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Totley Bents, featuring Monny Brook Farm, pictured in the 1940s or 1950s. Th farm was owned by Dick Reynolds, and the farm in the background, Bank View Farm. was owned by Slaters, who also had a haulage business and did work for Pickford Hollands brickworks. 'Bents', by the way, is from an old English word meaning 'area of stiff or rough grass'.

Cycling in Gillfield Wood - Yes or No?

One of the relatively normal things we could all do during three months of lockdown was to enjoy the countryside. As we all undertook our daily exercise in the area, it was routine to exchange pleasant greetings as people passed by. One of the consequences of enjoying the outdoors has been a considerable increase in popularity of biking. In July, Halfords reported a 57% increase in cycling-related sales during lockdown and to be sure for many people it's a great way of getting exercise and fresh air.

However, in Gillfield Wood it has not always been pleasant greetings that have been exchanged. There is substantial controversy over the use of the Wood's footpaths by cyclists. A few weeks ago the Dore and Totley Community Facebook page hosted a long and at times acrimonious debate between cyclists wishing to cycle through the wood, and other users - mainly walkers - who claimed to have been inconvenienced or even physically endangered by cyclists riding at speed through the wood.

Clearly there are arguments for allowing cycling in the Wood. As one local resident who wrote on the subject to *Totley Independent* put it, "the path through Gilleyfield Woods provides the only off-road route for cyclists in

Totley with the exception of the parks. This is of real value for children and other vulnerable riders. It also provides a route through a great bit of landscape, an opportunity for cyclists to engage with nature, for quiet moments. Critically it also provides a route for cyclists wishing to go further (or wanting to do a round Totley route) which cuts out one of the most dangerous sections of Baslow Road. Potentially it saves lives."

On the other hand, one contributor to the debate on Facebook wrote "I have just been to Gillfield woods with my partner for a walk. The paths are chewed up with tyre marks and deep water filled gullies. It makes the paths very slippy and almost impassible in places. Many older people use these woods for exercise and it makes it very dangerous for them. Furthermore, the no cycling signs have been torn down and recently a group of four cyclists destroyed part of a fence to avoid the kissing gates. Clearly the current plan isn't working." Some have stressed the dangers posed to children and dogs by cyclists riding at speed through the wood - especially if their bikes have no warning bells, as seems often to be the case.

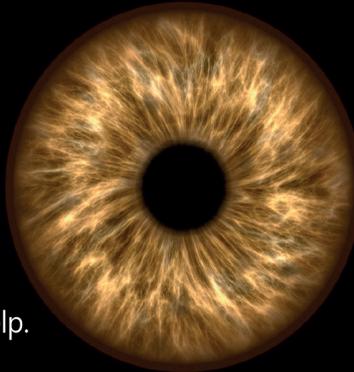
There's no doubt that a 'No Cycling' (*continued p.3*)

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Cycling in Gillfield Wood- Yes or No? (from p.1)

policy operates in Gillfield Wood as can be seen from our photo, below, of the sign at the entrance to the wood near the Baslow Road bus terminus. *Totley Independent* asked Sheffield City Council's Countryside Service Manager, Dave Aspinall, to comment.

Dave explained that his department is aware of the situation. "During the lockdown the paths were very busy with a lot of cyclists coming through the wood. I would say that 90% of those were reasonable and sensible and careful. There were a lot of parents with their children on small bikes, enjoying the countryside and doing no damage to anybody or putting anybody in any danger. What has happened is that the wood has become a conduit for access to the moorland, by some of the 'harder', more active bikers. They've been coming back down through the Wood and sometimes getting quite a speed up, even though there are barriers at either end of the path – they lift the bikes over those and then get quite a head of steam." The root of the problem seems to be seasoned mountain bikers coming at speed through the wood, when there are a lot of people walking there.



Friends of Gillfield Wood have always tried to take a balanced approach to this ongoing problem and they refer any complainants to the Council. The Council are aware that FoGW are willing to work with them to try and find a suitable solution, if there is one, to this delicate situation.

As many have pointed out, it is technically against the law to cycle along the Gillfield Wood footpaths. It is not, however, a criminal offence, but rather constitutes the civil wrong of trespass against the rights of the landowner, or in this case the City Council, and if the authority chooses to do nothing about such trespasses, then in effect they have consented to that use of the land. It's also impossible to enforce.

Although it is against the law to cycle on a public footpath, cycling is perfectly legal on a public bridleway. Might there be a solution through using, or creating bridleways? Dave Aspinall explained that "there is an actual bridleway coming out from the Shepley Spitfire going up to Woodthorpe Hall around by Fanshawe Gate on the road. That's an alternative to going through the wood, and there's not a problem with that."

Could a new bridleway be created? "Some have suggested a new bridleway on what was Edwin Pocock's farm," explained Dave, "but this is easier said than done. You can't easily just create a public bridleway - it costs a lot of money and if you are going to surface it, that it would cost even more." There would certainly be little support for a cycleway through the wood itself, with a tarmac surface and a widened path, because of the expense, and the fact that this would not be sympathetic to the values of nature conservation. In any case, this wouldn't resolve the problem of speeding cyclists in the wood.

So is there a favoured strategy for trying to resolve the problem? In Dave's view, the favoured alternative is that "whilst it's not unreasonable to allow cycling through the woodland we would have to try and get a media campaign going which urges cyclists to be more responsible; and to try and slow people down, perhaps through one or two additional barriers through the wood which might be the thing that stops cyclists tearing through".

What do readers think? Please let us have your views on this difficult issue. Write to *Totley Independent* - address details on back page.



Totley History Group

As we have seen, hopefully, the worst of Covid-19, and the country begins to get going again, the Committee has been considering the future activities of the Group. We had hoped that we might be able to resume with our planned September meeting followed by an AGM in October. However, as we are getting more information regarding the shape of the post-pandemic world it would seem that that plan will prove to be optimistic.

It seems unlikely that the Library, or any similar venues, will be available to hold meetings for some time because of the continuing need to meet social distancing requirements. As a result of this the Committee has decided, reluctantly, to cancel all meetings for the rest of the year. At this stage we are hoping that we can resume our meetings programme from January onwards but we will be keeping abreast of the guidance available as the year unfolds.

Had the AGM gone ahead in October an important agenda item would have been the future of the Group. Whilst the Group's activities remain popular, and we are in a sound financial position, there is an urgent need for new people to come forward and help with the management of the Group. The current committee members all have been in post for a number of years and recent requests for new members to come forward have fallen on stony ground. A majority of the current members had been planning to retire in April, had the AGM gone ahead then, and in the absence of any new committee members coming forward the Group may have had to consider dissolving itself.

The Committee is now hoping to be able to hold the AGM in April and the future of the Group will be the main topic for discussion. Those Committee members intending to retire this April still intend to retire whenever the next AGM is held.

In view of this the meeting will be open to non-members and we hope that anyone who might be interested in helping to ensure the Group's future will be able to come along. The eventual date of the meeting will be made known via the *Totley Independent* and our website, www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk.

If anyone would like more details about what being a member of the Committee entails please contact me at n.rolfe@btinternet.com.

Norman Rolfe



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Neighbourhood Watch

We are well into the pandemic now and about the only good thing about Covid19 is the reduction in the crime around our area. Not only have most of our residents been adhering to the lockdown but the criminal element as well.

Our local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have been very active during the lockdown especially in the Sharrow and Endcliffe areas as shown by the newsletters they produce. We have a new temporary Inspector Louise Kent, along with Sergeant James Marshall at Woodseats, and PCSO Katie Gavin has taken over the Bradway area whilst PCSO Ken Blake has now responsibility for Jordanthorpe as well as Totley and Greenhill. Details of all our PCSO's contact details are on our Facebook and web page.



Now as we enter the next phase, with restrictions being relaxed and local businesses at last reopening, social distancing becomes of prime importance for our elder residents. Unfortunately, the sense of invincibility the youth benefit from can lead to potential dangers for others. Most of those I have come across are behaving extremely politely, but a few have been

causing some problems on the recreation areas and parks. The images we have seen on television of the mountains of litter following days out at the beach or in the Peak District are being replicated by a small element locally. Of more concern, apart from the rubbish are the number of gas canisters and balloons left behind, indicating a more sinister pastime. Please warn your teenagers of the dangers.

The main criminal activity in Totley in recent months has been the number of incidents involving theft from vehicles. Please always report the crime whatever the reason so the police can direct their activities to stop the criminals where possible. On a few occasions the crime was captured on CCTV although the participants have become much more aware and generally cover their faces. However, it is sometimes possible to identify them from any distinctive clothing or footwear if the images are clear enough. We have made representations to have a dedicated link to the police for CCTV footage involving criminal activity, like that for Dashcam footage. We await some response.

Hopefully we will be able to resume our lock-checking activities soon, so to those of you who have already contacted me - I have not forgotten you and will hopefully have seen you by the time you read this.

I am sure most of you will have received some sort of potential scam during the lockdown, with many starting to get them on mobile phones as well as landlines and computers. Some are so obviously scams that they can quickly be ignored or deleted, but others have become much more sophisticated and therefore potentially more dangerous. Not all the rogue emails are so obvious, but many try to get you to click on a link which will almost certainly infect your computer or give someone access to your computer. Many involve messages saying your message service needs updating or your account has been closed, and to click a link to rectify the problem. Never do so, as it is the simplest way to infect your computer. When was the last time you changed your email password? All our members got an email from me recently warning that a bogus email had been sent out supposedly from myself. One member even queried if I had sent it and got a reply saying yes from the hacker. Luckily, my wife got the same bogus email and checked with me. It turns out my email account had been hacked and I had to change my password, which I had been using for just over a year. It prompted me to review all my passwords that were over a year old.

Please be aware and stay safe

Les Day
07985 424363
Les_nhw@hotmail.com

WEA classes

We're still here, if not in the flesh!

As we move into the height of Summer, some of our thoughts start to turn to the Autumn and what we might want to learn this coming year. While the WEA took the difficult decision to suspend all face-to-face classes nationally for the Autumn term, we have also been practising all Summer with hundreds of online presentations.

The Autumn term promises many of the usual classes, plus a number of other projects which have been tried and tested over the last few months.

So what does this mean for our language students? Well, instead of our usual venue, St John's, Abbeydale Road South, a good range of courses will be available online, in Spanish, French and Italian. Of course, you will also be able to access other courses from all over the country in many subjects, as the online world is opened out to you.

But should you choose to maintain the 'local' presence, in preparation for the day when we are able to return to the physical classroom, please contact me to discuss which courses are originally Sheffield-based. And please talk to me if you're not sure how you feel about studying online.

To talk to me about the available 'local' courses, email me on sylviamay@gmail.com or phone/text me on 07958 940821. To book by phone, call 0300 303 3464 or go to wea.org.uk.

Booking opens on 20th July (13th for WEA members), but at that point, you'll have access to all national courses. You never know, you might find something completely different to study - as well, of course, as your favourite local language class!

Sylvia May

Millthorpe Nursery

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Totley Library

'Order and Collect' Service up and running

Totley Library opened as planned on Monday 13th July for the new "Order and Collect" service. We were the first library in Sheffield to welcome back library users and what is even more remarkable is that the service is run entirely by a committed group of volunteers.

At the time of writing we have just completed our first two sessions and it has been lovely to see so many familiar faces. We have had a steady stream of customers returning books, checking out how the new system works and placing orders for new books. In just two short sessions we have made up orders for 36 library users and dealt with many enquiries. It is early days and we are continually reviewing how we can adapt the new service to meet the needs of the local community.

We recognize that it is disappointing for our library users not to be allowed into the library to browse for books, use the computers or attend community events but be reassured that we are actively looking at how we can move on safely to the next phase of opening up in line with Sheffield City Council and Government guidance. In the meantime, we have a great stock of books including lots of new best sellers and you can view what we have available by going to the website www.totleycric.org.uk. For details about the service, see below.

How the service works: Initially, we are only able to lend books (maximum of 5) from the Adult Library.

Our opening times for the service are Mondays 2 - 4pm and Fridays 10am - 12 noon.

You can search or browse online for the books we have in stock at Totley Library by visiting the website <http://www.totleycric.org.uk> and following the links to Totley Orange Sticker Catalogue and the Sheffield City Council libraries Catalogue.

Please DO NOT use the council system to place holds on books as this service is currently not operating and we only have access to books held at Totley. It is important that when searching for books, make sure you set the search location to 'Totley Library'

Order forms are available at the library or from our website. If possible, please email your requests to totleylibrary@gmail.com.

You can also order by telephone during opening hours (tel. 0114 236 3971).

We will do our best to fulfil your request but in the event of your book choice not being available, we reserve the right to offer you an alternative. If you need help in choosing suitable books our library volunteers are happy to make recommendations based on your previous borrowing history.

Monday orders will be ready for collection on Friday. Friday orders will be ready for collection on the following Monday.

Please bring your library card with you when you come to collect your order. If you are asking someone to collect books for you, please ensure that they have your full details and library card number.

Following current Government and local guidance in relation to COVID-19 we have had to make many changes in the way we operate to ensure everyone's safety. Totley Library is a voluntary run organisation: we are currently operating with a reduced number of volunteers, and we ask for your patience as we try to establish the new service.

Please note that -

- Books should be returned and collected from the foyer of the Library.

- You can browse for books online via our website but you will not be able to browse in the Library
- Books will be quarantined for a period of at least 72 hours when they are returned
- We have Risk Assessment in place and will follow current guidance to ensure that the service operates in a safe manner both for our library users and volunteers
- We ask you to respect the social distancing signs
- PN computers, printer and photocopier will not be available for use
- The public toilet will not be available
- We are unable to take any book donations until further notice.

