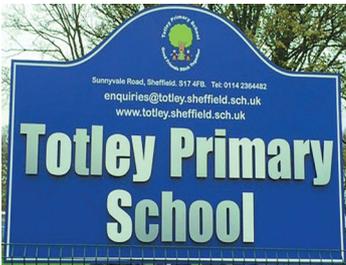


£4 per person for admission to all gardens

Children under 14 free but must be accompanied by an adult

Programmes on sale from the Ironing Parlour (170 Baslow Rd), and Totley Library from three weeks before the event. Programmes sold outside Ironing Parlour and Cross Scythes pub during the Open Gardens weekend.

All proceeds to local organisations



Community Matters!

First and foremost, the children and staff at Totley Primary would like to wish the Totley Independent a very happy 40th anniversary! The strong community values of Totley are ones which we are lucky enough to tap

into on a regular basis and play a vital role in developing children's identities and sense of belonging within their local area. There are many recent examples of these valuable community connections which have enriched children's experiences of school. A visit from the lovely Ann and Carys from Totley Library to commemorate World Book Day was a real treat, for instance, with each class enjoying some extra special story time. All it took for our Y1 children to be inspired at the start of their topics on plants was a Spring flower walk around the local area. The children were amazed at the col-



Y5 pupils enjoying a Moorland Discovery Workshop

-ourful array of bulbs, blossoms and blooms which the gardens, verges and hedgerows of Totley had to offer. This was reflected in some delightful artwork and poetry.

Moving slightly further afield, our keen cross country team, following regular lunchtime forays into Gillfield Woods, have recently piloted a couple of children's fell runs up on the moors, in collaboration with some very kind Totley AC runners. Having such stunning countryside on the doorstep is one of Totley's greatest assets and it is pleasing to see it casting its spell on the next generation. Conversely, the countryside actually came to see us in March, via an excellent day of workshops led by the Moorland Discovery Centre (based at Longshaw Estate). Year 3 and Year 5 children worked in the school grounds to learn all about rare local habitats and important conservation work such as preventing soil erosion.

As a community school, we are very proud to be part of the Totley locality and it is great to be able to host events such as the Totley Show, with school ambassadors playing a full part in proceedings and representing the voice of local children. You may well be aware that the number of children in the Totley area has increased significantly in recent years, which

is unsurprising given the location and quality of life which Totley offers for families. All the local schools have been regularly oversubscribed for some time. To cope with this, the Local Authority has approved an expansion plan for the school which will potentially see the school grow from being one-form to two-form entry over the next few years. As a staff team, we are embracing this change and are happy to be part of an exciting new chapter for the school, as we grow alongside this thriving community and welcome a new range of families through our doors and into our classrooms!

Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Get involved - it's fun!

I would like to say a special 'thank you' to everyone - the library volunteers, plant-growers and customers, who helped to make the 2017 Totley Library Plant Sale on 13th May such a success. We raised almost £700 which is a fantastic amount to achieve in one day. The Gardening Volunteer Team had worked hard over the past 6 months. Members of the local



communities in Totley, Dore and Bradway were very generous, spending time raising plants to donate, making purchases of books and refreshments, including fantastic cakes (many thanks to the bakers) and of course buying plants for their own gardens. Some happy customers returned more than once! Unsold plants were taken to Totley Rise Methodist Church to sell at what was universally agreed to be a very enjoyable Garden Party held there the next day to raise funds for Transport 17 and Totley Library.

Sue Hare

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Friends of Dore and Totley Station

Our Open Meeting and AGM on 23rd May is still ahead of me as I write, but will have happened by the time you read this article. Here's what's likely to be said and done.

Our guest speaker is to be Richard Isaac from Northern Rail who'll give a short presentation and answer as many questions as he can. He'll be explaining how Northern hope to squeeze hourly trains down the Hope Valley line from May 2018 – good news – but may tell us they can't stop at all stations. We'll hear of plans for upgraded trains.

We'll be giving more information on developments at the station.

Since the last edition of the Totley Independent FoDaTS has been formally accepted by Northern as station adopters and we've been issued with red hi-viz jackets to wear when doing anything on the station. So far that's been limited to washing down the cycle shelter and signs around the station. We'd like to arrange some gardening work around the car park, but that has to be done in conjunction with Carillion who are contracted by Northern to maintain those areas. We also want to place some heavy planters on the platform, and that, too, requires approval. As an example, we can't have things that could be easily pushed onto the tracks to derail a train.

In due course we expect to do some surveys of passengers, both those immediately travelling, and those collecting tickets for later travel. Many of them don't start or finish their journeys at Dore and Totley. We need to establish how many would use any extra services that could be provided.

Between Monday and Friday we usually see two people issuing tickets until 10.00, but the ticket machine is still unreliable and may be replaced by the end of the year. Incidentally, there is free wi-fi at the station. It's possible to sit in the shelter and order tickets online and they'll usually be available to collect by the time you've walked to the machine – when it works, of course!



At Cleethorpes Station

The latest news from the DfT regarding the Public Inquiry Inspector's report (received by the DfT on 15th November) into the Hope Valley Capacity Scheme was on 11th May saying "As we are now in a period of 'purdah' because of the forthcoming General Election we are unable to issue any decisions under the TWA. Everything is being done to progress this case to a decision and we will issue it as soon as we are reasonably able to do so once the Election has finished." A piece of string anyone? Don't hold your breath!

For our part we're trying to get Network Rail, Northern, Sheffield City Region, SYPT, and other parties together to ensure we get the best possible station built once work starts. We'd like to get a canopy added to the existing station building before then, and Richard Isaac may be able to tell us how our request for that is progressing.

Consultations are currently in progress regarding future services for both Northern and TPE. We're contributing to both

and have seen a draft stopping service timetable that may be introduced in May 2018. Although hourly trains may run they won't be able to stop at all stations. We're pushing to get as many as possible to stop at Dore and Totley, but we're unlikely to get all we want because of the track constraints. We're also in touch with TPE who have dropped a hint that they might be able to stop one or two more of their trains – no promises, but conceivably from December 2017. We're pointing out that one of the most popular destinations from Dronfield is Meadowhall, especially on Saturdays. Only 14 minutes direct from Dore and Totley, and trains pass through every hour. Fingers crossed as that would also give us more fast links to Manchester!

The East Midlands franchise is to be re-let from late 2018 and three companies are preparing bids. It's possible the existing Liverpool – Norwich service could be split off and the Liverpool – Nottingham leg given to TPE. There is supposed to be a public consultation about all this but it seems to be delayed by the election. In its turn that will probably delay the change of operator until early 2019. Any changes in the service pattern on these trains is unlikely until the new arrangements come into force. Nevertheless, we have been speaking to East Midlands and note their advance fares to Manchester are often the cheapest on the line. As the station operator at Sheffield we've suggested that better cover on Platform 2C would be welcome.

It all seems so simple to us, but there are good reasons why things can't get done immediately. If we get TransPennine Express to stop more of their fast trains they won't be as fast as they want to be between Sheffield and Manchester. If hourly Northern services stopped at all stations the freight trains couldn't get through. If East Midlands stopped more of their trains they'd be even further delayed on a route that has many delays already. And if the DfT gives the go ahead to restore our second platform, Network Rail may not have the engineers or the money to do it for another year or more.

We'll keep plugging away, keeping in regular touch with all the interested rail parties, plus the Hope Valley Rail Users Group, the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership and the Friends group at Dronfield. I was invited to a consultation meeting for South East Manchester rail links, brought about by the realisation that Dore and Totley is a major Manchester commuter station! Talking to people won't bring immediate changes, but it may help.

If you use the trains, or just have an interest in developments at our station, please join us by sending an email with your contact details to our Secretary; nj-barnes@outlook.com

You can also join us on Facebook – just search for FoDaTS. Look in from time to time to see the latest news – and to post constructive comments, please!