This service is the first phase of a plan aimed at a full restoration of library services. Another objective of this phase is to increase the availability of volunteers to the level that will be needed to operate later phases.

The second phase will allow greater public access and will include limited browsing and access to Public Network computers, along with photocopying facilities. Plans for this phase are still being formulated and a critical factor will be the level of social distancing and other hygiene factors required at that time. It is unlikely that this phase can be implemented before September.

The third phase which will be the "new normal" allowing fuller use of all library facilities and a restoration of community activities. The timescale for achieving will depend on the successful controlling of the Covid-19 pandemic which cannot be predicted accurately as yet. The advice received suggests that earliest likely implementation date for this will be January 2021.

We hope in the near future that we will be able to extend the opening times and provide books to our younger readers. We look forward to welcoming you back and hope you will again enjoy borrowing new titles, old favourites, audiobooks and large print books.

Lottery Winners Congratulations to recent Library Lottery winners! The first-prize winner in the May draw was Karen Marley, and the second-prize winner was David Forster. In the June draw, the first prize was won by Mary Dakin, and the second prize was won by Anthony Waddington.

Totley CRIC website We will endeavour to keep everyone posted about any new developments through our website - keep an eye on it at <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/>

Sheffield's Children's University launches Summer Festival of Fun

Sheffield's Children's University are offering over 70 free activities for children this summer. From 20th July to 28th August children will be able to sing, dance, get crafty, and take part in family board games, walks, cooking and even family yoga.

Activities will be a mixture of live, and online events delivered via Facebook Live or Zoom, as well as some downloadable or emailed activities.

Helen Oades, Senior project officer at the Children's University said: "This is the sixth year of the Sheffield Children's University Festival of Fun and we are so excited! We thought coronavirus and social distancing would mean we couldn't go ahead this year, but thanks to the adaptability of our activity providers and some clever thinking around the accessibility of the sessions, we've been able to deliver more activities than ever before.

The Festival of Fun will also include weekly Home Learning Challenges, themed around the continents of the world and our place within them. These will supplement the 100+ daily Home Learning Challenges that the Children's University Team have developed and published daily since the lockdown began back in March.

For more information about the Festival of Fun go to <http://sheffieldcu.blogspot.com/>

Ebenezer Hall of Abbeydale Hall 1820-1911

Ebenezer Hall lived in Abbeydale Hall for more than half his long life. What path had brought this young lad, who started life in a large lead mining family near Wirksworth, to the middle class world of the late Victorian gentry?

In 1820 Ebenezer was born in Bolehill, Derbyshire, the name itself indicating that lead mining was the local industry. It appears that his father felt education for his twelve children was important, and certainly a number of them attended school in nearby Cromford.



It had been founded by Cromford Mill owner Richard Arkwright when the 1802 Factory Act required apprentices to be given some education. This was 75 years before basic schooling became compulsory in England. The school worked in Arkwright's favour as his belief was that the children he employed would be more efficient workers if they could read and write. Many were as young as 8 years and received six hours of education per week, probably one hour each day during every long shift of twelve hours.

The school was also open on Sundays, not as a Sunday School as we understand it, but as an extension of the education given during the week. Some of Ebenezer's sisters were cotton-spinners and would have attended the school from Monday to Saturday. Did this entitle the family to send the boys (who were lead mining) for schooling on Sundays? Maybe it was made available for the village children to gain a basic education on the day when the mill was closed.

Ebenezer was a bright student with a love of books and learning that had impressed his teacher William Shaw. William's friend, John Roberts, was the co-owner of Wilkinson & Roberts Silversmiths of Sheffield. He was a man without children and looking to 'adopt' a youth with the potential to take over his business. These were the circumstances that, at the age of sixteen years, brought Ebenezer to live with him and his wife Sarah in Shrewsbury Road, close to John's works in Broad Street, in the Park district.

Some have said Ebenezer was apprenticed, although by the age of twenty years he was working as company 'manager and traveller', selling to customers across the country. This was at a time (1840s) when the rail network was in its infancy and it is certain that some of his journeys would have been made by stagecoach, both lengthy and uncomfortable. Roads were notoriously bad, muddy in winter and rutted and dusty

in summer...17 hours to London, 24 hours to Edinburgh! Not for the faint-hearted!

In the 1841 census Ebenezer, aged twenty one, cannot be found. Perhaps he was on the road enduring one of his tedious non-stop journeys.

This same year the census reveals that his brother Joshua is also living with John Roberts and employed as an apprentice silver-plater. The lead industry was in recession and with the large Hall family needing to find work it is known that at least three brothers, plus other relatives, came to Sheffield to work in the company.

In 1847 Ebenezer became a partner in the growing business. He had an advance of £100 to buy into the partnership and needed to ensure improved profits would help him to repay his debt.

In 1851 John Roberts had acquired Abbeydale Villa as his potential retirement home, and the following year a new company partnership was formed with Martin & Naylor, which became Martin, Hall & Co. Ebenezer was still the company salesman and is to be found in the 1851 census staying at a commercial hotel in Plymouth.

Martin, Hall & Co. manufactured high quality silver and silver-plate ware, exhibiting in the 1851 Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace, where they were awarded many accolades.



It is fair to say that by this time Ebenezer was regarded by John as his son and moved to Abbeydale House with him. Extensive building work began and it is possible to see the 'new' west wing, with gothic style tower and turreted ornamentation, contrasting with the simpler architecture of the original building.



Abbeydale House - the name was changed to Abbeydale Hall

By 1854 John had retired and in 1857 building work was complete, despite a serious setback when a large fire in the tower spread quickly to destroy much of the upper floors and roof. Although insured, it covered little more than half the cost (£1,300) of repairing the damage.

Ornamental gardens were laid and land bought along Abbeydale Rd South to add to Abbeydale Park, land that had been included in the house purchase. A grotto was built across the road adjacent to R. Sheaf, which became

a favourite place for John, Sarah and Ebenezer to entertain friends.

John and Ebenezer became stalwarts of Christ Church, Dore, but felt a more local church was needed to serve the growing population in Totley, the result of the new railway station making access to Sheffield and beyond a practical possibility. The business was flourishing and their generosity to the community paid for the building of St John's C of E Church and its vicarage, completed in 1875.

Shortly after the death of Sarah Roberts, also in 1875, Ebenezer married her companion, Sarah Wilkinson. The two Sarahs were cousins and Sarah W. had lived at the Hall for some years. Hailing originally from London, she returned there for her wedding, along with the vicar of Dore who helped to officiate at the ceremony.

In 1879 the couple travelled to Australia for a delayed honeymoon and business trip. The purpose was to promote the company's products at an exhibition highlighting British manufacturers (which at the time were suffering from a recession). Ebenezer was always looking for opportunities to further the company's prosperity.

At home he valued the tranquillity of Abbeydale: he rode to hounds with the Barlow Hunt and fished in the recently disused dam of Totley Rolling Mill. He had bought the mill in 1881 and closed it down shortly afterwards.



At this time, he entered into a protracted correspondence with Midland Railway, when plans revealed their proposed Dore-Chinley line would entail compulsory purchase of 30 acres of his land, and noise from passing trains would disturb his peace. He wanted the trains to run through a tunnel, to prevent these problems, but his objection was spectacularly defeated when shareholders overwhelmingly voted to accept Midland Railway's proposal...the new Manchester connection was certain to increase the value of the railway company's shares, and building a tunnel would be expensive and delay completion.

However, scant compensation for Ebenezer was that a cutting was created opposite Abbeydale Hall to reduce the railway's impact, and a footbridge was built (now demolished) to access the grotto that would be left in isolation by the new line.

Ebenezer's business interests widened in this period and he took directorships in a number of companies. Astute connections to growing concerns eg Sheffield United Gas Company, Sheffield and Rotherham Bank and others ensured his business acumen was financially rewarded, even when the silverware market was at a low ebb due to national recession and competition from cheaper imports.

In the 1880s he had bought the Hall from John Roberts (who remained there until his death). The purpose of this was probably Ebenezer's desire to become a Justice of the Peace, which required anyone holding that office to be a property owner. He was duly appointed a Magistrate and held monthly sessions in Eckington and Dronfield for a number of years.

His involvement within the local area meant he supported many causes. He became a trustee at Cherry Tree Orphanage, gifted money to poorly paid church incumbents, made donations towards repairs and improvements at Dore and St. John's Churches and generally became an upstanding member of the community. He also donated land to the local Methodists in Totley so they could have their own building, at a time when they used a room lent to them by a Totley Rise shop owner, Mrs Wint.

His generosity was often evident in gifts to Sheffield hospitals and schools, and he never forgot his roots by continuing to give donations to the church at Wirksworth. He was a stubborn man of strong opinions and determined Victorian principles, sometimes making enemies along the way. It was said, perhaps unkindly, that he used his generosity to publicly display his wealth.

He remained in good health until very shortly before his death in 1911 leaving almost £196,000, a very large sum for those times. After bequests to his family his will made generous donations to the churches and charities he had supported throughout his life. Trusts were established, one of which helped to fund the building of All Saints' Church, Totley, a decade after his death.

His widow, Sarah, lived on in Abbeydale Hall until her death in 1919. Eventually Sheffield Council took ownership and its purpose became a community asset and education centre for many years. It was sold to a private developer in 2000.

Pauline Burnett

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No Fires or BBQs

In May 2020 there were five fires which caused devastating damage to the Peak District, including fires at Bamford Edge (pictured below), Stanage Edge and Chatsworth Estate that



caused serious damage to the environment, with plumes of smoke visible over Blackmoor to residents in Totley. Wildlife including ground nesting birds perished and serious damage was caused to the natural habitat.



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All too often these fires are caused by careless use of disposable BBQs. A stray spark or piece of ash can ignite tinder dry grass and leave catastrophic damage. Alarmingly, many fires are started when people leave behind an un-extinguished or still hot disposable BBQ, which ultimately lights the ground beneath and around them.

After the catastrophic fire at Bamford Edge, which burned for days despite the efforts of fire fighters until torrential rain put it out, a local campaign group called "Leave the BBQs at

Home" was set up by Hathersage residents Tony and Vicki McCartney. This group aims to encourage retailers in and around all National Parks to stop selling disposable BBQs to prevent fires and protect the environment. The group has quickly gathered support and it now has almost 3,000 members on Facebook who are campaigning around the country. The UK National Park Authorities and The National Trust have also issued press statements confirming that fires and disposable BBQs are not permitted anywhere on their land.

Two local Totley residents, Julie Gay and Natasha Watkinson, have joined the group and have been urging local retailers to support the campaign. So far, The Co-ops in Dore and Totley, along with other stores in and around the Hope Valley, have agreed to remove disposable BBQs from sale. Julie and Natasha are also distributing posters around the area to raise awareness of fire risk and to encourage people to take butties not BBQs when going for days out in the peaks.

If you are interested in finding out more search for "Leave the BBQ at Home" on Facebook or follow @leavethebbq on Twitter.

Totley Swifts

Swifts visit our village every summer from Africa. Their numbers have fallen nationally by over fifty percent in the last twenty years.

One of the reasons for this is that they are finding fewer places to nest.

To combat this problem a Swift Group has been set up in Totley with the aim of trying to conserve Swifts by protecting their nest sites as well as putting up special nest boxes.



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**Our
Help**

If you are interested in sending in your sightings or just being connected in a small way to the group, which is part of the Friends of Gillfield Wood group, please send an email to:

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Walking the Dog....

Jack What do you mean you are getting another dog?
Rony I said we are thinking of getting another dog.
Jack Without asking me?
Rony I'm asking you now.
Jack But you didn't ask me then.
Rony When?
Jack When you thought of it.

Pause

Jack It's because I'm getting old isn't it?
Rony No.
Jack It is and I am. And we cost more when we get old and that's why you're sending me back to the Rescue Centre.
Rony We're not. And that's not why.
Jack You just said you were thinking about getting another dog.
Rony A different dog.
Jack Course it's a different dog, if it's not me.
Rony A different dog from you. An additional dog. So we have two dogs.
Jack In one little house?
Rony We'll all have to cuddle up a bit more.
Jack And put up with double the barking?
Rony You might not need to bark when you have your new little friend.
Jack How little?
Rony Littler than you... probably. If that's what you want?
Jack I don't want. But why 'probably'?
Rony It might depend on what dogs can be rescued when we go to rescue our new one.

Pause

Jack What breed will you rescue?
Rony A mix like you.
Jack People'll get me mixed up.
Rony No, I mean a mix like you're a mix.
Jack People'll get us mixed up then.
Rony No I mean that you are half Manchester Terrier and half Collie aren't you?
Jack How would I know? Dogs aren't allowed to meet their mothers and fathers are we?
Rony Well, I think you are what you are. But we won't know what he is till we get him, will we?
Jack He's a he now, is he?
Rony Or a she.
Jack Won't he or she know if he or she's a he or a she?

Pause

Rony But which would you prefer – a boy or a girl?
Jack Makes no difference what I prefer. It's like you humans. When you start having your next baby you always ask the kids whether they'd like a baby brother or a baby sister. And of course what they'd really like would be neither. But even if they say a 'boy' or a 'girl' it makes no difference because the baby is already a boy or a girl, even before the humans know there is a baby at all.

Pause

Rony Would you like a boy or a girl?
Jack A girl.
Rony Why?
Jack Because we can have a little puppy of our own. See how you like that.
Rony I think we would like that but I'm afraid you've been —
Jack We could try.
Rony Yes Jack but I'm afraid you've been neut—
Jack Thanks for telling everyone.
Rony You were done before you came to live with us.

Pause

Jack What if we don't get on, me and this new dog?
Rony You will.
Jack What if we don't?
Rony She'll have to find another home.
Jack Or be put down.
Rony I suppose so.
Jack And I'll get the blame for that too.
Rony So will I Jack.

Pause

Rony What name would you like?
Jack Jack.
Rony We can't have two dogs both called Jack.
Jack Don't have two dogs then.
Rony I think she should have a new name.
Jack I didn't get a new name because I came with my name from Laverdene Avenue when I went down in the world and came to live with you up here.
Rony If she doesn't come with an old name, what new name shall we call her?
Jack If she comes?
Rony Agreed.
Jack And if I don't get on with her, she doesn't stay?
Rony Agreed.

Pause

Rony So, let's have a nice new name for her Jack?
Jack Chuff!
Rony Chuff? As a name?
Jack Chuff!
Rony I can't go in Green Oak Park shouting 'Chuff!'
Jack Why not, there are plenty of other chuffs in Green Oak Park?

Pause

Jack You and me are about the same age Rony. Me in dog years and you in yours.
Rony Yes so —
Jack So don't you think we might be a bit too old to start a new dog?
Rony No.
Jack You'd have to change the name of the story you keep telling in the *Totley Independent*?
Rony Why?
Jack It would have to be 'Walking the Dogs'. And Phil might not have enough ink for that.
Rony But if he does —
Jack I still think you might be barking up the wrong tree.
Rony Yes but if I am? ...Wuff!
Jack Chuff!
Rony Wuff!
Jack Chuff!

Jack and Rony Robinson



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Gardening Tips for August and September

I hope you are still coping with the lockdown. It's a bit worrying to see how people are not observing the rules after they eased the restrictions. Let's hope people use their common sense so that we can feel a little less apprehensive. The garden has been, and still is our way of keeping sane, and we have been busy doing all the jobs we tend to leave as long as possible.

I have just summer pruned the cordon apple trees. They need to be kept to about a foot from the main trunk, otherwise they tend to crowd each other. The hanging baskets are hung and looking very good; we have had some broccoli spears (very tasty); and the raspberries were lovely and sweet. I grew some lettuce in the cool greenhouse. It was very nice and slug free. The lettuce in the veg plot was ok (with the odd slug) but not as good as the greenhouse-grown ones. The sweetcorn has enjoyed the sunshine and is now about a metre high. I am looking forward to sampling the cobs in about a month's time. The raised beds are looking healthy, the exception being some dwarf French beans I have put in for later picking which have been nibbled by the slugs - the egg shells I put down have not deterred them much. I have picked a few off in the late evening, so I hope some of the beans survive - we had the best crop ever last year!

The flower beds and borders are looking colourful. It's a pity that you could not come to see them on the Open Garden days which were cancelled. The Delphiniums are the best we have had, and the Angels Fishing Rods have put 13 rods out and are nodding away looking quite spectacular.

The bedding plants are coming out nicely, but again the slugs are a nuisance, and we have lost a few to the wretched things. I have tried lots of things to prevent them doing too much damage. Egg shells work up to a point, except on rainy days, and we can only eat so many eggs! Beer traps get quite a few but they can get very smelly if you forget where you placed them. Pellets are a no-no as we have visiting hedgehogs. Nematodes do seem to reduce numbers, but they are a bit expensive and only last about six weeks, less if it is cold. We have a large patch of wild land close by, where I think most of the slugs come from.

Our neighbours at the bottom of our garden have just removed three large (50 feet) trees which were close to our back wall, and although our garden faces due south and catches the sun most of the day, the removal of the trees has made quite a difference to the light value around the greenhouses. I suppose that the ground near to the wall will not dry out as much as it did before.

The fish have not made an appearance. I am presuming the herons or the winter has not been kind to them; but we have tadpoles in abundance so we will have to be satisfied with them until we can get to the garden centres or pond suppliers to restock.

We have not ventured far in the last three months, and we are missing our occasional coach trips, restaurant visits, even shopping (yuk!). We do take the car (instructions from the AA!) to the Baslow roundabout once a week to keep the engine and batteries in good fettle. Our lovely carers Carolyn Rawlins and Julie Mettam are looking after us, and keeping us well fed (I will have to watch my waistline?) and the local shops are doing a great job - Scrivens, Topley Deli, the Co-op - thanks to them all.

We are glad we have a busy garden to pass the time, in between jigsaws and reading. I hope you all keep well and enjoy your garden if you have one.

August

Flowers: Continue dead-heading to give a continuation of blooms; lightly prune bush and standard roses - cut back to about 2 leaves all stems which have flowered, give the beds a dusting of Tonks or other rose fertiliser and work it into the top layer of soil. Tie up the taller perennials - if we get a bit of wind in summer, they are soon broken down.

August is the time for cutting dried flowers for winter decoration. Tie the stems up in bunches and hang them upside down in a cool airy place. Give flower beds a regular feed of compound fertiliser as this will keep them growing and flowering. Sweet peas need a layer of mulch and a good liquid feed.

Vegetables: Sow a bit more parsley, earth up brussels sprouts. Do not feed onions after July as ripening may be hindered. Marrows should be cut whilst they are still young and before the skin hardens. Cucumbers grown in frames outdoors will need regular watering and feeding- and keep stopping the runners (side shoots).

Remove any caterpillars when they appear on cabbages and other brassicas; keep runner beans mulched and well-watered, especially during hot dry periods.

Outdoor tomatoes need a good feed once a week with a good tomato fertiliser and each plant should be stopped one leaf above the 2nd or 3rd truss depending on the variety.



Admiring the Angels Fishing Rods

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: When propagating strawberry plants, always choose a perfect parent plant, with no yellow or curling leaves, peg the baby plants into pots of new compost set into the ground and allow them to root before cutting them from the parent plant. Do not take more than five plants from each parent and keep them well watered.



Prune raspberries as soon as they have finished fruiting, cutting them down to ground level. Retain six of the strongest new canes from each plant for fruiting next year and tie them onto supports.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: As usual keep the greenhouse well ventilated and any seedlings which are coming along should be shaded, especially if the sun is very strong.

Cuttings from most greenhouse plants can be taken now: geraniums, fuchsias, busy lizzies etc and keep shaded. Geraniums don't need lots of water to start with. Late August begonias and gloxinias will have finished flowering. Their water supply should be gradually reduced so that they ripen the corms and go to rest.



Gloxinias

Restart old cyclamen around the second week of August. Clear off the old foliage and soil and re pot in the smallest pot which can accommodate the roots comfortably. Keep them in a shady spot, water moderately at first, but spray the corms daily with tepid water to encourage them to make new growth. If you want to have narcissus by, or even before, Christmas, pot up bulbs now

Lawns: At the end of August lawn seed can be sown on a prepared bed - and keep well watered. If we have very dry conditions set the mower high to retain moisture at the roots.

September

Flowers: Keep up with the dead-heading of plants. Remove summer bedding plants which are finished, and prepare any spare beds for spring planting. The earlier you can get wallflowers, primulas etc. in, the stronger the plants will be to survive the winter.

Lift and pot up geraniums, fuchsias and other tender plants you want to keep over the winter. They need to be kept dry-ish and in a frost-free place. Tuberous begonias need to be lifted and dried off to keep indoors. Make sure you remember to water regularly any newly planted plants.

Plant out spring flowering bulbs, narcissi, lilies, daffodils etc. These can be planted at any time during autumn, but early planting gives better results (hold tulip and hyacinth for a bit longer - end of October). Pot up bulbs for early flowering - hyacinths, tulips, narcissi ixias, should be potted up now in bulb-fibre and bulbs should be almost touching one another and barely covered with the fibre. Stand the containers in the coolest place available and keep as dark as possible for 8-12 weeks. Keep checking that they are kept moist (not wet) and dust with flowers of sulphur if slight mould is showing.

Rambler roses can be pruned now - cut the growths of those which have carried flowers to ground level and remove from trellis; tie back the new growth made this year. Cuttings of lavender can be put in now. They are easy to root in a sheltered place outdoors in a shallow trench in soil and plenty of sharp sand.

Check the supports of taller plants, to reduce the growth of those which have finished flowering (not too much). Take cuttings of penstemons now, use non-flowering shoots, put them in a sandy soil round the edge of a pot and place them in a cold frame or COLD greenhouse. If you have planted winter flowering pansies, pick off any flowers to encourage the plant to grow stronger.

Vegetables: This is a busy month for harvesting. Make sure

you pick all runner beans before the first frosts. This also applies to marrows, courgettes and all squashes. Stake up brussels sprouts, and plant out spring cabbages. Cover the curds (white part) of cauliflower with a turned over leaf to protect from frost and keep them white.

Onions which have finished ripening can be tied up (like the French do) and hung in a cool frost-free place. Peppers and tomatoes sown outdoors should be picked or given protection. You must have heard that to encourage ripening of peppers and tomatoes, place them in a tray, place in a drawer with a couple of ripe apples, and don't forget which drawer you have put them in! If your onions are late ripening (brown skins) turn the tops over to expose them to as much light as possible.

Leeks can be fed with a quick-acting nitrogenous fertilizer such as nitrate of soda or a liquid fertilizer. Herbs should be gathered now for drying. Marrows can be hung in a dry, frost-proof place if you have too many for immediate use. Lift and store carrots and beetroot. Continue earthing up celery. Test main crop potatoes before lifting - the skin should NOT rub off when thumb pressure is applied, and if they are 'set' they are ready for lifting.

Trees, Shrubs and Fruit: Pick all fruit as it ripens, order new bushes, trees or canes as required, choose late flowering varieties if you live in a frost pocket.

Prune the shoots on all espalier and cordon trained trees, apply or renew grease bands on trunks to catch winter moths as they climb up the trunk (the caterpillars from their eggs feed on the blossoms in spring). Cut out fruited canes of summer raspberries and tie in the new growth. Autumn varieties are pruned next spring. Finish planting summer fruiting strawberries by the middle of the month.

Watch out for slugs and snails and keep newly planted stock well watered. Dead-head and shorten the flowering shoots of floribunda and hybrid tea roses. Prepare ground for planting heathers and evergreens. Take hardwood and semi-ripe cuttings of berberis, forsythia, juniper, privet, honeysuckle etc, put in a cold frame or guard indoors. Cut back wisteria and clematis which is rampant.



Wisteria

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Disbud late chrysanthemums regularly. Most plants except annuals will propagate readily at this time. Place cuttings in a mix of compost and perlite or vermiculite and place in a propagator or warm greenhouse. The end of the month should see the end of the tomatoes.

Clear away the finished plants ready to accommodate the plants coming in to over-winter. The nights will begin to get much colder, so watch carefully the ventilation: side vents should be closed for the winter, and shading washed off the glass to give maximum light at this time. Spraying and damping down should be discontinued gradually. Pot on primulas and calceolarias. Cyclamen seedlings planted earlier should be ready for pricking out. The ideal time for potting is when they have 2 or 3 leaves each.

Lawns: Rake, scarify and spike ready for a top dressing of autumn winter fertilizer towards the end of the month. This will help develop a healthy root system for next year's lovely green sward.

Cheerio for now,

Tom

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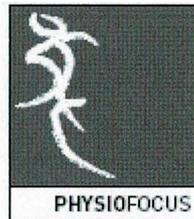
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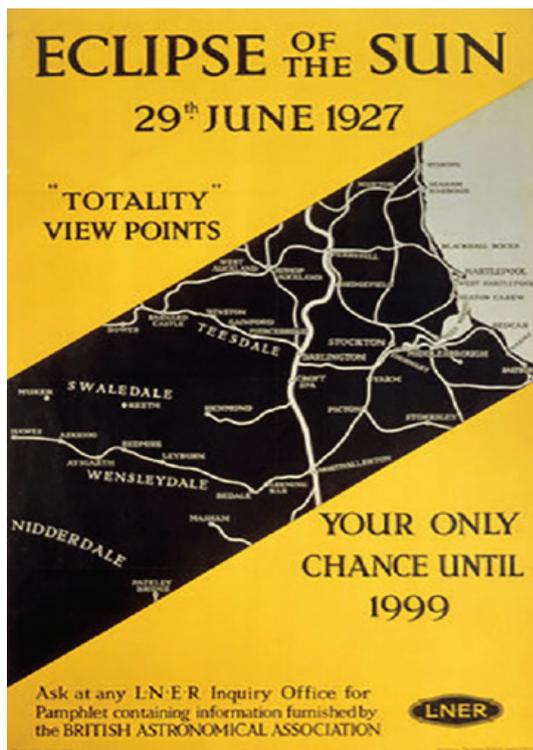
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The Day the Sun Went Out

There was great excitement in 1927 at the prospect of the first total solar eclipse to be seen in Britain for over 200 years. Railway companies saw an opportunity and arranged special trains to the area of totality. Five trains were run from Sheffield - two to Hartlepool and one each to Richmond, Leyburn and Settle. This railway enterprise was lauded by the press who were in a frenzy of excitement at this once-in-a-lifetime event. Total obscurity of the sun was expected in the early morning of Wednesday 29th June along a line roughly from Pwllheli, Colwyn Bay, Kirkham, the Forest of Bowland, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Aysgarth, Sedgefield and the North Sea coast between Peterlee and Hartlepool. On both sides of this central line for about 15 miles there was an area of 99% obscurity which in its almost completeness was still worthwhile to see in the eyes of many.