Try looking through our website at; www.fodats.net

Chris Morgan, Chairman

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What's on at the Library



Getting ready for summer at Totley Library

The last few weeks have been busy at Totley Library. A number of special Easter activities were held for children, including mini-musician sessions, children's writing workshops and woodland themed activities. We also teamed up with the Friends of Gillfield Wood and the Woodland Trust for a woodland fun session in Bluebell Wood led by local songwriter Sally Goldsmith.

On 13th May a Plant Sale organised to raise funds for the library was a great success and raised in the region of £700. A great big thank-you to the Totley Library Gardening Team for arranging this event and to all those who grew plants, baked cakes or helped at the event, and of course, to all the people who came along and bought plants! And congratulations to Duncan Froggatt, winner of the hanging basket raffle!



Fundraising is very important to the future of the library; whilst we receive a grant from Sheffield City Council which is used to meet basic running costs, we are uncertain how long the current level of funding will continue. We also need to raise funds in order to make improvements to the library. Over the last year, we have made a number of improvements to the library, such as new carpets and resurfacing the car park. Trustees are now working on an important scheme, which if successfully completed, would provide a new fully accessible DDA-compliant toilet in the library for all library users. Options for how this might be achieved are currently being explored. We will provide more details on this scheme in the next addition of the Totley Independent.

Children's Summer Activities and Summer Reading Challenge

This summer we will be running a wide range of activities for pre-school and school aged children – please see the advert on page 3 for further details.

Please note that the Wednesday morning 'Storytime' sessions will not run during August and will start again in September.

The Library will run the Children's Summer Reading Challenge from Saturday 15th July until Saturday 2nd September. The theme is 'Animal Agents', a detective agency manned by all kinds of clever animals with illustrations by Tony Ross. The challenge is open for all children from 4 to 11 years old. To register go to the desk at the Library and fill out a card. We will also register your child for our Orange Sticker scheme which has lots of new books.

Children are asked to read six books over the holiday period and there will be various rewards to keep them motivated!

Posters and information will be displayed in the Library in July, and Library Volunteers will be visiting local Primary Schools to spread the word. The Reading Agency website and the Facebook page will keep you up to date:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SummerReadingChallengeUK/>

Other Events at the library

A Folk Concert will be held in the library at 7.30pm on Friday July 14th, featuring 'Spoil the Dance' who have performed at every Totley Folk concert since 2009; and 'Half a Rake'. Tickets will cost £7 (£5 for Friends of CRIC and Library volunteers). Refreshments available, or bring your own drinks! See the advert on page 21.

Sing-along Special – a special sing-along showing of the well-known film 'Grease' will be held in the library at 7.30pm on Friday 16th June. Tickets £10 (£8 Friends of Totley CRIC) to include buffet. Doors open at 6.30pm for buffet and sing-along film starts 7.30pm.

Totley Library Lottery - The first-prize winners in the March and April Library lottery draws were Gordon Doole and Susan Bown, and the second-prize winners were Claire Howard and Barbara Chadbourne. The monthly first prize is currently £94.00, and the second prize £23.50. If you would like to enter, you can collect a form at Totley Library.

Cinema Listings for June and July

Our popular Totley Library Cinema continues with Disney's family blockbuster Moana, and Jackie, a searing and intimate portrait of one of the most important and tragic moments in American history, seen through the eyes of the iconic First Lady, then Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. Full listings and screen times below.

Sunday 11th June at 2pm - Secret Life of Pets
Friday 16th June 7.30pm - Grease - sing-along special. Tickets £10 (£8 Friends of Totley CRIC) including buffet. Doors open at 6.30pm for buffet and sing-along film starts 7.30pm.
Thursday 29th June 3.00pm - La La Land
Friday 7th July 7.30pm - La La Land
Thursday 27th July 3pm - Jackie

Except as otherwise stated, tickets (entry into raffle draw) Adult - £4.00; Child - £2.50

Please note that there will be no children's films shown during July and August

Isabel Hemmings

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 Diary on p.34, or www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com
Councillor Surgery, 2nd Monday of 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 the last Wednesday of the month). 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

Beauchief Dam

In the last issue we featured part one of an article by Pauline Burnett of Topley History Group on this well-known local landmark. In part 2 Pauline tells the story of the dam up to the present day.

The dam covered an area of approximately five acres when it was completed in 1785. It had been constructed to supply water to four new wheels at Abbey Dale Forge, powering machinery for the edge tool industry that made it the largest works in Sheffield in the early 19th century.

During its lifetime the dam has variously been known as Abbey Dale Dam, Abbeydale Dam, Tyzack's Dam and finally Beauchief Dam, quickly becoming a landmark and used as a reference point in newspapers when reporting events in the area. Inevitably such a large area of water would have its own stories to tell, some joyous but others less so.

From very early days, the many dams serving Sheffield's forges were used as trout fishing ponds. To fish a dam normally required a licence and wasn't included in the agreement when renting the water to power a wheel. This was clearly illustrated at Whitely Wood Dam when William Tyzack (senior) was tenant of the wheel in the early 19th century, and was regularly reported by the water bailiff for fishing without a licence.

Poaching was another problem and in 1904 Benjamin Turner (partner in Tyzack, Sons & Turner) set a trap with the local constable in order to catch a number of men known to be taking fish from their dam at Abbeydale. Having surprised them at 2am one Saturday night, the police and Turner managed to detain two poachers, who were charged and subsequently taken to court.

Giving evidence, Benjamin Turner expressed surprise that although the defendants claimed to be poaching there for the first time, their baited lines were in the water at a spot where fish were known to be most plentiful! He felt this indicated the men had a well-informed knowledge of the dam. The men, Walter Price and Ernest Piercy, stated they were out of work and only trying to catch a Sunday dinner. Each was fined 10s.

Ice Skating

For a small fee, all comers could take part in ice-skating when the winters of the late 19th and early 20th century were regularly much colder than those we experience nowadays. As soon as ice formed the newspapers would publish advice on which dam had the best conditions. It wasn't just a case of how cold the weather had been, but also local conditions such as exposure to winds that could create an uneven surface. The papers also published notices to say if the ice was safe... or not.

Following a thaw overnight
Skaters are particularly requested to notice
that the ICE on ABBEYDALE DAM
IS NOT SAFE

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 13th January 1887

The events could take on the atmosphere of a fair, with vendors selling hot drinks, soup and snacks. Proceeds from the entrance fees were sent to local hospital charities, and their appreciation was published in the newspapers...

"The Weekly Board of Sheffield General Infirmary beg to acknowledge, with best thanks, receipt of £10 from Messrs. W. Tyzack, Sons & Turner, being part proceeds of a charge made for skating on the Abbeydale dam."

Others receiving donations in January 1887 were Sheffield Public Hospital and Dispensary (£10) and Jessop Hospital for Women (3 guineas).

The craze continued for as long as the winters brought the intense cold weather..

Weekend Skating Sheffield Area

At Tyzack's dam, Beauchief, which on Saturday was only safe at the southern end, some hundreds of enthusiasts enjoyed the exhilarating pastime. The danger zone was during the daylight quite clear, and the result was the skaters kept a safe distance away from the northern end, which is 15ft deep, and where the water always freezes more slowly owing to the presence of a miniature whirlpool. During Saturday night however, the continued keen frost had the effect of converting the whole stretch of the dam into a splendid piece of ice, and yesterday there were crowds of people enjoying the sport. The ice is, indeed, like glass, and in one portion it is so clear that the shrubs can be plainly seen underneath.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 13th January 1908

And as the picture below shows, the fun was continuing in 1936!



Drownings

The dam has unfortunately claimed a number of lives, both of those whose intentions were to commit suicide and others who died accidentally. Examples of the many deaths reported in the newspapers can sometimes give an insight into the social conditions and attitudes of the day.

Attempted Suicide at Tyzack's Dam

A great amount of excitement was caused in the neighbourhood of Beauchief by rumour that a woman had thrown herself in the dam. A large crowd collected, it being just the time when people were on their way home from church. Some of the bystanders, after much exertion, succeeded in bringing the would-be suicide to the bank. She was in an exhausted condition and was attended by Dr Thorne, and afterwards removed to her home in Bradway. It was stated that she was temporarily insane.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph May 19th 1890

Until 1961 committing or attempting suicide was a crime and a verdict 'Of unsound mind' or similar could avoid the threat of prosecution. Dr. Thorne was the son-in-law of Joshua Tyzack (one of the three brothers running the business). He was a GP and surgeon living with his wife and family at the

Glen, opposite Dore and Totley station, now a nursing home.

Suicide at Abbeydale Dam

In October 1923 a James Wilson drowned himself two weeks after losing his job at Samuel Laycock & Sons Ltd, Bradfield. His wife had also worked there and lost her job some months earlier, each having accrued over thirty years' service.

Since the 1880's Laycock's had been a successful company making carriage fittings for trains. After the death of its founder in 1916 it was bought by a French company but was heading for bankruptcy when an attempt to enter the car and aero manufacturing industry failed. This had probably led to the reduction in staff numbers.

Mrs Wilson said her husband had been depressed, but had not talked of taking his life. On the morning of his death he had told her he was going to the Labour Exchange, but by 2pm his body had been discovered in the dam. One wonders if he did call at the Labour Exchange, only to find no work and was overcome by despair. The verdict was 'suicide whilst of unsound mind'.

Despite suicide being a criminal offence, readers of the papers were often sympathetic and on one occasion money, postal orders and even gold coins were sent to help 'the poor wife and children of the man who drowned at Abbeydale'.

The very sad story of an accidental drowning was reported in November 1876.

James Naylor was a scythe grinder working at Abbeydale, living in one of the cottages on site with his parents and wife, Sarah. They already had a toddler and Sarah was about to give birth, or had just done so, when her husband drowned.

It was a Saturday and James had spent the afternoon in the pub. Taking a short-cut home across the weir and dam, it was thought he slipped in the darkness and met his fate. Despite a search on Sunday, his body wasn't found until the following day.

A sad fact revealed at the inquest was that James had fallen from a path known to be dangerous and recently banned from use by Tyzack.

His death and the birth of his new daughter were recorded in the same quarter of the year. Four years later, in the census of 1881, Sarah was still living with James' parents and receiving Parish Relief. Later that year, the daughter born so close to the death of her father also died, aged four years. Sarah married again, to another scythe smith, and lived in Dore for the rest of her long life. She had a further five children.

In 1933 the whole site was bought by J. G. Graves and given to Sheffield Council to preserve and develop. For many years, little happened other than the building of Beauchief Gardens.

The dam was investigated in 1937/8 as a possible venue for Sheffield Model Yacht Club, because their pond in Millhouses Park was proving too small for this very popular hobby. However the alterations needed to make it suitable proved too expensive and the idea was dropped.

Repairs to the retaining wall and shuttles have been needed over the years but the dam remains almost unaltered since its construction in 1785. The silt has reduced its overall size by about one acre at the southern end, where Beauchief Gardens now exist.

The water has always attracted bird life and newspapers would report anything they considered unusual, as when a pair of swans took up residence. The arrival of seagulls was once considered worthy of a mention in the nature column of a newspaper!

Today the dam still attracts wildfowl and presents a picturesque and peaceful oasis alongside the busy A621. Its waters still turn a wheel at Abbeydale Hamlet.

Pauline Burnett

Letter to the Editor

Dear Totley Independent,

We have had the email below from a Paul Fischer in the USA who is hoping to contact a penpal he had in the 1960s. Some readers may recognise the name of the former Pamela Webster and still be in touch with her. In the photo from Totley County School Class J2 1955-56, Pamela Webster is on extreme right of the third row from the back.



Please send responses to me at: apple-garth@supanet.com

The email reads:

"In the mid-1960's I had a pen-pal, who lived at 42 Mickley Lane, Totley Rise, Sheffield. Her name was Pamela Webster. She and I were both born in 1947. She married a man whom she had been dating for a few years, whose given name was 'John'. I do not remember his family name.

In some of the photographs of the various years at the elementary school, Pam is shown in the group shots of each class. She and I exchanged reel-to-reel tapes several times - they were the most popular item in several mathematics classes. The teacher would actually stop class, so the students could listen to her speak. She had indicated it was okay with her to do that.

Is it possible that someone from that era would know where she is, and how she is. If she is interested in exchanging emails, please forward my email address.

Thank you,

Paul Fischer"

Dorothy Prosser



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THE TIME TRAVELLERS

Your local amateur archaeology group, the Time Travellers, have continued in 2017 at a furious pace with a bundle of walks, talks and practical activities. The formal public presentation in March about our activities at Whirlow Hall Farm was expected to be so popular that we had to find a venue with a larger capacity than our usual 'home ground' at the Old School in Dore. We found just the place down the road at the King Ecgbert School where over 200 people were treated to an excellent account of our excavation and how important the findings were to the wider understanding of the history of Whirlow. Dr Clive Waddington from Archaeological Research Services Ltd explained that at the time when this part of the country was under Roman occupation there would have been a signal station located at the highest point of Whirlow and that this would have been one of a chain of such viewing posts probably stretching right across the country from the Humber to the Mersey. This had been speculated before by historians but its position so close to Sheffield was not previously known! Another popular aspect of the presentation was the display of some of the many exciting artefacts discovered during our digging and field walking - not bad for a bunch of novices!

The Whirlow theme was followed up by another big event organised in May by the Time Travellers, our Heritage Day at Whirlow Hall Farm. This was a free entry event where there was much to see, and activities for the whole family, and I'll tell you more about this next time.

In late February we held an industrial archaeology trip to Lumsdale Valley near Matlock, where we found a wooded gorge with picturesque waterfalls and mill ponds where people had worked from as early as the 16th century. On the same day we visited Cromford Mill, the site where Richard Arkwright built his cotton spinning mills at the very beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The following month we visited the Bull Ring, a Neolithic henge site at Dove Holes, just north of Buxton. This earthwork here is similar to Arbor Low in that it consists of a bank with an internal ditch and two entrances. We then made the sharp climb up to Castle Naze, a gritstone promontory Iron Age hill fort overlooking Combs reservoir. Also in March, Time Traveller member Vince Boulter delivered a fascinating talk to a large audience leading us through the 'formation of Yorkshire' from the very geological beginnings of the earth.

April saw the Time Travellers conduct our first field walking of the year at Whirlow Hall Farm, the place where we made many wonderful finds last year. We continued our previous good run of form and found several flints and shards of interesting pottery. We are obviously being more selective now as we felt able to disregard the many pieces of post-medieval pottery, glass fragments and bits of clay pipe spotted on the surface. We would have thrown a party for turning up all that detritus a couple of years ago!

Coming up over the late spring and early summer are lots more visits and activities including a walk along Lathkill Dale, a trip to see Newark Castle and the Civil War Centre, plus a talk about the Brigantes in Yorkshire by Allan Wilson. 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.uk.

Glynn Burgin

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Walking the Dog....

We're on a more irritable walk than usual, probably because it's windy and not as springy as it should be by now. I'm discussing whether the woods we're in are Gillfield or Jillfield. Or Gillyfield or Jillyfield. Or - Jack says not again, please.

And goes on to say that at Sally's Writeapoemupatree Walk (page 11) that ended with all that cake in the library, everyone agreed to call it Gillfield with a hard G.

Like in Alice where they gyre and gimble in the wabe?

Or like at Gillygillyossenfeffercatselalanbogen-by-the sea?

I say I'm not sure.

I agree that our Geth had a pal at All Saints called Irving Gill (with a hard G) and that my Goronwy's best teacher ever was Mrs Holding and her first name was Gill (with a hard G). But Gillian Gall was with a J then a G, and Gillian Hall and Gillian Harries were both J without a G. As in Jack.