Overall, it is thought that more than 200,000 people travelled to the areas of complete and partial totality on over 120 special trains which added to the regular services, some of which needed to be duplicated to cope with the numbers travelling. Even the Snowdon Mountain Railway cashed in on the event by running seven special night trains with 60 passengers each, from three o'clock in the morning, to the summit for school parties and others. The Snowdon peak was said to be congested and extremely cold! More potential viewers took to the air or to ships at sea which were due to follow the central line in Cardigan Bay and the Irish and North seas. Thomas Cook & Company even arranged a ten-day rail and steamship excursion to Norway where a longer period of totality was expected. Two hundred potential viewers from the 5,000 who had danced all night at the Tower Ballroom gathered optimistically at the top of Blackpool Tower.

Preparations had started well before the event. Meteorological observations at various locations started to be recorded a year before the due date, to check on the degree of visibility of the sun. Yorkshire, Lancashire and North Wales were found to have the clearest skies and best views. People across the nation planned to climb their nearest hill for a better view. Sheffield's newspapers pitched in with advice about the best places to go. Meadowhead, Graves Park, Pitsmoor, Sky Edge and Intake were all recommended. Dore and Topley were also named, with Dore being favoured as the hill was said to be higher! Some people suggested they would be going even higher up on nearby moors to cook picnic breakfasts while they waited for the event. Others would avail themselves of the tram services which were due to start running at 4.30am that day to get to their chosen local heights.



The railway companies consulted astronomers for details and produced posters and leaflets to promote the event and the special trains they intended to run. The London & North Eastern Railway (LNER) posters at Sheffield Victoria station proclaimed 'Your Only Chance until 1999'. For the London, Midland & Scottish Railway (LMS) at Sheffield Midland it was 'The Thrill of a Lifetime' with Southport which they served being dubbed 'The Centre' and 'The Eclipse Town'.



Sales of 'Ecliptoglass' at sixpence each soared. The Ministry of Health and the British Medical Journal gave advice that looking at the eclipse through heavily smoked glass, celluloid screens or fogged film might reduce the glare but it wouldn't necessarily stop harmful ultra-violet rays. The President of the British Medical Association for Yorkshire wrote to all the county's newspapers with similar warnings. Opticians



Aerial view of the crowds at Southport. 'The Eclipse Town'

and chemists offered what they considered to be suitable viewing equipment which included 'eclipse goggles' and soon sold out. The Ordnance Survey produced and sold special eclipse maps. Nearer the event, the astronomers consulted meteorologists to get guidance about the locations most likely to give the best chance of an unhindered view. The Astronomer Royal, Sir Frank Dyson, had to admit that "the weather is not too promising" and as the event got nearer, he forecast a one in three chance of a clear view. A director of one observatory concluded that while Hartlepool was on the line of totality, he knew its weather too well to want to go there! Sea fret on that stretch of coast was a real risk and the most popular place for viewing ended up as Giggleswick with Leyburn or Richmond a close second.

Thomas Cook & Company working with the LMS laid on special trains from London Euston to Southport the morning before the eclipse. The third class return fare of £3 included 'first class' overnight hotel accommodation. In all, and alongside its regular services, the LMS expected to carry an extra 40,000 to 50,000 people just for the eclipse. It ran 36 special trains starting from London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Holyhead (to cater for travellers from Ireland), Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Rugby, Bedford, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. Fourteen of

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The Day the Sun Went Out (from p.15)

these trains went to Southport, nine to Settle, seven for North Wales coast destinations, two for Blackpool, two for Giggleswick and one for Ingleton. For a special fare of 18/- the LNER chose to run an overnight special train leaving London King's Cross at 10 p.m. on the evening before to arrive at Richmond at about 4 o'clock in the morning. The return journey would see people back in London by 8 o'clock in the evening. This was one of 27 'Eclipse Special' trains laid on by the company which offered special services, some of which offering restaurant and sleeping cars, from London, Cambridge, Peterborough and Edinburgh to a variety of destinations including Darlington (for Richmond), Hartlepool and Leyburn.

A special overnight train was run from Sheffield for 600 schoolchildren from Firth Park Secondary, Dronfield Grammar, Central Girls', Sheffield Girls' High School, Greystone Intermediate, Woodhouse Secondary and Chesterfield High School. They travelled to Hartlepool with Mr Rhodes, senior science master at Firth Park, in overall charge. They and their science and geography teachers were to view the eclipse, with special permission, from the grounds of Wynyard Park, the seat of the Marquess of Londonderry. King Edward VII School decided to use six motor coaches which would leave at 11pm for their party of 135 boys and staff. They were heading on a congested Great North Road for Richmond and a 'special field' which had been hired for the occasion. Central Secondary School opted to take 70 boys by train to Leyburn with the senior geography master and two science teachers in charge. Boys from De La Salle College, Pitsmoor, had already gone to Darlington by train that morning and were due to be taken by charabanc to Sedbergh for a game of cricket with local schoolboys and the eclipse itself.

The LNER claimed that 'three miles of trains' would be used in the name of the eclipse. The company also arranged for station buffets to open early and for additional restaurant cars to be stationed in sidings at stations in the area of totality to provide meals for the large crowds expected. These would be serviced by further trains bringing gas and water supplies. Some station masters' houses would be commandeered for the day to offer cloakroom facilities for the crowds. The Great Western Railway (GWR) offering an understated 'Eclipse of the Sun' ran excursions from across its network to Criccieth where the centre line of totality was expected to produce the most complete eclipse on the GWR system. The main restaurant car express was timed to leave Paddington at 9.22pm to arrive at Criccieth after 5am, with additional GWR excursions running to Barmouth, Harlech, Portmadoc, Pwllheli and other North Wales stations. The railway companies generously allowed passengers in the overnight special trains to stay on board if they wished until the start of the eclipse. The return trips would be made starting after 2.30pm the same day. Similarly, regular services ran with additional coaches and some trains were duplicated.



June 1927: crowds gather at Giggleswick for the eclipse

The Astronomer Royal had decided that he would station his team with their equipment in the grounds of Giggleswick School and leave his colleagues at Greenwich to film a partial 96% eclipse well away from the line of totality. He was joined in Giggleswick School's grounds by Prime Minister

Ramsay MacDonald and four film newsreel companies with their cameras. Over 10,000 people arrived by train at nearby Settle. The party from Oxford University's Radcliffe Observatory decided that Southport should be their destination. Meanwhile, the small town of Criccieth with a population of under 2,000 found itself swamped. With the eclipse beginning at 5.31am followed by 23 seconds of totality due to happen at 6.25am and the end at 7.23am, the waiting crowds spent the preceding hours after midnight in a festival-like atmosphere with dancing, singing, overnight cinema shows and nocturnal picnics. But to say that the moment itself was an anti-climax would be generous.

The weather in most locations was terrible and ranged from varying levels of cloud to torrential rain. Visibility at the summit of Snowdon was down to 30 yards, those at the top of Blackpool Tower found themselves gazing at heavy cloud, and it was a similar situation across the eastern side of the country. The 600 Sheffield children near Hartlepool saw nothing and booed and hissed the invisible sun heartily. The King Edward VII boys at Richmond cheered as they claimed they had a clear view of the eclipse corona for at least a couple of seconds. A correspondent to the Sheffield Daily Telegraph using the pseudonym 'Nation Decadent' wrote, 'Any excuse for excitement - any plea for leaving work. To my mind, the most silly thing in this stupid business was the taking of schoolchildren in train-loads to the "belt of totality"'. It did briefly go dark at 6.23am across Sheffield, and those local people who were bothered saw as much of the eclipse as most others, wherever they were in Britain.

For the professional astronomers at nearly all locations it was overrated and a hopeless failure. All that most people witnessed was nothing of the eclipse itself and what - for a few - was described as the thrill of a brief period of darkness. However, miraculously the cloud over Giggleswick Hill cleared for just long enough. The Astronomer Royal had thought that the clouds would never break saying 'it was an exciting race with the clouds' - but they did. For the astronomers, filmmakers and assembled crowds there was a clear view of the eclipse three seconds earlier than forecast and the chance to capture the event. The Prime Minister was promp-



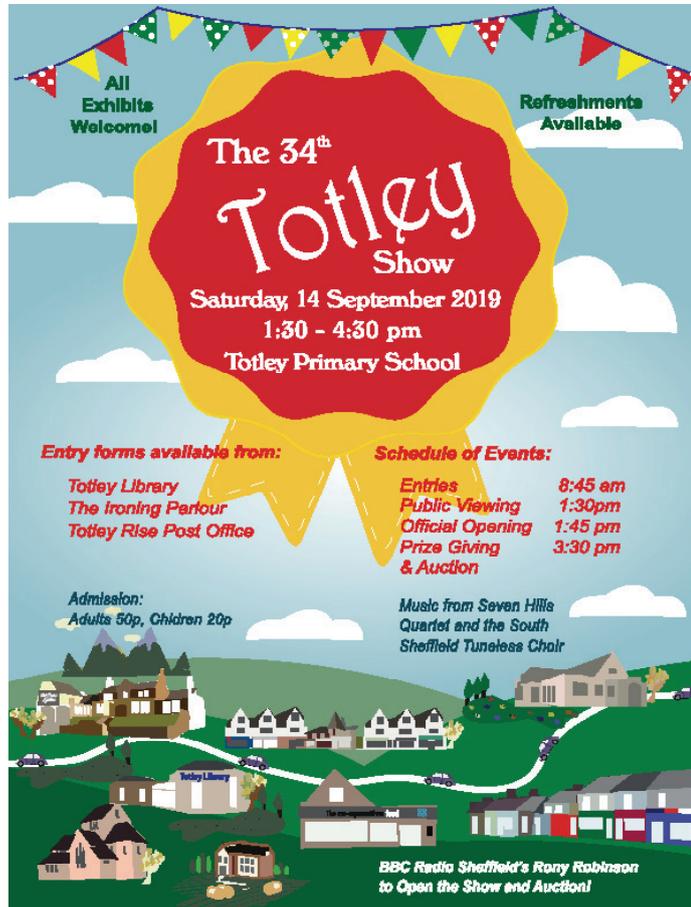
ted to remark that it was 'the most magnificent and moving spectacle that I have ever seen in my life'. The Giggleswick crowds described as 'stricken dumb with awe by the awful majesty of nature' had seen the birds stop singing, the sheep stop eating and the temperature suddenly fall. At his Criccieth home amidst a downpour, former Prime Minister David Lloyd George saw 'a shadow like the ghost of a dead night', but still felt 'a thrill of indescribable awe'. Prime Ministers at least weren't lost for words!

As a footnote, I gather that the next total solar eclipse to be seen across Britain will be in September 2090. One wonders what state we'll be in by then, and what the weather will be like....

Mike Peart

Totley Show 2021

I wrote an article in the last issue of *Totley Independent*, saying that Totley Show for 2020 has been cancelled because of Covid 19. However I mentioned that we would run a Poster Competition for children up to and including 14 years of age. The poster from last year's Show, is reproduced below. The poster for next year should have a theme, so that you can associate it with Totley. That could be any building in Totley, school, church, parade of shops, a park, the wood or an area within Totley village.



There will be 2 age classes, one up to and including 8 year olds and the other 9 to 14 years of age. There will be a winner in each class. The judges will choose one to be next year's poster and the other winner will be on the front cover of the 2021 programme. The winner of the younger age class will have their picture taken with Totley's Alfie Bear. The winner can choose one of the outfits Alfie Bear has worn over the last 2 months, while he has been on display in Totley. The winner of the older age group will receive a £10 Book Token.

The poster can be in any art medium, in colour or black and white. The poster will need to display the following information:

- The date – 18 September 2021
- The words 'The 35th Totley Show'
- The time – 1.30 – 4.30pm
- The place – Totley Primary School

Put your age on the front of the poster, preferably in the bottom right hand corner.

Then put the entrant's details either on the back of the entry or on a separate piece of paper attached to the entry. This to ensure that the judges do not know the name of the entrant prior to judging, other than their age.

All entries can be dropped off at the Ironing Parlour, 166 Baslow Road, during their opening hours, from 1 August to the closing date Friday 11 September 2020, at 5pm. We aim to judge all the entries the following week, so that we can put the winners in the October/November 2020 issue of *Totley Independent*.

It looks like it could be a bumper year for garden produce, flowers and you may have been able to devote more time to your hobbies. Although Totley Show is not taking place this year, you are welcome to send a photo of potential entries you would have submitted to the Show. It can be for any of the classes, Handicraft, Domestic, Floral, Fresh Produce, Art, Photography, Woodwork and the Children's Section. There will be no judging, but we will choose a selection, possibly 6 to 10 to display in the next issue of *Totley Independent*. Send a photo to me at my email address below. I am particularly thinking of items that you may not be able to retain for next year e.g. heaviest marrow, longest runner bean, a flower display, a cake (any recipe) or a vegetable animal. Again these must be submitted to me by Friday 11 September 2020 at 5pm.

While we have been in this period of lockdown, which may continue for a number of us, I am sure, you might have made an item that you might have entered in, for example, the Handicraft Section. If so, that item can be saved for next year, or a photo sent in this year for display purposes.

If anyone has any questions you can contact me on my email address below.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com



What a year 2020 has turned out to be! These have been very difficult times for our whole TASS family.

The school remained open throughout the term times from the beginning of lockdown to support the children of key workers, and staff worked hard to provide home learning for all children in an attempt to reduce the impact of the loss of school time. We would like to give a really heartfelt thankyou to all of our parents for their support with the home learning as it is not easy to motivate young children who often like to keep a clear distinction between what are "home" activities and what are "school" activities.