And furthermore, in Mrs Peacock's, when we recited from the back of Stanley Moffat's exercise books, four gills (with a J) made a pint, even if seven years later when you asked for a gill of beer (with a J) at the Fleur de Lys you got half a pint.

*

By this time we're on the White Line and Jack's getting wuffy, and saying, please, he doesn't want me going over all that again, about whether it is the White Line or the White Drive. Or White's Lane. Or Shepley's Lane. Or The Lane With No Name. He says, it doesn't matter anyway.

I say it might matter if you live in that funny house at the bottom by the Spitfire where there used to be the garages where Christine Waterfall's dad used to keep his Austin 7 in the war? Because how would the postman know where to deliver your letters?

And Jack says can't we please talk about something interesting? Like his favourite composer?

*

We squabble onto Back Lane and Jack says please don't start on about how there are two Back Lanes.

We turn onto Grove Road and Jack says please don't start on about how there are two Groves and how you kissed a girl at the end of one once?

Or how Totley Brook Road is in the wrong place, ditto the Totley Brook Estate, and the 98 bus, because Totley Brook is the river behind Mrs Gratton and not the river that goes over the Acky.

Or how nobody knows who King Ecgbert was and even when they do know, they can't spell him, or say what he's doing in Totley, and how he's not in Totley anyway, he's in Dore.

So, Jack says can we please now for once, just have a quiet walk and a quiet bark?

*

We climb Ackley Bank in silence.

I say nothing about why -

I don't then point out that the Quadrant shouldn't really be called the Q -

Or why how the Crescent isn't a Cr -

I say nothing about how All Saints School used to have to have the Rector of Eyam round to Catechise us and tell us that dogs can't ever go to heaven because Jesus never had a dog and even if God sounds like dog backwards.

Jack says he can hear what I'm thinking and he's not bothered.

But, he says, if I want I can tell him again why Totley Bents is called Totley Bents?

Or how Dore and Totley Station is called Dore and Totley Station even when it's not in Dore? Or Totley?

Or when Totley County School stopped being Totley County School, and why it had been when it was, because Totley was never a county, was it?

I say sorry Jack, but if you weren't listening when I was talking, I'm not talking now you're listening.

*

We get home safely, and have a drink and a cuddle.

He asks if I'm really really sure he can't go to heaven if he is a dog?

And I say I'm not sure but if he can't go, I'm not going any way.

He says I can tell him about Gilly Woods if I want ? Or the White Line?

I say I might. Next time we go a walk. But who's his favourite composer?

He says B -

Rony Robinson

Local Rugby Successes!

Sheffield promoted twice - and Tigers' great escape!

Wow, what a season for our local rugby teams. First up, Sheffield Ladies were already the league champions going into the last game of the season. However, they were chasing a new milestone of being unbeaten for the season 2016/17. They didn't disappoint, beating Sefton Ladies 19-0 at home to finish the season in style.

They now head to the Championship North 1 Division, the second tier of the national leagues, cementing their position as the highest-positioned adult rugby team in Sheffield. Their impressive record of Played 16, Won 16, with 590 points for, just 78 against and scoring the extra four try bonus point in half their games is a season record any team would be proud of! Well done Ladies - that was an absolutely stunning season.

Also at Abbeydale Park the Sheffield men's XV had spent most of the season in the top two spots, and as it all came down to the last league game, the top three sides in Midland 3 were separated by just four points. Sheffield clinched the playoff spot and the promotion game against Rossendale. In a tense match, Sheffield were losing at half time but fought back and beat off a late last-minute counter-attack to come away as victors by the narrowest of margins, winning 32 - 31. They are promoted to National 2 North.

Up the road at Dore Moor, Sheffield Tigers had a pretty miserable season until they fired their head coach in February and their fortunes brightened.

This new glimmer of hope produced a 70% win rate for their closing fixtures, digging them off the bottom of the league and putting them in a last game of do-or-die match away at Luctonians, Hereford. Tigers turned it on in a stunning game where the lead changed hands several times, but when the final whistle blew, Tigers had done the great escape and will stay in National 2 North.

So both our local sides now live in the same league, and we can certainly look forward to some fabulous derby games next season. Well done all our local sides, great performances all round!





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Longshaw's place in the parliamentary crisis of 1827

When leading a guided walk for the National Trust at Longshaw recently I was asked why an area of woodland to the south-west of Ringinglow village was called Lady Canning's Plantation. I didn't know, but in 1927 it was sold to Sheffield City Council, along with a substantial part of the Duke of Rutland's Longshaw Lodge Estate. As tends to happen that answer led to further questions.

The enclosure map of 1822 shows that parcel of land in the ownership of George Canning. The first Ordnance Survey map of 1840-44 shows a different name, hard to make out, but probably Kenyon's Plantation. Burdett's less detailed map of 1791 shows no plantation in that area. Was the George Canning the man who became Tory Prime Minister in 1827? Probably. Was Kenyon Lord Kenyon, a staunch Tory from Lancashire? Quite likely, but that remains unclear; they were at opposite extremes of the party.

In 1826 the Duke of Rutland had bought a shooting lodge at Longshaw and was planning to extend both the building and the estate. His main residence was at Belvoir Castle, but he also owned Haddon Hall which was becoming dilapidated at this time, possibly no longer habitable by a Duke.

Canning was a Tory to the more progressive side of the party, leading a faction known as Canningites. Lord Kenyon was described as an ultra-Tory in a group courting the Duke of Wellington, and possibly the Duke of Rutland, in opposition with the party to Canning. They were clearly very well known to each other and I'd not be surprised if George Canning bought the plantation from Kenyon. Canning died in August 1827 and had relatively few assets. His widow was created Viscountess Kilbrham in January 1828, about the time Wellington became Prime Minister. It seems very likely that Lady Canning inherited the plantation, but she died in 1837. We



Longshaw House, West Front

don't know exactly when the Duke of Rutland bought it, but it seems reasonable to think it became known as Lady Canning's Plantation shortly after her death. It had been planted to grow timber commercially, possibly to make charcoal for the furnaces in Sheffield, pit props for mines, and timber for house building.

Lord Liverpool had been Tory Prime Minister from May 1812 until 9th April 1827 and George Canning took over on the 10th April. (It's worth reading through this period if you think it's complicated today!) Canning's health wasn't up to the strain and he died on 8th August after only 119 days in office, the shortest tenure of any PM to this day. There was then a period of what appears to have been confusion as various parties tried to form a new government! Lord Goderich emerged as a front runner fairly early, but couldn't count on a majority.

The Duke of Wellington's name was very much in the frame, but he backed away, as did Robert Peel. The Duke of Rutland may have been suggested as a compromise, but probably not too seriously. On 17th August Wellington was made Com

mander-in-Chief of the British Army but had conveniently left London for the north, and seems to have been out of London prior to that date. Was that to keep him sweet? Was his a diplomatic absence, or just normal activity over the summer? A chance to get in some shooting and visit friends? Subsequent events show that he was keeping close to potential allies.

On 24th August it was announced in The Times that Wellington was at Longshaw Lodge with the Duke of Rutland and would be there for 8-10 days before going to Bretton Hall, the seat of Tory MP Colonel Beaumont. Both Dukes were invited to the Cutlers Feast on 6th September, but said they had prior engagements. The Times reported that Wellington had arrived back in London from the north on the 31st.

Frederick John Robinson had been created Viscount Goderich in April 1827 and became Prime Minister on 31st August 1827. He didn't last much longer in office than Canning, his government falling on 21st January 1828. The Duke of Wellington then finally got his hands on the position!

So, what were they talking about at Longshaw in late August 1827? What may have been plotted? Were grouse the main topic of conversation? Were they merely reviewing Rutland's ideas and plans to expand his house and estate? Somehow we may doubt that. No phones or emails then. Coaches and riders must have been very busy conveying communications back and forth along the turnpikes in all directions. 3 weeks without a Prime Minister. Think how that would have been news today, and it was then too.