More children were able to return to school on 15th June in smaller groups but it was not school as we know it because of the precautions that needed to be taken. We have tried to give as many children as possible some time in school, focussing on the younger children and the transition years – Reception, year 1, year 6 and year 2. We are looking forward, fingers crossed, to September when we are very much hoping all our children will be in school as the government has indicated.

To keep our relationships with our children strong and give some support to learning, we have made regular welfare calls to all those families not in school. More recently, we have joined "Class Dojo" an internet platform that enables children to message their teachers and share what they have been doing with their teacher and classmates.

In the event (which we all sincerely hope won't happen) of a return to some kind of lockdown, our staff have been upskilling in the use of the Microsoft Teams online platform to further support learning.

Returning to school in September is not going to be the usual "normal" so we are already planning how we can fill any gaps in learning and ensure our children reach (*continued p.19*)

the age expected level. With batteries recharged after the summer break, we will be hitting the ground running!



This crisis is not over yet so all of us at TASS would like to wish all our amazing children and their families as well as the wider Topley community a very happy and healthy summer. If you want to find out more about our school, then please visit our website or email us at enquiries@totleyallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk. We'll be so happy to let you know!

Karole Sargent and Trudi Brown, Proud Headteachers



Transport 17

Despite the blinds being closed and the buses parked up there has been a lot of work going on behind-the-scenes at Transport 17 over the last few months. This is the first time (holidays excluded) that Transport 17 hasn't operated since its inception by Alan

Jockel way back in 1984, a fact I feel certain he would be disappointed about but equally he would understand the extraordinary reasons why. The last few months will have had an impact on all our lives, but one thing is certain and that is that Alan's vision for our community transport service is more relevant now than ever. One of the benefits of the lockdown has been that the Management Committee has been given an opportunity to look at the organisation and its place in the community in the 21st century and to consider what is required to keep the wheels turning for another 30+ years. So, as we embark on a new era for Transport 17, how can we best serve the community within which we are based?

Fundamentally, all the principles underpinning Transport 17 are there to be built upon. We have been looking at the different activities Transport 17 has facilitated since 1984. It would be great to extend the scope of how we operate to incorporate some of those opportunities. To this end our association with People Keeping Well is central to our development. The lunch clubs we support are at the core of what we do but we want to find opportunities within our schedule to provide transport for those who find it difficult to get out and about to socialise through other activities as well. Through People Keeping Well we were able to take

the Sporting Chatter group to visit the Football Museum in Manchester and it would be good to be able to enable other such outings. Peoples' interests are so varied and it is good to know that a whole range of activities are now being set up for the lonelier and more isolated members of our community but we know that very often the success of such initiatives hinges on accessible transport solutions.

Central to the development of Transport 17 is the appointment of a full-time employee as Coordinator for Transport 17. It will be an exciting opportunity for someone to shape and deliver Alan Jockel's vision, collaborating with other locally-based community organisations to help those who need a helping hand to get out and about, which is so vital to their well-being. We have already begun the process of filling this vacancy and as you read this article the post will have been advertised through Voluntary Action Sheffield and the Age UK Network. Both of these organisations are supporting us with the recruitment process and we will be involving our volunteers in appointing the right person to this important role.

As well as recruiting a full time Coordinator, we need to begin to build up our bank of volunteers of drivers and passenger assistants so we can function effectively. Since January we had been relying on our current group to carry out extra duties, which they all stepped up to where they could, but going forward we need a bigger pool of volunteers to call upon. Lockdown has given us all opportunities to try new things. Perhaps you have enjoyed doing some volunteering, feeling the benefits of this both for yourself and the community. We would love to hear from you if you think Transport 17 might provide an opportunity for you to continue volunteering in our community. If you would like further information about these opportunities or have any questions about anything in this article, please do get in touch via admin@transport17.co.uk or leave a message on 0114 2362962 and we will get back to you.

Recently we have been in contact with all the lunch clubs we currently serve to find out the position they are in as regards re-starting after closing because of COVID-19. It was great to speak with them all and they had all appreciated the call. We received a range of responses. One or two are keen to get going as soon as possible in the late summer/early autumn if it is safe and practical to do so and they are working at plans as to how they can achieve it. A number are feeling that realistically it will be 2021 before they're able to open their doors once more and others are falling somewhere between the two. A number commented that the grant they received from the Council to help to run their club had been stopped in March and without it they would be unable to re-open as it paid for the Transport 17 service.



It has been difficult for them to get any information about this so we are going to look into that for them. All the clubs have been in regular contact with their members to keep the connections going in different ways as they are all missing the social contact that the clubs provide. In thinking about re-opening their priority will clearly be the health and safety of their members and their organisers as many of them are in the highest health risk categories. Many of the clubs are held in church premises and this also means they are multi-use venues, bringing further complications (*continued p.20*)

Transport 17 (from p.19)

Certainly, none of this is easy to manage. Hopefully, those who feel they are able to start operating sooner will provide examples of good practice to help others for whom opening up isn't a possibility until the new year.

Similarly, we have been in contact with all our volunteers. Generally, they are looking forward to getting back when it is safe to do so. They have missed the friendship, camaraderie, involvement and routine it puts into the week. So, it will be good to welcome them back when we can. Sadly, Dick Butterworth and Clive Leech have decided not to continue as volunteers. Between them and Colin Price (who should shortly be moving to Eastbourne after pandemic-related delays), they have given over 50 years of their time to serving the community through Transport 17 so they deserve an enormous 'thank you'. We know that they will all be missed, and we wish them well for the future.

So, now we need to look at what will have to be done for us to restart our service. The safety of both our volunteers and the vulnerable people we transport to the activities they so enjoy is paramount. To ensure we achieve this we will be utilising information provided by the Community Transport Association and liaising with other community transport organisations to share good practice. There will also need to be maintenance checks completed on the buses. Given the information received from the clubs it would seem that a phased return is likely and this will reduce some pressure on getting the buses ready for action. The key is for us to be ready to provide our service when we're needed once again.

As regards our postponed AGM, we have not yet set a date for this, and it is likely that at the earliest it will be held in the Autumn. We have arranged for an extension to the submission of our accounts to the necessary authorities so that these can be agreed when we hold the AGM and subsequently submitted.

We have been attending the People Keeping Well Network Meetings and have been able to contribute to the booklet that will be circulated to all households by the end of July. The booklet has been designed to look at ways of supporting the community as we move out of lockdown. It contains morale boosting material and promotion of local activities and services, including businesses. Once work is completed on the booklet the network will move onto identifying further ways to support the community as lockdown eases.

Saturday 11th July would have seen us holding our coffee morning at the Cross Scythes. This, like many events in the community, had to be cancelled. The impact of all this on our income will be quite significant and we won't be the only ones in this position.

However, on a more positive note, we have applied to be one of the Co-op's Local Causes and we have our fingers crossed that we will be selected again.

We have also set up a Just Giving account following the closure of the BT online facility. Look out for links to this from our Facebook page and our website. We will be posting another local quiz to help to keep you occupied so look out for this too. Now we can only look forward to the Christmas Fayre on 14th November - hopefully a date for all our diaries.

As the lockdown starts to ease, we know that it isn't going to be simple for many to get out and about. We all have a role to play in putting the health of everyone first and in helping all members of our community to feel safe and comfortable outside their homes.

Transport 17 will continue to provide accessible transport for those who need a helping hand, adapting our service as needed so that the wheels on the buses continue to turn.

Sandra Longley (on behalf of the Management Committee)

Fostering in Sheffield

Our new baby is a walker. She arrived fairly suddenly: we had a call in the afternoon and then there she was with her social worker, just before teatime, a little girl who couldn't yet talk faced with two people she'd never met who she was going to live with for the foreseeable future.

She cried for quite a while, so we chatted to her and played, and gave her a drink of milk and an advisory bowl of cheesy pasta. She eventually started smiling, and around two hours after arriving, she went to sleep in a new house.



Foster baby and foster dad — Picture by Billy

A key part of a foster carer's training is attachment theory. There are dozens of academic studies about attachment, but what it amounts to is the fairly obvious fact that babies and young children benefit from having the security of at least one trustworthy adult around, to give them the confidence to explore the world and get on with other people.

So, in theory our new walking toddler could be exploring her world by hurtling around the house causing chaos. But in fact at home she won't stay out of our sight, and follows us everywhere. If she sees us with a coat, she rushes to find hers too. Attachment theory calls us her 'secure base.'

During our training we heard the real national horror stories about how babies had been treated by parents and family members before being taken into care. We were also told that, in most cases, the issues are closer to neglect rather than anyone actively trying to harm a child. But simple neglect, like being left on your own for hours on end, can be terrible too.

One aspect of attachment theory suggests that since crying is the only way for a baby to get a response from an adult, if the baby finds that crying doesn't actually bring someone, she'll eventually stop wasting her energy. She might become very self-reliant and uninterested in other people as a result, or may welcome attention from anyone. If crying sometimes brings an angry or violent adult, the baby can become even more confused.

We know our new toddler has lived with several different people and experienced quite a lot in her life, and probably cried a fair bit over her 15 months.

Trying to nail the exact nature of any attachment problems she may have is almost impossible, and perhaps unnecessary. All we can do is try to give her the right level of security now, and hope she'll become a little braver as she gets used to having us around.

But what strikes this securely based foster carer as I chase our giggling toddler around with a flashing bike light, trying to distract her long enough to sit still and have her nappy changed, is her resilience.

Whether she has an attachment disorder or not, give her a bit of love and consistency, and a bit of craziness every now and then, and she every chance.

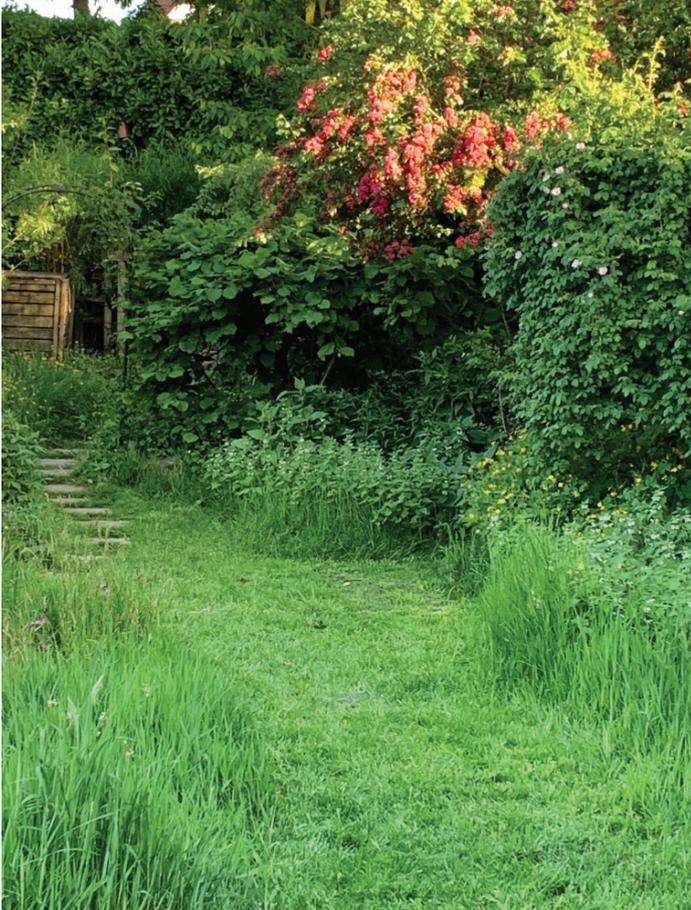
For more on fostering in Sheffield see: www.sheffield.gov.uk/fostering

David Bocking

Organic Wildlife Gardening

During lockdown many people spent more time in their gardens, and some TV garden programmes were geared to suggestions as to what they could do. I watched some of them out of interest, but found them very boring and at times quite silly. None of them were much help or, of course, related to wildlife gardening. Many people couldn't wait for garden centres to open - mainly so that they could buy bedding plants to fill all the empty spaces in their gardens.

Previously, there had been a news report saying that if the wholesale nurseries growing these plants were not able to deliver them to the garden centres because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, they would lose millions of pounds.



Pink Hawthorn blossom at the end of the new meadow path

There are many of these wholesalers, and the owner of one said he would lose 15 million pounds. His land covered a huge area, with some of it under glass. These plants will need regular watering and, in all likelihood, fertilising during their growing season. When they are ready, they are distributed to the hundreds of garden centres and other outlets on huge juggernauts, covering long distances. The production and transport of what must be millions of these plants will have a huge carbon footprint but, in the autumn, most, if not all of them, will be thrown away. What a waste, and with no real benefit to wildlife. This land could be used in a much better way by producing organic food or being allowed to return to a more natural state or, even, re-wilded.

In my garden the wild Daffodils, Wood Anemones and Primroses appeared in March and, in April, 18 other varieties of native flowers bloomed, including Wood Forget-me-not, Greater Stitchwort, Greater Celandine, Red Campion, Wild Garlic, and Ladies Smock. Sweet woodruff, a hedgerow plant, had seeded itself between some logs where Lesser Celandines should have appeared, which was rather a shame, but they did look nice and the Celandines had seeded elsewhere, though only as single plants.

The patch of White Deadnettles had increased to three fairly large patches and the shade loving Yellow Archangel that bloomed in May had gone on the rampage. They are both extremely popular with bees, but will need some control before

they take over the whole garden! However, while it all looked somewhat chaotic, it also looked very spring-like and natural. I particularly loved the unplanned arrangement of Herb Robert, Greater Celandine, Wood Forget-me-not and Bugle in a small area around the base of one of the felled Alders!