That's the bare bones of it. There's a lot more that could have been told at the time. There's probably a lot archived away in various libraries and record offices.

In August 1875, the Prince and Princess of Wales stayed at Longshaw and also enjoyed some good shooting. It would be another 26 years before he became King Edward VII.

There'll be more to be found, so all the above is subject to revision. Plenty of food for thought and research?

And since writing the above, I have more information in that shooting lodge mentioned earlier. I've seen proof that the Duke of Rutland bought the shooting box and upwards of 200 acres of arable, pasture and planted land abounding with game of all sorts and rabbits from Mr Tricket of Wilby near Doncaster. It was advertised on 18th March 1825 as adjoining the Duke's preserves of grouse, so he already had land in that area. Robert Tricket purchased land between 1808 and 1812 and a shooting box may have been built by 1814. He was probably the father of the man who sold it to the Duke. The Duke, when visiting his preserves of grouse, may have stayed at the Fox House Inn where the room on the corner is known as the Duke's Room.

Chris Morgan
Volunteer with National Trust at Longshaw



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Protecting the 'Mountain Blackbird'

Local climbers and walkers are helping 'mountain blackbirds', or ring ouzels, from Africa to set up new homes on the edges of Stanage and Burbage.

"The ring ouzel is a characterful bird, and easy to identify, like a blackbird with a white streak around its throat," said Henry Folkard of the BMC, the British Mountaineering Council. Since 2000, Henry and around a dozen fellow climbers and ramblers have been working with the Peak District National Park Authority, the Eastern Moors Partnership and the Sheffield Bird Study Group to monitor mountain blackbirds (as ring ouzels are called in the Peak District) and help them rear their young.



After checking last year's nests over the winter, Henry and a team of new volunteers from the BMC (recruited by the National Park and the Eastern Moors Partnership) have been out on the moors identifying this season's nest sites. Where they're near busy climbing routes, they erect small signs asking climbers and walkers to take care around this season's ouzel homes.

John Mead from the Eastern Moors Partnership praised the volunteers, particularly since the bird is on the UK's 'red list' of endangered birds. "The mountain blackbird is an ambassador for the wild high places of Britain," he said. "It's crucial we maintain this population here, these birds are part of the landscape as much as the rocks themselves."

Burbage and the nearby moors are looked after to provide a 'mosaic' of habitats with a variety of food, which helps mountain blackbirds to fledge more young. Reducing sheep numbers and increasing cattle provides homes for insects in varying heights of grassland, for example.

John Mead said the public can help ring ouzels by keeping dogs on leads through the nesting season from March to July, and by always taking food waste home, as crows and weasels will eat nearby eggs and fledglings after being attracted by a discarded picnic. Visitors can also report mountain blackbird sightings using the free Moors for the Future 'MoorWild' app to help safeguard the population for future generations, said John.

The rambler's dog is a threat after nesting too, said Henry. "After the young have fledged they hide in bracken or heather, so a loose dog can just find them and eat them up, and when the dog gets back no-one will know it's happened."

Peak District ranger Bill Gordon has been monitoring (and recording) mountain blackbirds and found that the birds on the moors near Sheffield have a different accent to other UK ring ouzels. "He recorded one male bird a couple of years ago with a different intonation, perhaps from further north, and sing as he might, that bird didn't attract a mate," said Henry. "The females must have wanted a local lad."

The Moors for the Future 'MoorWild' app is at: www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorapps

David Bocking, National Trust

Recently Spotted...



Although it would be nice to trumpet loudly about the 'power of the press', it is of course pure coincidence - though a welcome one - that just weeks after we drew attention to the dangerous state of the building-site on Lemont Road, it is now a hive of activity as builders recommence work on the site. Not only will the residences be a welcome and much-needed addition to the housing stock - a long-standing eyesore will also finally disappear!



Members of staff at Dore Co-op and Totley Library volunteers stand next to an impressive selection of goodies, kindly donated by Dore Co-op for Totley Library Film Club.

The recently refurbished Totley Co-op will also be supporting the Library's film club events by donations of ice-cream and soft drinks, and they promise to keep supplies topped up!

The Totle Show Committee is proud to announce

Totle Show 2017

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

**Saturday 16th September
at Totle Primary School**

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

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

The Programme

- 8.45 Registration opens
- 10.45 Registration closes
- 11.00 Judging of classes
- 1.30 Doors open to the public**
- 1.45 Official opening of the Show
- 2.00 Prize money may be collected
- 3.00 Raffle draw
- 3.15 Prize giving
- 3.30 Auction of donated items

Refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon together with live music, craft stalls and various children's activities.

The Show will end with a charity auction of donated items conducted by Totle's very own Rony Robinson.

How to Enter the Show

Please feel free to enter as many classes as you like! The entry fee is 50p per entry. You can enter as many entries as you like to each class, but no entry can have been in a previous Totle Show. If your entry doesn't fit one of our classes please still bring it along for display. All entries are left at the show at owner's risk.

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

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

Notes:

Recipe to be used for Dundee cake class (use a deep 7" tin): 175g/6oz plain flour; 125g/4oz butter/margarine; 125g/4oz soft brown sugar; 2½tsp baking powder; 1 rounded tsp mixed ground spice; 3 eggs, 125g/4oz raisins; 125g/4oz sultanas; 125g/4oz currants; 85g/3oz chopped mixed peel and chopped cherries; 40g/1½oz blanched almonds to decorate.

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

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

Totley Show 2017

Entry Form

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

Name	
Home phone	
Mobile	
Address	

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

HANDICRAFT SECTION

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

DOMESTIC SECTION

9	A cake (any recipe)	
10	Victoria sandwich (see recipe)	
11	Dundee cake (see recipe)	
12	Carrot cake	
13	5 Biscuits	
14	3 Fruit scones	
15	Loaf of bread	
16	Jam	
17	Lemon curd	
18	Marmalade	
19	Chutney	

FLORAL SECTION

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

FRESH PRODUCE SECTION

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

ART & SCULPTURE SECTION

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

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

41	Black and white	
42	Creative	
43	Wildlife	
44	Landscape	

WOODWORK SECTION

45	Wood turning	
46	Open woodwork	

CHILDREN'S SECTION

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

Official use only

Entrant number	
Total number of entries	

Total entry fee due	
Entry fee paid	

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society

I know that those of you who came to our production of *The Mikado* had a great outing. It was obvious both from the wonderful reception we received and from the many after-show comments that were made. It ranks as one of the funniest shows we have presented and we've put on quite a few. It was more than enjoyable from the cast's point of view, and one new member who has performed elsewhere said that it was the best show she had ever been in, and can't wait to start rehearsing for next year's offering.

I can't mention everyone but plaudits are due to Pete Geary for his portrayal of Nanki-Poo, his debut in which he was excellent both as actor and a terrific tenor, Steve Andrews for the funniest Ko-ko we've ever had. His rendition of "I've got a little list" had everyone laughing. In it he included graffiti artists, gaming technology, politicians and their wives, beauty therapists, the House of Lords, UKIP and the SNP. Pooh-Bar (Mike Spriggs) was not only Lord High everything from First Lord of the Treasury to the Arch Bishop of Titipu but was also Minister for Brexit. The Three Little Maids from School were a delight as usual with Kathryn Parkin coming right out of her shell and playing Peep-Bo with a wonderful comic timing that I've not seen in the part before.

Credit must go to Graham Weston for this production. He is excellent producer and so nice with it. Credit must also go to Nigel Martin our Musical Director for getting the best out of the singers. Unfortunately he was take ill a week before the show so could not conduct the performances. We are very fortunate to have Monica Eyley as Deputy MD who stepped in at the last minute to take over and making a superb job of it even though she has not conducted an orchestra before. The sad thing is that Nigel's illness means that he has had to resign as our MD. He is going to be a hard act to follow. Just to show I'm not too biased this review was sent to us a couple of days after the show:

Well done to Graham, some good little touches – thought the "alternative little list" also the "fan" work during the production were excellent. Congratulations to Monica having taken over the baton at extremely short notice especially as I think I am right in saying that she is not used to working with an orchestra. As last year it was a pleasure listening to the overture – the audience not talking though it!! The set, also the costumes were excellent.

Gwen, Jo and Kathryn were a delightful trio and their portrayal of their "different" characters was excellent. Christine's interpretation of Katisha was great and her solo of "Alone and yet alive" was one of the best I have seen and heard – and I have heard a few, both professional and amateur! Steve was a "loveable" Ko-Ko and gave an excellent rendition of "Tit-willow". Pete, Mike, Richard, Alan and Mark played their parts with great characterisation and aplomb and their solos, duets, trios, quartets were a delight to listen to with good diction. The ensemble singing, where all the harmonies and words could be heard were excellent.

Mary Titterton, NODA.

Now we move on to the concert season, so we have now started to rehearse for these. The Dore Summer concert will be on Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm in Dore Church Hall. Tickets will be available from me (Tel 0114 2362299) at £7 each. If you missed the show, don't miss this! It will, as usual, be a light-hearted, fun packed evening. What better way to start the Dore Festival. We hope to see you all there to hear music



Three Little Maids from School, in full costume: Jo Hutchisson, Gwen Knight and Kathryn Parkin.

from The Beatles, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Guys and Dolls etc. Before I go, I must tell you that Mark White's daughter got married in Manchester at the end of April and was attended by the Dore Male Voice Choir of which Mark is a member and Dore G&S's Barbershop quartet which, of course, includes Mark. They didn't know what they let themselves in for. It was great, quite the happiest, quirkiest wedding I've ever been to! The music knocked everyone out; it was brilliant. We wish the happy couple well.

Derek Habberjam



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Visitors and Extra-Curricular Activities

We provide our children with a wide variety of experience and as a result have various visitors and extra aspects to really get them engaged. Visitors this term have included: Mike Warren, a Christian storyteller, and Saints Alive Puppets who perform in assemblies. Our after-school and lunchtime clubs include the Baily Cup, Catch Coaching Dodge Ball, Football, Cricket, Benchball and Lunchtime clubs, plus Choir, Chill Zone, Film, Art, Gardening and Adventure Clubs.

The Y5s also had their residential to the Oaks Activity Centre; the Y4s stayed in Castleton for two days enjoying their outdoor pursuits and our Y3/4 children went for a 'Night at the Museum' (in February) staying over at Weston Park. As you can imagine lots of fun (but not much sleep) was had! Children from Y3 to Y6 went to see and hear the Halle Orchestra play at the end of March at the Sheffield City Hall and we also had a Music Hub Teacher, Emma Ede, take our Y2s through the Singing Project which resulted in a fantastic performance for parents. Visits this term have also taken place to Sheffield Mosque, Crucial Crew, Anston Butterfly House, the Network Games at the EIS, and the theatre, to see 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. We also had a fantastic Science Week in which we were visited by a real-life scientist who wowed us with his 'magical' science tricks - all with excellent learning points of course!

So what now? Well, we're getting ready for our TASS production: 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies', and for our Global Week and Green Day. That's aside from all of our usual lessons, activities, visits and visitors! As ever - it's all happening at TASS!

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

Karole Sargent (Proud to be) Head teacher

Last term seemed to be the busiest yet at Totley All Saints, with a fantastic spring term and run up to Easter. As we've gone into summer, things are still pretty hectic with loads happening as usual!

PTA Fun-d Raisers

The PTA Fun-d Raisers have been busy again having held a delicious summer family breakfast in May and are now in the process of planning up and coming events to round off the summer term. The two main events include: the TASS Playground Renovation Day on Saturday 3rd June (10am - 2pm) where the 'Mormon Helping Hands' will be heading up other parent and carer volunteers to repaint the floor markings on the yard, tidy up the flower beds as well as plant shrubs, etc. Additionally, the PTA will be putting on their TASS Summer Fayre on Saturday 10th June (11am - 2pm). Volunteers are urgently needed for both events, so if you are able, please text/call 07984 313404.

Over the year, the PTA Fun-d Raisers have raised an astonishing £7,488 for our children and have managed to fund reading books, a scooter shed, playground equipment, the Queens 90th birthday street party and photo, the Y6 graduation gowns, Science Week activities and prizes, basketball nets and a Christmas Panto booked for December 2017. Thanks so much to our amazing team of PTA Fun-d Raisers who make all of this possible - particularly to Kelly Lawton and Sally McCann (Joint Chairs).



TASS Governors

Our School Governors are an amazing set of people who give up their time and effort to make sure that TASS is the very best that it can be for all of its children! This term, the Governors came in for their special summer meeting held during the school day in order to go into their assigned classes as well as meet with children who have special responsibilities, such as the School Council, Merit Captains, Eco-Saints and Rights Respecters. This is then followed by afternoon tea with staff, and then we have the formal meeting where they decide on the priorities for the next school year that go into the School Development Plan. Not only is this meeting a real treat be-



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Organic Gardening

Many of you will have seen last year's Autumnwatch and this year's Springwatch on TV. These excellent programmes make us aware of our wonderful countryside, its wildlife and the amazing work done on nature reserves to establish good habitats for threatened species. The presenter, Chris Packham, is extremely knowledgeable and clearly explains the often complicated lives of plants and animals in their efforts to survive.

Some of you will also have taken part in the Great British Birdwatch which is organised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The final results show whether and where birds are increasing or decreasing in numbers and the possible reasons why that has happened.

My daughter and I did the Birdwatch on different days and, whilst usually the birds seem to know what we are doing and, frustratingly, keep away, this year we saw plenty and both of us had the joy of a small flock of Waxwings which were resting on an overhanging Silver Birch tree.

Generally, there have been fewer Greenfinches, Bluetits and Starlings than in recent years, but we have lots of Goldfinches and Blackbirds, together with visits from Siskins, Bullfinches, a Goldcrest on a nearby conifer and, currently, a pair of Woodpeckers visiting the feeders every day.

It is important to feed birds and provide water. The Blackbirds are using the water dish for a bath, but it is good to see them splashing at the edge of the ponds too.

We should discourage Grey Squirrels, though. They do a great deal of harm to trees and have driven our native Red Squirrels out of most of the British Isles. Thanks to volunteers and donations to wildlife charities, much is being done to reduce the number of Grey Squirrels and to encourage the return of the native Reds. There is progress, but there is a long way to go.

My spring wild flowers have looked lovely this year and are all spreading and finding new places to grow. The Winter Aconites come first, followed in February to March by Primroses, Lungwort and Snowdrops, all of which were visited by early bees. By March, the Lesser Celandines, Wood Sorrel and Daffodils were blooming and, later, Wood Anemones as well.

I have only recently become aware that Snowdrops are not native to Britain, but were introduced from France and Germany by the Victorians. I believe that mine are, at least, the original European natives, but there are now many cultivated varieties, some of which are very 'spectacular'.... so much so that clumps of them are being stolen from gardens and sold on at inflated prices. Whichever way I look at this, 'greedy', 'pathetic' and 'ridiculous' are some of the words which spring to mind; frankly, it boggles belief.

On Sky News recently, the subject of Spring came up and 'the lovely daffodils', but the presenter, Sarah-Jane Mee, said that they smell horrible. I checked my wild ones and, whilst it was not a strong smell, it was certainly not horrible - quite sweet, in fact. About that time, my daughter received a large bunch



Wild Primrose goes it alone and finds a home at the edge of a path under a log pile

of several varieties of daffodils and they did smell really awful - so much so that they had to be removed from the room. I much prefer the wild, indigenous ones with their under-stated pale yellow flowers.