I will certainly be happy for nature to take its course in future, while restricting the bullies if necessary. Nature seems to be able to produce much more delightful results than any garden designer.

While many different native flower species (53) were blooming in my garden by the middle of June, the amount of fauna was disappointing. Having said that, more Orange Tip Butterflies were around in a greater number by the end of April this year compared to last year. There were also holes in the leaves of the Garlic Mustard plants on which they lay their eggs and on which the caterpillars would have fed. Many small bees visited most of the different species of flowers including Bugle and Brambles, which are both very good plants for wildlife. However, there were only a few Bumble Bees.

One day, I noticed a tiny moth among the meadow grass by the pond and, later, what I think must have been a Cricket. I was surprised and delighted, but it flew off towards a Hawthorn tree and then, much to my amazement, a Dunnock that was on a nearby hedge flew across and caught it on the wing. Amazing and disappointing at the same time, but nature has to take its course!

More uplifting was that, after several years, it was good to see a hedgehog in the garden again one evening and I am hoping it will stay around.



Fungus on a tree stump with fading Jacobs Ladder, Foxgloves and a single White Deadnettle which has escaped from its patch

I was pleased to read an article regarding the plight of our insects from the local Wildlife Trust in another local magazine, encouraging us to support insects in our gardens. They gave a download link to their information pack "Your Guide to Taking Action for Insects" (available from the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust website) in which they outlined some of the actions we can all take - in particular, keeping hard-standing to a minimum and planting native flowers. There was a list of planting ideas, but I was surprised and disappointed that, according to the "Collins Photoguide to Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe by the late Oleg

Polunin", quite a few of these were not native flowers which really are the best option for our indigenous species of insects and for preserving the UK's very specific ecosystems and biodiversity."

Cats have been a serious problem in my garden again recently, especially to the birds, and it has been difficult and time consuming to block off spaces under the hedges without closing access for Hedgehogs. I do wish owners would fence off their gardens like a neighbour did here some years ago. Her fence was so high I actually wondered what sort of cats she was keeping!! Cats do so much harm to birds and other wildlife, killing millions of them each year and their droppings are very unpleasant too! They may make lovely pets, but our wildlife is more important to our survival.

Springwatch this year, like many TV programmes, was on "lockdown", but was excellent. Filmed in different locations from Scotland to Cornwall, the presenters, including Chris Packham, gave viewers a huge amount of very interesting information on the wildlife in their home areas and the photography to accompany them was outstanding.

I was particularly pleased that Iolo Williams, another Springwatch presenter, based in Wales, mentioned the importance of native wild flowers to our wildlife, and explained that, having evolved together over millions of years, they are able to support each other in the best possible way. He urged us all to plant them in our own gardens.

With so much land locked up by mostly intensive farming but also many human leisure activities (eg golf courses and race courses), wildflowers have nowhere to go other than nature reserves. Gardens cover a huge area and could help to arrest this dangerous decline of our wildlife. We have knuckled down to protect ourselves from Coronavirus, but wildlife supports us in so many ways. No native wildflowers; no pollinators; no food?

Pictures of wildlife gardens are delightful and inspiring. I have always loved those showing a mown grassy path through meadow grass. This spring, I realised I could have one here between a moon-shaped patch of long grass by the large pond on the left and the long grass edging a border on the right. The path is now established and looks very nice and relaxing. I am hoping to develop spring and summer meadow areas and also to stop mowing the 'pathway' in May to allow low-growing plants to flower. Theoretically, it should look lovely. Mmmm . . . watch this space!!!!

Marian Tiddy

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

It's all very strange, No concerts or shows to publicise but the Society does have some very sad news. In the last edition I reported on the loss of Ken Jones's wife and now I have another loss I am so sad to report. It is that of Jenny Bland. She was a pillar of strength in everything she did. She was a very talented lady who worked with me to set up The Troubadores, the concert party arm of Dore G & S society. We set it up so that those talented performers who did not get a principal role in a show had an outlet for their skills. It served several purposes; it helped the society to hang onto these people until the next set of auditions, It gave us a focus during the period between shows and has helped to raise several thousand pounds for a variety of charities including St Luke's, The Helen's Trust, Barnados, The Children's Society and supported many church funds. The Troubadores would not have existed without Jenny who was well known in



Dore and Totty having lived with her 3 lovely daughters for many years on Causeway Head Road and later on the corner of Glover Road, Totty Rise, once the girls had flown the nest. She was also vice chairman of the Society for many years.

She set up a project called The History Van which visited schools with interactive teaching of history and which is now run by another G & S member, Kathryn Parkin, Jenny died of Motor Neurone Disease, a devastating illness but she never gave up fighting it and was active and supported many activities as well as Gilbert and Sullivan societies until the disease won. We will all miss her very much. Jenny is not the only friend who has died of MND. Her funeral was an unusual affair in that we could not attend in person but there was a webcam feed from the crematorium which we plugged into so were virtual attendees. It was an excellent service with her three daughters each contributing to the memories; a difficult job done extremely well. I hope a cure for MND can be found soon.

Let us hope also that a vaccine for this nasty covid19 virus is not far off so we can all get back to normality. The day that we can gather to rehearse can't come soon enough. The society's plan is to begin rehearsals in January if we are allowed, with a view to performing the show at The Merlin Theatre in April 2021. The show will be *Patience* - the operetta which we were supposed to have performed this year. Fingers crossed. Until then, stay healthy, keep busy and enjoy what you can when you can.

Derek Habberjam

Totty Operatic and Dramatic Society

Hello everyone. I hope you are all keeping safe and well, and managing to cope with the lock-down. It's certainly been interesting. If you're anything like me you now have very tidy cupboards and very clean rooms!

Sadly there has been no Toads' play to keep us occupied during this time, no lines to learn, no props to source, no set to design and build, and it looks like this will continue for the foreseeable future.



We have had to cancel any thoughts of a play in November, as things are far from stable. This is the very first time that I can remember - or even EVER - that Toads has been unable to put on a play for a whole year!

However we are still your very own local am-dram society and God willing, we'll be able to put on a play in May 2021. We are all keen to get going again. So don't forget us. To coin a phrase "WE'LL BE BACK"!!

Anne Bettridge

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Friends of Dore & Totley Station

2020 may be the year when railways are effectively renationalised, although that's not what it will be called.

Keith Williams was appointed in 2018 to complete a Review of the structure of the whole rail industry. His report was due early this year but has been overtaken by events. Transport Minister Grant Shapps has made it clear that the likely way forward will have to be different. Until the end of September existing Train Operating Companies (TOCs) are running largely empty trains on management contracts. They are likely to be continued well into 2021. That's not a sustainable situation.

At the time of writing most services at Dore & Totley are running to the timetable originally planned from this May, apart from fast services not going through to Manchester Airport so requiring a change at Piccadilly. Many lines and stations aren't doing as well. Thanks to relentless lobbying by many groups, including FoDaTS, our situation is arguably better than it has ever been - with the very noticeable exception of services to and from Sheffield! However we're now getting mostly 4 coach Northern stopping services and 6 coaches on the TransPennine Express trains.



Masked passengers are able to select a carriage and find plenty of space - Northern trains tend to have most room in the front two coaches. Those coming by car should have no difficulty finding space in the car park. The maximum number of rail users' cars seen post COVID is still below 20 (there are 129 spaces), although visitors to Hair Union and the Summer House are taking full advantage of space near the entrance.

Generous donation by Abbeydale Rotary

Last autumn Abbeydale Rotary Club came to meet us and asked if there was anything we needed, with planters in mind. In the good old days BC (before COVID) we saw travellers arriving and having to wait for Uber, City, Network or family taxis. Some may have waited half an hour or more. Fortuitously a couple had just arrived from a long way away to visit their relatives in Dore. Their timings for pick up had gone wrong and they had to wait at least 15 minutes. The seed was sown. Why don't we have a seat somewhere beside the drop off/pick up zone for such users, AND a planter?

A talk was given about the construction of Totley Tunnel and the Hope Valley line, opened 125 years previously. A project was agreed with a new teak bench to seat 3 with a specially constructed planter just beside the entrance. Originally we thought it might be ready for 1st February, the 150th anniversary of the Sheffield-Chesterfield line, but it was winter. Easter became the target date. It didn't happen. VE75 day? No way, the COVID curse had struck.



FoDaTS volunteers were barred from working on the station from lockdown until 30th June. The team from Rotary were very careful. Their plaque correctly records that pictures

were taken in June - phew, that was close! Since 30th our volunteers have been able to water the planters. Sadly, Northern's rules (set by HMG) say half the bench is out of use due to social distancing guidelines, however users may have removed the tape?

A very big vote of thanks goes to the Abbeydale Rotary Club and all their members who generously supported this project.

Station surroundings

It's now 5 years since FoDaTS was established. From the start we struggled to discover what Northern was supposed to maintain on the platform and around the car park. Eventually we were given a specification set by Northern when it was a Serco and Abellio joint venture. The work was sub-contracted to ISS but wasn't being fully done. The franchise transferred over to the Arriva group. At first ISS continued but after a few months the contract went to Capita - who went bust. ISS were asked to come back. Along the way the specification was totally overlooked. The chap responsible for doing the work appears to have thought the grass and hedge along Abbeydale Road South were the responsibility of the council. They're not.

In March Northern accepted that it was their responsibility and was covered under the terms of their contract with ISS. The grass and hedging was cut. Then COVID struck and it was considered non-essential work, but a second monthly cut has now happened. Watch that space.

From March until 30th June volunteers were forbidden to do any work on the station. Even now only two of us are allowed to do very strictly prescribed duties, taking full COVID safety precautions. The planters have been refreshed, but the red, white and blue displays intended to commemorate VE75 and VJ75 didn't happen.

Hope Valley Capacity Improvement Scheme

The latest information we've received from Network Rail about the redoubling and second platform"the contract for design and build is out to tender - the information went out in January, with response received last month (May). We've been evaluating the 4 bids and are now at the stage of clarification/questioning of the tenders. All this is with a view to letting the contract at the end of this calendar year. At this stage we are not undertaking any further design works on the station - it won't be until the first quarter of next year that we might do that."..... "All being well, we hope to have finance approved in September or October, though our programme could accommodate that being as late as December."

This should mean work could start by Spring 2022 with completion by late Autumn 2023. That may not be in time for new services to be introduced in December 2023 (the aim) but hopefully by May 2024. Reliability of all services should improve as soon as it's complete. Who knows, it could even be finished ahead of these dates but still a long time after 2018 as suggested in the public consultations.

Network Rail's surveyors have checked the propped up canopy and seem likely to recommend an extra support midway along.

Committee and other meetings

Our AGM was due in April. It couldn't happen. We have no choice but to defer a year and combine two years in April 2021. Committee meetings used to be held at Totley Library but we're experimenting with Zoom. One blessing of the lockdown period is that we've been able to co-opt two excellent younger members to the committee, one with particular interest in overflow parking near station, the other in increasing cycle and walking links. As we come out of lockdown we look forward to what more we can do to improve the station, its services and surroundings.

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's a very active group. If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary; njbarnes@outlook.com There's lots of information on our website at; www.fodats.net

Chris Morgan, Chairman



All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

It is hard to have a conversation these days which doesn't end up being about the pandemic. It has reached into every corner of our lives in ways that we could never have imagined. This piece of prose (author unknown) written at the start of the pandemic describes eloquently the different ways we have experienced this time of lockdown.

*We are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat.
I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that.
We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat.
Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be, or vice versa.*

For some, quarantine is optimal – a moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a drink or coffee.

For others – this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone, they're facing endless loneliness.

While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

Some are bringing in more money to their households.

Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

For some, not getting on with family, domestic abuse is rife – we never know what goes on behind closed doors.

Some were concerned about getting an egg for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for support and are running out of money.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling.

Others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus; some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it.

Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020.

Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat.

We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm.

It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance - not just looking, actually seeing. We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Please realise that and be kind.

As we make tentative steps towards the "new normal" we will each take with us the experience and lessons of the last few months. Locally it has become very clear just what a wonderful community we have the privilege to live in. Within days of lockdown being introduced the S17 Covid 19 Community Support Group was formed and leaflets were delivered through every door offering help and support to those in need. Our local shops have been outstanding and have worked tirelessly to ensure we had all we needed. Whole streets came together to applaud our key workers and neighbours got to know each other as never before. Added to that there will be countless acts of kindness, unknown to many, but nevertheless important and much appreciated. And who could forget Alfie Bear (and Sprinkles) who has been a source of fun and enjoyment for young and old alike.

Perhaps we have realised what our true priorities are, what we value above all else? Maybe we are determined to live our lives in a different way, to live more simply, more sustainably, at a slower pace? Or maybe our experience has shown us that life is precious and to be treasured and lived to the full making the most of every opportunity. Have we resolved

to be more compassionate or to work to address some of the deep divisions in society or to speak out against hatred, poverty and injustice? Whatever lessons we have learned let us hope and pray that as individuals and collectively we make good use of our experience.

Churches and other places of worship were allowed to open for services from July 4th. The PCC considered this but decided that currently we are unable to meet the COVID secure requirements. There are a great many things that need to be addressed before we can consider re-opening. The safety and security of everyone must be our top priority. We will look again at the decision later in August.



Meeting together for worship is important for all people of faith and so it is at All Saints. Join us for virtual church on a Sunday <https://www.allsaintstotley.church/category/vchurch/>. The service is on the website from 10am every week and is available to view whenever you wish. Please like our Facebook page (All Saints Church Totley) where we post news and links to other sources information.