There are already signs in my garden of the later Spring flowers starting to bloom and the promise of things to come. In particular, Greater Celandine, Blue Alkanet and White Dead-nettle are all coming and are very popular with bees.

By the end of March, the delicate white flowers appeared on a recently-planted Blackthorn shrub. It looks spectacular where it is used for hedging on farmland - throughout the Yorkshire Wolds, for example, and also in Derbyshire. The leaves come later and it supports a considerable variety of wildlife, also providing a safe haven for birds.

In early April, the Hawthorn trees and hedges suddenly become that lovely fresh green colour. I now have four trees and they support more wildlife than all other trees in this country, apart from our English Oak. I have a very old Midland Hawthorn which was planted before we lived here, which has deep pink blossom, but all the others are the native white blossom variety.



Wood Sorrel spreading naturally under an Alder tree

Our native trees are so important to the environment and to our own health. They clean the air, purify the soil, support a wide variety of pollinators and other species/organisms - some of them very rare or even specific to the tree - and help stop flooding and soil erosion.

We are all aware that advertisements can be very persuasive, but I have no respect for garden centres which show pretty wild flowers in their adverts and, while you might find a packet of wildflower seeds if you search for them, the rest of the store is full of imported cultivated plants and the chemical fertilisers to make them grow!

I am also singularly unimpressed with the adverts from lawn care companies. The company name often includes the word "green" which I think can only apply to the fact that grass is that colour, rather than anything to do with the actual health of the lawn and the soil in which it grows. One company will "paint" your grass green with a pigment that will give you instant and quite long-lasting perfectly green grass and yet, allegedly, "does no harm". Really? Another promises a green, weed-free lawn which your neighbours will envy. Oh, please!! Neither shows a responsible attitude towards the health of our environment.

In the shadier area of my garden, I now have some new chairs and a little 'coffee table' made from recycled wood pallets. They have been treated with a completely environmentally-safe preservative from Canada where it is used to preserve the log cabins in their forests. I am delighted with the chairs - they look just right at the top of my garden and I look forward to enjoying a cup of tea there (after a gardening session) during the Summer - weather permitting, of course!

Finally, a quote from Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring": "Nature has introduced great variety into the landscape, but man has displayed a passion for simplifying it. Thus he undoes the built-in checks and balances by which Nature holds the species within bounds"

Marian Tiddy



Friends of Gillfield Wood

Diary for June and July

June

Monday 5th: Phase 2 Woodland and hedgerow workshop.

This is the final workshop in a run of 4 (the first 3 were in May.) The aim has been to learn more about the extent of the wood in past times through the type of plants found in hedgerows today. If you would like to learn a little more about this topic and further improve your recognition of important species of hedgerow plants, do join us. Meet at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane. The session will last from 10.30am to 1.30pm. Wear suitable clothing.

Monday 5th: 'Water Voles'. This talk has been transferred from May 8th. Christine Gregory will give an illustrated talk on her work with the Water Voles of Derbyshire. This charming mammal has been an endangered species since the 1990's. Christine is a landscape painter, writer, photographer and naturalist, and has written a book on the subject. Meet in Totley Library, Baslow Road at 7.30pm. We will be asking for a £1 entrance donation to meet costs and the usual £3 for non-members.

Sunday 25th: Practical conservation morning. This will be a self-help session without the usual assistance of the Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet at the Scout Hut off Aldam Road by 10am. We will look at keeping the path tidy in this eastern section of the wood. 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.

Other Matters in Phase 2

We continue to investigate the history of Gillfield Wood during June and July through archival research. From time to time we have used Totley Library on Tuesdays from 10am to 12.30pm to meet, do further research and discuss findings. Details can be found on the website and will be emailed to members. We are also setting up practical work regarding Totley Brook itself. If members are interested in exploring the biology, geology and archaeology of the brook, please let the secretary know (fogwsecretary@gmail.com). We will then email you regarding work sessions.

July

Sunday 23th: 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 for any late changes of venue.

Paul Hancock

A vegan coming for dinner?

30 years ago, or so, the thought of a vegetarian coming around for dinner could probably be a scary thought. Now, even the most committed meat eaters would find it easy to adapt a menu. With all the high protein substitutes in all the supermarkets, many that mimic meat, and the vast array of groceries and recipe books, it's finally normal to either be a vegetarian or to regularly enjoy vegetarian food.

But it's now become commonplace to have a vegan around to dinner- and that increases the challenge considerably. The reason people are vegan of course is that the production of dairy products involves as much killing and perhaps more cruelty to the animals as rearing for meat. Cows have a gestation period of 9 months, the same as humans and a strong

one-to-one bond with their calf. But the calf is taken away from its mother soon after its birth. Separation is extremely distressing for both mother and baby, which is why we hear bellowing, and cows have even been known to try to jump gates to find their calf again. The calf is usually put into the food chain so then we can take the mother's milk. This mother is not producing enough milk for just one calf as nature intended. Through selective breeding, the udders are so large they are now nearly trailing onto the floor and the production of milk matches the demand from the amount being suckled or extracted. As someone who has breast fed a baby myself, I know how painful being engorged with milk can be. No wonder the cows rush into the milking sheds for relief, but unaware that the relief creates the next demand for production. Cows are often pregnant again and lactating at the same time.

There are now so many good dairy free products in supermarkets, some better than others, but the variety and taste is improving all the time. Dairy-free ice cream is good. But generally vegan puddings are still in short supply and sometimes a fruit salad is not enough or becomes too expected as the routine vegan pudding option. So here is a recipe for a vegan lime 'cheesecake' that I find tasty and less fatty than dairy cheesecakes. Poached pears make a great dessert - see the recipe below from Sarah Brown. Also a tip on making simple quick chocolate truffles that are dairy-free.

Vegan lime cheesecake

Biscuit base:

200g digestive biscuits (usually vegan but check)
100g dairy free margarine

Crush the biscuits to form crumbs. Gently melt the margarine. Mix together well and pour into a suitable tin (about 8 in diameter) lined with tinfoil or in individual tubs with no lining (as these won't need taking out and slicing). Press the base down level and smooth out using the back of a spoon.

Topping:

100g creamed coconut (usually half a 200g block)
300g or 350 gram block of Silken Tofu
2 small or 1 large avocado
2 limes
70g Castor sugar

Put the juice and pulp of the limes into a pan with the creamed coconut and gently heat until the coconut is melted. Add the tofu, sugar and avocado and blend all together in a blender. Put the mixture on top of the base and leave in the fridge for 3 hours to set.

Pears Alhambra

4 pears (preferably Williams or Comice)
275ml sweet red wine
Grated rind of 1 orange
1 tablespoon of crystallised ginger, finely chopped
25g demerara sugar

Peel the pears, leaving the stalks on if possible and slice a small portion from the base so that they can stand upright. Bring the wine to the boil with the orange rind. Add the peeled pears and poach them gently for 20 min or may need a lot more until they are starting to soften through. Remove them from the pan and stand them in a serving dish. Boil the remaining juice with the crystallised ginger and sugar until it is thick and syrupy, then spoon it carefully over the pears. Chill thoroughly and serve with dairy-free ice cream or dairy free cream.

Easy vegan chocolate truffles

Take a block of at least 70% dark chocolate (check it's vegan). Gently melt and add a tablespoon of golden syrup. Mix well. Adding syrup gives sweetness and will prevent the chocolate from setting hard again. The mix can be rolled into truffles or put in moulds and left to set in the fridge. You can play with this mix to add other things e.g. ground salted peanuts. Once set, the chocolates are removed from the fridge and usually I find they are nicest after leaving overnight.

Dawn Biram

Adders on the Moors!

"Snakes have had a bad press, which is unjustified," said Danny Udall from the Eastern Moors Partnership, who's delighted that the Peak District's north-eastern moorlands are home to one of the most important concentrations of adders in the English uplands.