This is a time of great challenge, uncertainty and anxiety and members of our church family pray regularly for our community here in Totley and this will not change. However, if you would like prayer for a specific situation or person we are happy to do this on your behalf. You can email Prayer requests to churchwardenstotley@gmail.com Requests do not need to include surnames if you prefer and you will not be contacted unless you want your request to be acknowledged.

Liz Hayden and Angela Waite, Churchwardens



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A Walk with Nature at the Edge of Totley



View from the top of Moss Road

(Photo: Holly Measures)

July 10th: after what seems days of constant rain I grab the opportunity to head out early while the sun is shining in a sky filled with cumulus clouds. I start at the top of Hillfoot Road where it meets the main Baslow Road. Walking down Hillfoot to Chapel Lane, House Sparrows are chattering away as usual at the entrance to the lane and a Blackbird flies off a hedge emitting a loud alarm call whilst a Chiffchaff moves through a nearby tree, its seeping call giving away its presence. As you step onto the cobbled part of this path it is always worth glancing up at the feeding station hidden above your head in a large hawthorn; a nice variety of garden birds can often be seen here. This morning produces Blue Tit, Great Tit, Chaffinch plus a well-marked Nuthatch, inverted on one of the feeders. Continuing down the path I pass through a tunnel of overhanging bushes where a Dunnock sings quietly and a Robin constantly ticks away; a Song Thrush also joins in with a burst of its delightful song. It is here also, if you are lucky, that you might even hear the nasal call of the elusive Willow Tit; they are known to breed in the Totley Bents area.

A little further down, foxgloves, thistles and nettles grow at the edge of the path, so there is always the chance of having close-up encounters with butterflies and other insects. As I pass over the stream that flows under the final part of the path, I check the horse fields either side of me and find a solitary Mistle Thrush quietly feeding on the ground with a pair of Magpies. Just before stepping out onto Penny Lane and turning left a Great Spotted Woodpecker calls from the copse opposite and I pick up the tinkling call of Goldfinches as they pass over my head in a small flock. And then behind me from within the scrub the distinctive plaintive call of a Bullfinch is heard along with the loud and explosive song of a Wren. A pleasing start to the walk and the sun is still shining!

As I pass by the Cricket Inn I always glance to the right to check fence posts and the dry-stone wall, just in case. Old habits die hard because I used to see Little Owls here. They nested in a dead tree that has long been gone but I had the great pleasure of watching a pair of these owls interacting spectacularly with Grey Squirrels as the owls tried to take food up to their young in a nest hole. But that is another story; I must press on. Turning left where Bents Farm is on the right, I find it disappointing that there are no House Martins or Swallows showing around the complex, perhaps the poor July weather has had an impact, but then as I walk along Bents Road two Swallows skim by me at waist height, a delightful sight. A Robin and a Chaffinch are then seen flitting from road to hedge in front of me in dappled sunlight and on my right-hand side Goldfinches look for morsels in the orchard trees as a Greenfinch wheezes its call in the background.

Walking slowly by Bank View Farm I check the grounds to see if I can see their very large tortoise, such an impressive creature. No such luck this time so I turn the corner to ascend Moss Road. Just as I do, I hear the mewling call of a Buzzard and watch as it drifts by low over the farm buildings; the lovely markings on the underside of the outstretched wings are clearly visible. Walking up Moss Road, the wind suddenly blows through the trees and the long grasses sway in the wide verges; this adds to the atmosphere. Magpies make their presence known as a male Blackbird appears on a five-bar gate with a beak full of juicy worms; perhaps feeding young out of the nest while his mate sits on another clutch of eggs. There is always the chance of seeing Green Woodpeckers in this area, their yaffle call, a bit like a laugh, can give them away, but this morning I have the pleasure of watching a Fox working the gorse bushes up on the high banking on the left. It is almost certainly in search of Rabbits that are to be found in good numbers here. Skirting the rough pasture with the railway air shaft, and where a Kestrel quite often perches on the telegraph poles or wires, I notice



Top of Moss Road (Photo: Chris Measures)

three Red Deer feeding together a little further up in the wonderful meadow that is maintained by the Eastern Moors Partnership. They look in great condition; they raise their heads, but as I pose no threat they continue with their feeding and I continue my walk up towards Totley Moor.

I reach the end of tarmac road and stand near the entrance to Bole Hill Lodge, and it is lovely to look back and take in the view. As I do so, I hear a Tree Pipit (*continued p.26*)

A Walk with Nature at the Edge of Totley (from p. 25)

singing and watch as it rises in short display flight, nowhere near as high as a Skylark's, and then returns to the top of the same tree. It is here another summer visitor, the Willow Warbler, can be heard, but unfortunately they are quiet on this occasion. They too have a lovely song of delightful notes in descending order. One hopes that, after migrating all this way, these birds have been successful in raising young and have not been washed out with all this recent rain.

Just about an hour has passed on this walk and I have not seen a soul. The rough track that continues upwards is bordered by bilberry, birch and bracken; excellent habitat for butterflies and I find a number are on the wing. Meadow Browns, Small Tortoiseshells and Small Skipper are taking



Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly

advantage of the early sun as are the bees that are attracted to the flowering bramble. If you reach the gate onto the moor you might wish to take the gate on the right and climb the 100 metres and stand for a few minutes on the top of Bole Hill to see the views over Blacka Moor to Houndkirk Moor and Lady Canning's Plantation and enjoy the spectacular landscape that has opened up to the south and east.

After this little detour I drop back down off Bole Hill and go back to and through the gate that leads onto the wide-open moor. I do not take the main path in front of me that would take me over towards Fox House and the Longshaw Estate, but I take the path immediately to my left and head along a level path above the old Rifle Range and below Brown Edge. As the gate closes behind me over one hundred Wood Pigeons take to the air, they had been feeding on the bilberry. There is a damp area here where a stream passes through and it is here where I have heard the fabulous Grasshopper Warbler singing its heart out at dusk; a distinctive long reeling song described as "sounding like the running out of a fishing reel", and it really does. It is on this path that I now see numerous Meadow Pipits, as expected, flitting over the beds of high bracken as they call and rise, not too high, in their characteristic jerky flight. Meadow Pipits are a favourite host for raising young Cuckoos so it is not unusual for adult Cuckoos to be seen searching this whole area on the moorland fringe for a "Mipit's" nest with eggs. A good place therefore to hear an arriving Cuckoo calling in spring.

As I continue along this path a pair of Stonechat start clacking in alarm from the top of strands of bracken, clearly unwilling to leave their territory where they almost certainly have young in or out of the nest. The male is striking in its colouration with black head, white collar and orange underparts. And then an equally fine bird appears on the barbed wire fence on the left. I had heard them many times on the walk this day but at last one was perched enabling me to admire its red breast and forehead; a male Linnets. And it sang just for me, well I like to think so, with notes that to me

always evoke summer and countryside. Along this path there are also good views across to Gillfield Wood, Holmesfield Park Wood and beyond; and with the sun today, simply perfect.



Male Stonechat

Exiting this piece of moorland through the next wooden gate the path descends left, down to the main Baslow Road. The view here extends up to Owler Bar as I walk down to the road, and in the foreground is a mass of newly planted trees that are healthily sprouting out from the tops of their protective covers. A variety of birds are heard from inside



Exiting the moor - view up to OwlerBar

the Dyson's site on the left as I walk down to the road, with a male Blackcap dominating the proceedings as it sits in full sun on an open branch. Deep in the vegetation on the right is the source of Totley Brook, falling through the moor before it passes under the road to wind its way through Gillfield Wood. Also, tucked away on the right near the road, is an old white marker indicating the county boundary and confirming this walk today has been within the City of Sheffield.

So now it is just a matter of strolling back to Totley via the main road or diverting through Gillfield Wood and back to Totley Hall Lane and Hillfoot Road with plenty more wildlife to see on the way, whichever route is taken. Many of you will be familiar with this circular walk but as it is one of my favourites I thought I would put pen to paper in case it encourages others to give it a go. The walk should take no more than two hours if a steady pace is maintained but there is so much to look at and enjoy you might find it is well worth stopping along the way to take in the views and listen to and watch the wildlife. Parts of the walk are a little tricky underfoot so care should be taken at all times, especially when crossing that busy main Baslow Road. Stay safe, and I hope you like the walk as much as I do.

Chris Measures

Keith Hill 1938 – 2020

Although not a native of Sheffield Keith was a Yorkshire man, born and brought up in Hull.

At Hull Grammar school, where he was Head Boy, he was a contemporary of Tom Courtney. Indeed Keith acted with him in school plays.

Keith stayed in Hull for University studying History and eventually qualified as a teacher. After University Keith taught in Hull and then Stoke on Trent before moving to Brussels in 1965 to take the post of teaching History at the American International School. He also coached football and ran the drama club as well as acting with the American British Drama Club.



It was here that Keith met Angela at the Brussels British Squash Club. After a whirlwind romance they married 5 months later in 1967. They relocated to Zurich where Keith taught at the American international School. Keith taught football (soccer not the American variety!) and cricket to the Americans alongside his teaching. Being able to enjoy mountain hiking, skiing and canoeing provided a very enjoyable lifestyle.

In 1971 they returned to the UK with their first child as Keith wanted to teach in the Comprehensive School system. Initially they were located in Telford and then Keith became a Deputy Head at a school in Quorn, Leicestershire. Then in 1980 they came to Sheffield as Keith was appointed Head at Beaver Hill School. He was there for 7 years followed by a further 7 years as Head at Carter Lodge School. Keith retired from teaching in 1995.

However, most people will know Keith from his time as our local Councillor.

It was after retirement that Keith got into local politics. His motivation was to help his local community rather than any deep seated political ambition. He was first elected to Sheffield City Council in 1999 which coincided with the Liberal Democrats taking control of the City Council for the first time. In all he served 15 years on the Council, retiring in 2014.

Keith served on a number of committees during his time on the Council. Given his background in teaching it was unsurprising that a lot of his time was on education related boards and committees where he was able to provide an

insight as a recent practitioner in education. He was also a Cabinet advisor when the Liberal Democrats ran the Council. Keith's most high profile post was as the Chair of the South West Community Assembly. This was when the Community Assemblies had a large budget and influence on the way money was spent in the local areas.

It was the work he undertook in the ward that really motivated Keith. There are many local organisations and individuals that have benefitted from his help. His dogged determination wore down even the most unyielding of Council officials as he tried to right the many wrongs he saw on behalf of others. He also served as a Governor of King Egberts for a long period.

His acting career had a revival during his time as a Councillor. He starred in Pantomimes, no not just at Council meetings, I mean the real thing! For a number of Christmas Pantomimes he took on the role of Dame. And what a Dame he was playing opposite our previous MPs Richard Allan and Nick Clegg as a larger than life character. Indeed in one performance even his own daughter didn't recognise him when he came on stage!

Keith was also a talented artist. His doodles in long meetings were masterpieces! They often portrayed other members in the meeting but not always in the most flattering light! After stepping down from the Council in 2014 he was able to devote more time to this hobby and as a member of a local art group he exhibited some of his work. He was also able to spend more time on his narrow boat navigating the canals of England.

Angela, his wife, will be well known to many people locally as well particularly as a tennis coach at local clubs. She was a great support to him in his role as a Councillor leading on many of the election campaigns.

Keith was a stalwart in the community and will be very sadly missed. His health had been in decline in recent months and he died peacefully at home in June with his wife Angela and children, Dan, Alex and Ben with him at the end.

Colin Ross



Hello! We hope you are keeping well and staying safe. We have been busy since we re-opened our doors in June. The physios have begun seeing patients face to face and continue to provide virtual sessions (via video or telephone) to people who are high risk or prefer remote assistance. Andy, Georgina, and Mike are pleased to be back helping keep the public in good shape and pain free. We also had the return of Lorna on reception, one of our longest serving members of the team.

Precautions have been taken and the clinic has been risk assessed to avoid the spread of Covid-19 and to maintain the safety of our patients and staff. Our reception remains closed except in bad weather and we ask you to arrive just before your appointment. We thank you for your patience and understanding as things have been a little bit challenging at times.

In July we saw the return of Rob, a popular physiotherapy team member, and Phoebe back on reception to re-join our admin team, which is supported by Hannah and Isabel. It is nice to have our full complement of team members back working, although in restricted circumstances. We can now offer evening and weekend appointments again too! All the team are glad to be back and looking forward to seeing you if the need arises.

Remember our offer of 20% off treatment to key workers, students, the unemployed and over 70s. Spread the word if you know anyone who may fit these criteria. We will keep you informed if anything else changes, particularly following national guidelines. Regular updates will be on our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/ActivPhysiotherapyLtd>) and Twitter feed (<http://www.twitter.com/ActivPhysio>), as well as our website (<http://www.activphysiotherapy.co.uk>).

Take care, stay safe and get in touch if you need any help.

Andy and the team at Activ physiotherapy.

The Importance of Wills

One of the first things that I urge my clients to think about is to make a Will. No matter how big or small your estate is, a Will is the important centre piece of any Financial Plan.

Quite often clients are not aware of the implications of not having one. Peace of mind throughout our life is important, and we want to ensure that, on our death, the right people receive what we have worked hard for during our lifetime. However, if you die 'Intestate', without a will, this may not be the case.

What happens if I die intestate? If you die without a Will your estate will be divided in line with Intestacy rules. The estate value is that after debts, costs etc are taken off.

What happens if you have a partner? The good news is if you own things jointly with your partner, then they automatically pass to them. However, after that your surviving partner will inherit all your personal belongings, but if there are surviving children or grandchildren, then only the first £270,000 of your estate. After that they will only receive half of what's left.

What if I have no partner? Although the above may not be ideal, at least your immediate family will benefit. The problems may arise if you have no partner. This is when the 'bloodline' is followed. The order in which relatives benefit is:

Children (or direct descendants), Parents, Full siblings (or nieces and nephews), Half siblings (half nieces and nephews), Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles (or cousins), Half Aunts and Uncles (or half cousins), The Crown.



Then there is the Administrator - the person that distributes the estates assets - to ensure each person in each category is tracked down. Your nearest next of kin has the legal right to be the Administrator, who may not be someone you want it to be, and someone you may not trust or have never known. This person may have issues with the rightful beneficiaries and, in some cases, try and prevent them from receiving any of your estate!

As you can see, in the worse cases, your hard earned estate may go to people you don't want it to go to, family you don't know, who you didn't know you had, or to the UK Government!

Finally, if your estate is over the current Inheritance Tax thresholds, not having a will may mean your estate paying unnecessary death duties.

So what are the benefits of a Will?

Knowing where your estate will go. When you draw up your will, you can make very specific requests as to who receives what. It could be the picture on your lounge wall that your daughter always admired. Or the signed Sheffield United Shirt you have from the 1989/90 Promotion season that your son has always admired. Your Wills can be very specific or very generic, its up to you, but you will have peace of mind knowing your estate will be going to who you want it to go to.

You can choose who will 'run' it for you. Unlike when you are intestate, you can choose who you want to make sure your estate is given out as per your wishes. This person is called an Executor and can be a Solicitor, who may charge your estate, or someone you really trust. Don't worry though, they can't take anything from your estate unless it is for any minor expenses they may incur carrying out your wishes.

Helping to Mitigate against Inheritance Tax. Sometimes, your Will may help to stop your estate paying unnecessary

Inheritance Tax Bills. Working alongside other areas of your Financial Plan, your Will can potentially be a great tool in reducing your possible death duties.

What are the pitfalls? As with anything of this nature, it is always best to seek advice. There are many 'do it yourself' wills available, but these may not fit everyone's circumstances. It is also very important to ensure that you have more than one witnessed copy of your will and any amendments you may make and that a copy is stored safely with a Solicitors practice. This will ensure that there is no dispute of the Will on your death as there will always be two copies available.

Hopefully, this article has helped you understand the importance of a Will and it is never too late to start writing yours.

*Rob Wilson, Lemont Financial Planning
Tel. 0333 577 3996*

Nitrous Oxide - Police Alert

The following Alert has been sent out by South Yorkshire Police.

As many of you may be aware, we are currently seeing an increase in the recreational use of Nitrous oxide. This can be clearly seen in the increased amount of the small silver canisters found in car parks or other public areas where young people are gathering. It appears that many of those using nitrous oxide for a 'high' believe the gas is safe to use, but this is far from the truth.

Dangers of Nitrous Oxide

Adverse effects can include hallucinations, confusion, accidental injury, persistent numbness, arrhythmias and cardiac disease.

Soon after using nitrous oxide recreationally people can experience vomiting, dizziness and fainting. A&E departments have had a number of people through the doors with injuries after having accidents while dizzy and confused. Figures show 8 deaths linked to the use of nitrous oxide in 2016 alone.

Recreational use of N2O can result in the body's inability to properly regulate the vitamin B12. This can have very serious consequences including spinal cord degeneration, with a minimum of 10 cases having been recorded among young people in 2018. With the continued use of N2O and improper levels of vitamin B12, users may suffer permanent neuronal damage and can be more at risk of developing other conditions such as vascular disease.



When taking N2O directly from the canisters the release of gas can cause frostbite of the mouth, nose and vocal cords. Cases where users have released the N2O in a small enclosed space such as a car can be life threatening, with the potential for users to suffer irreversible hypoxic brain damage and death by asphyxiation.

Unknown dangers

Many of the cheaper priced caplets which are often involved in misuse are unregulated imports from China. These have in many cases been shown to include 'particulate matter and an oily residue' which can lead to additional unknown risks. Canisters that are aimed at the automotive trade may also contain small amounts of sulphur dioxide which could lead to further health risks if misused.

As this issue continues it is important to make people aware of the dangers posed by the misuse of nitrous oxide. It is also important to be know that nitrous oxide is covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, and its sale for human consumption is banned in the Uk.



Totley Primary's summer update is definitely not the one I expected to write!

Who would have thought that the grand plans for a clear 2020 vision that many of us had back at the start of the year would

be subjected to such a dramatic plot twist at the hands of a previously unheard-of virus!

On Friday 20th March, Totley Primary, along with schools around the nation, closed its doors to all but vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers, for whom care was provided at King Ecgbert School as part of a Mercia Learning Trust 'hub'. Provision for these children continued throughout the Easter and May half term holiday periods – a vital service, especially to those frontline workers needing childcare at the peak of the crisis in the UK. Of course, school staff continued to work incredibly hard, providing learning resources as well as pastoral support and bespoke feedback for the vast majority of children who had to work at home. Weekly online assemblies celebrated the amazing efforts of children and parents with their home learning exploits and aimed to foster the sense of connectedness and community which are so fundamental to the ethos of Totley Primary.

June 15th was a significant date in that it saw the partial reopening of the Totley Primary building to children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 whose parents and carers chose to send them back to school, along with vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. The concept of 'bubbles' first reared its head, with a range of safety measures and changes to the structure of the school day designed to keep groups of children apart and minimise the risk of transmission.

Numbers attending school have grown steadily and now we are seeing between 50 – 100 children in school each day. Schools can be eerie places without children around the classrooms and corridors and the wider reopening of school has been an overwhelmingly positive and rather emotional experience. Children have bounced up the school drive, delighted at the prospect of spending time with classmates whom they haven't seen properly for months. They have responded brilliantly to the changes to the routines of the day, the incessant hand washing and have shown a great desire to crack on and engage in learning.

As I write, the summer holidays are only a few days away and our dedicated and compassionate staff team will have a well-earned opportunity to switch off and recharge their batteries ready for the new term. There can be no doubt that different families have experienced a huge range of lockdown experiences for a host of reasons. Inevitably, there will be some gaps in children's knowledge, understanding and development which will need to be considered carefully and skilfully addressed. There may well be further disruption in education and additional hurdles for us all to navigate as a nation.

For now, though, it's time to reflect on an unforgettable time for the Totley community, who have pulled together so hearteningly during this most challenging time, and the very happy prospect of all children returning to full time schooling in September!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher

Councillors' Update

As we gradually emerge from lockdown we want to thank local residents for the way they have responded to recent events. Although the virus is having a huge impact on our daily lives, residents in Totley have pulled together and volunteered in large numbers to help our neighbourhood get through the current crisis.

The volume of casework that we deal with has also gone up considerably. For example Martin has been working on local business issues to help them bounce back from the crisis and ensure they have access to the relevant grant schemes. Colin has been working on planning issues and organising

deliveries to the local foodbanks, where demand for their services has risen dramatically, and Joe has been supporting litter picks and volunteering for the NHS Responder scheme. The hard work and generosity of local people we have met during these activities has been amazing. Thank you.

We were concerned to learn recently that Sheffield was in a position to justify "enhanced support" against coronavirus and was the 15th highest council area in cases per head. We understand that this was due to a small number of clusters of cases in other parts of the city. Dealing with local clusters is now the responsibility of the Director of Public Health. Plans are in place should there be any localised outbreaks anywhere in Sheffield. To keep us informed of developments local Councillors attend a fortnightly briefing from the Director of Public Health.

On a different subject we expect the long-awaited Sheffield Local Development Plan will be issued for consultation in the near future. This is a vitally important document that will identify land for new housing over the next 15-20 years. It may also include a review of development sites in the Green Belt. We need to make sure that the views of local residents are taken into account so do please have a good look when it is published.

Speeding traffic has been a concern for some time and during lock down when the roads were quieter the perception was that it had got worse, especially in the usual hot spots of Abbeydale Road South and Baslow Road. Data have shown that most of the offenders are local people. Speed restrictions are there for a purpose and vehicles travelling at excessive speeds endanger pedestrians and other road users. Enforcement measures such as the Speed Camera Van are targeting these hot spots but it is up to all of us to be considerate of others and drive sensibly. As soon as we are able we will be organising more community speed checks to identify offending motorists. These have proved effective when used in the past.

And finally On advice from the Council we have taken the decision to cancel our face-to-face surgeries at Totley Library & Dore Old School for the duration of the Covid crisis. We hope you understand. You can still contact us via email so do please let us know if we can help with anything.

Martin, Colin & Joe

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joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

Letter to the Editor

Totley's Grass Verges

Dear Editor

To my mind, one of the pleasures of the lockdown has been seeing the variety of wildflowers and grasses (otherwise known as weeds) flourishing on our largely uncut grass verges. When returning from daily walks along Totley Hall Lane recently, I was delighted to see some little hand-made signs amongst the lush growth, highlighting the need to let flowers bloom in order to protect our vital insect life. I nurtured the hope that a decision had been made to spare these verges and that Totley would be a place where residents supported the protection of nature over and above 'neatness'. Imagine my disappointment when I later walked the same route and saw that the Amey shaving machines had been through, and Totley Hall Lane was now graced by the same patches of brown dirt punctuated by struggling half-alive bits of grass, as are to be found throughout all our roads and byways.

But since then I have met with a few local residents who are keen to develop some kind of local initiative to get a more nature friendly approach to our green (or brown) patches in the future. Hopefully next year we will see a few more wildflowers and pollinating insects out and about in Totley.'

Isabella Stone



ABBNEYDALE

SQUASH & FITNESS CLUB

Further to my previous messages in March and April I am pleased to be able to report that as 'lockdown' is relaxed more and more of us will be able to enjoy use of the facilities at Abbeydale Park. With the help of those of you who have continued to pay subscriptions through the lockdown period we have been able to maintain the site in good condition and we anticipate that they will be fit to be used as soon as the go ahead is given.

When the lockdown began in March, all sporting activity at Abbeydale was suspended. Since the end of May there has been a phased, safe return to sporting activity for the outdoor sports.

- The Bowling club currently allow 2 groups on the green at a time.
- Hockey have 2 groups of up to 6 people playing on either end of the astro pitch.
- Cricket are playing out of 2 nets with up to 6 people and have some small group skills training on the outfield.

The Rugby club is training in accordance with RFU guidelines.

At present all indoor sport is not permitted. However, Table Tennis, Badminton and the Gym and Squash clubs are at an advanced stage of planning to reopen when allowed.

The safety of participants, coaches and staff remain paramount. All activity is risk assessed in line with the relevant national governing body advice and guidelines. Measures taken so far include:

- A full risk assessment being in place and communicated to all;
- A booking system being in place to ensure group sizes are adhered to;
- The booking system identifies all participants to aid the NHS track and trace procedures;
- Strict hand sanitising procedures are in place;
- A responsible adult is present to ensure compliance during any activity.

In terms of the position of individual sports the Sections will inform their members what is possible for their particular sports as they receive guidance from the government and their sporting bodies.

I thought I should clarify the position with regard to the bar and catering facilities.

We have had discussions with Omega at Abbeydale who, as you will be aware, operate the Pavilion/Clubhouse. They

propose to re-open with a food-led operation on 15 July 2020 and accordingly the Pavilion remains closed until then.

It will re-open on the following days / hours:-

- Wednesday – Saturday lunchtime 12 -3pm
- Thursday – Saturday evenings 5 – 9pm.

The restaurant will be open for food and drinks service during these times for advance bookings only.

As part of the social distancing requirements, the current bar area will be used for the purposes of food service only.

Members who wish to come for a drink only may book a table indoors in the Hargreaves Room and must obey the Government rules on group size and social distancing.

There will be no indoor provision for people who do not book. Members will be able to come and drink outside on the patio or grass without booking in advance, again observing Government rules.

Booking will be direct with Omega at Abbeydale. Further information on booking and how to order drinks will be communicated to members prior to re-opening.

The Omega and Abbeydale staff have all undertaken Covid 19 training on infection control and cleaning principles and a full risk assessment is being developed which guides how the Clubhouse operates.

We would ask all members to follow all requests and procedures and obey any social distancing marks which may be in place.

As more sporting activity returns to Abbeydale and as more people are allowed to return to the site to enjoy their sports we will hopefully be able to expand our offering for the benefit of all our members.

Accordingly, the opening hours and what is available will be kept under review and we will keep you informed of developments.

Once again thank you for your continued support which has helped to ensure that Abbeydale Park will continue to be able to provide the facilities we all enjoy in the future

Richard Ibbotson

Holmesfield Church Walking Group

Dovedale Walk

On Wednesday 19th August at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk from Bank Top Farm near Hartington. We will go to Pilsbury Castle, then Harris Close, returning via the outskirts of the village.

Lunch (optional) will be at the farm. The cost of the lunch is £20.50 and will be a roast, choice of sweet, and tea or coffee.

The cost of the walk is £4 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church maintenance fund.

If you would like to stay for lunch please phone Robin on 01246 412767.

The walk is 5 miles long but there is a short cut.

In these uncertain times please check with Robin that the walk is going ahead.

Totley Rise Methodist Church

The Church and its buildings remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic and we are not yet able to confirm when we can welcome people back.

However, a great deal of work is underway to prepare for a safe return and we will announce any news on this front, on our website -www.totleyrise.co.uk and elsewhere, when appropriate.

You can keep up to date through the links on the website and on our Facebook page.

Mark and Sally Fletcher invite you to

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and

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