"The Eastern Moors are a great place to see adders, and although we think there are well over 400 in this area, the fact that they are reclusive and difficult to spot makes it really special when you do see one."

Biologist David Carter has been monitoring adder populations for several years, and said the snake has declined in many parts of the UK, unlike the Eastern Moors, where careful land management is giving adders the right ground cover to raise young and hibernate. The fact that grouse moor owners didn't plough up their land may also have helped adders on the moors between Baslow and Holmesfield a century ago.

During a recent adder walk at Barbrook, near Owlbar, several snakes were found catching the sun to warm up after a cold early spring night. Male adders can turn electric blue in spring after they've shed their skin, and lucky adder watchers might even see an 'adder dance' where two half metre long males entwine to show off to a female.

The best time and place to see adders is when they're basking in the sun late in the morning, on rocks or at the edge of vegetation, said Danny Udall, but adder watchers should avoid disturbing basking snakes by moving on rather than setting up a static camera or binoculars.

Snakes can't hear, but they feel vibrations, so you should walk gently through the grass and heather, and look several yards ahead as most snakes will quietly slither away as you approach.

As long as people don't approach adders too closely (and certainly don't pick them up), the public have nothing to fear from our local snakes, said Danny Udall.

"Adders are not dangerous. For an average healthy adult, an adder bite is not significantly different to being stung by a wasp or a hornet," said David.

400 local adders are another good reason to obey the law by



Male adder on the Eastern Moors

keeping your dog on a lead on the moors, said Danny, which also reduces danger to livestock and nesting birds. Inquisitive dogs can be killed or made very ill from adder bites. "One of my dogs was bitten and we ended up with a £2,000 vets bill," Danny noted. Bitten humans shouldn't panic, just stay still and call for medical advice, he said.

"The last thing adders want to do is come into contact with a person," said Tom Aspinall from Moors for the Future. "If you're not careful, they'll disappear before you even know they're there."

The public can help monitor local adders, toads and lizards with the Moors for the Future 'Scales and Warts' survey developed along with Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group. Download a free app or postcards from: <http://www.moors-for-the-future.org.uk/community-science/scales-and-warts>.

David Bocking, National Trust



Little Saints Nursery, the School House, Hillfoot Road, Totley Sheffield, S17 4 AP. Tel: 0114 2352148

News from Little Saints Nursery...

Little Saints turns into a hairdressers!

Our LSNers have been practising their hairdressing skills on Hannah - just one member of our wonderful staff. She gamely let them loose on her locks and they thoroughly enjoyed giving her a shampoo and rinse! Not sure whether she gave them a tip or not...

Links with Totley All Saints School

Each week we visit the school. As the weather is now improving, we have begun to use the Woodland Workshop in the grounds of TASS again. This week, our lovely staff took the children to explore and look for things that grow. Then, our Wonderful Wendy read them 'Jack and The Beanstalk', as

the children sat in the woodland. Finally, they went to have a look in the pond to see whether the tadpoles we recently rehomed there had turned into frogs yet. We're very excited!

PE sessions at TASS

We use the school hall once a week for informal PE sessions. The children love getting the apparatus out and showing us what they can do!

Here at Little Saints we pride ourselves in our 'relaxed, family' atmosphere. We enjoy being a close-knit community of both the adults who work here (most for many years!) and the children themselves.

Please feel free to call us and arrange a visit to our special little nursery. We still have a few spaces available and are currently taking bookings for September too.



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.
SLIMMING WORLD, Abbeydale Sports Club, 5.30pm and 7.30pm, Jo Elsey: 262 0523 or 07590 545253.
FITNESS LEAGUE fitness class 1.45 - 2.45pm, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Ali on 07927 420726.
- TUESDAYS** **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.
FITNESS LEAGUE fitness class 10 - 11am, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Ali on 07927 420726.
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, 9.00-10.00am and 10.15-11.15am. 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. Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 10.10am, Abbeydale Sports Club. Free taster sessions. See www.minimovez.com or call Steph on 07838 818743.
- THURSDAYS** **BELROBICS**, United Reformed Church, 9.15-10am, email: jenny@belrobics.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 - 1pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276
PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1.30-3pm. Tel. 07912 352543 for details.
PILATES CLASS run by a qualified Pilates Instructor and Physio-therapist for all abilities and ages. 1.30 - 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Emer on 07792422909.

JUNE

- MON 5th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Woodland and hedgerow workshop. Meet 10.30 am, Totley Hall Lane. For more details see page 32.
MON 5th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Talk by Christine Gregory on 'Water Voles' (moved from 8th May). Totley Library, 7.30 pm. For more details see page 32.
SUN 25th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Practical Conservation morning. Self-help session. Meet 10am at Scout Hut off Aldam Road. For more details see page 32.
SUN 11th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com
WED 14th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by John Kirkman, 'Bees, Wasps and Ants'. Visitors Welcome.
TUES 20th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD Murray Wilson, 'Three Queens'. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am.
SUN 25th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/
WED 28th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Anne Beedham, 'Days of Sunshine and Rain: Peak District Rambling in the 1920s' with words and photographs from the life of George Willis Marshall. Totley Library, 7.30pm.
WED 28th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Richard Wimpenny, 'Why Hitler?'. Visitors Welcome.

JULY

- SAT 1st TRANSPORT 17** Coffee Morning, 10am - 12 noon, Cross Scythes. Everyone welcome!
SAT 1st DORE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Summer Concert, Dore Church Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £7 from Derek Habberjam - tel. 0114 2362299.
SAT 8th & SUN 9th TOTLEY OPEN GARDENS Twelve local gardens open 12.30-5.30pm. Admission £4. Programmes available in advance from the Ironing Parlour, Baslow Road, and Totley Library.
SUN 9th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. Visiting locos & Free Exhibition 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/
WED 12th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Dr Andrew Raftery, 'The NHS Then and Now'. Visitors Welcome.
TUES 18th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD Suzanne Bingham, 'High Street to 'I' street'. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10 am.
SUN 23rd MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South. 1pm-5 pm (weather permitting). Car park closes 5pm. £1.50 per ride per person. See www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com/
SUN 23rd FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Practical Conservation morning run with the help of Sheffield Council Ranger Service. Meet 10am, Baslow Road bus terminus. For more details see page 32.
WED 26th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10am Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Melvyn Cook, 'Waterways of Russian Tsars'. Visitors Welcome.
WED 26th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP Alan Powell, 'The History of Newspapers in Sheffield'. Totley Library, 7.30pm.

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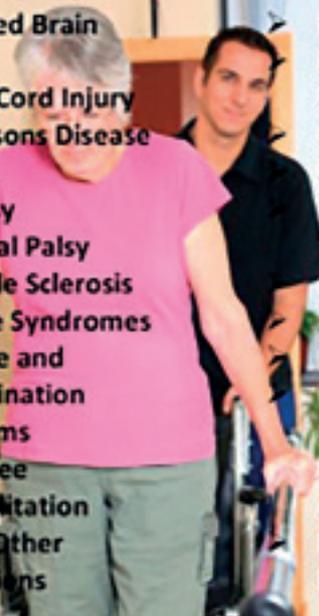
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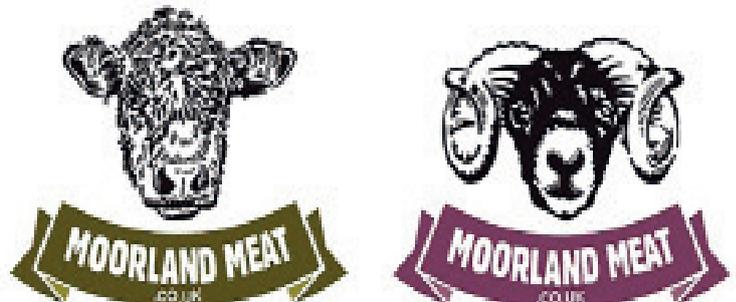
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