

# Totley Independent

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*The Peacock, Owlter Bar, around 1913-14*

## Fingers Crossed!

Of course, we have been here before. Last spring, we thought it would be over by summer. Then summer came, and after a brief respite we were soon back in lockdown. We were promised a Christmas with relaxed Covid rules but that didn't really happen either.

So it's best to keep our fingers crossed that things really are looking up as numbers of new cases continue to fall and - most importantly - the vaccination programme is rolled out to more and more people.

School students returned to school in March, and although everyone is relieved that children are back in the classroom, there have been cases of children testing positive for Covid, and so, as our report from Totley Primary reminds us, "there are further twists and turns to negotiate yet".

The churches are being very cautious, all retaining on-line services for the time being, and church halls aren't yet available to users - not surprising, given the multiple uses most of them normally have.

But optimism is in the air! Community facilities and groups that have lain dormant are stirring again. Totley Library recommenced its 'order and collect' service in March, and hopes to reinstate browsing and computer access in April. Transport 17 told us that they are "committed to getting our buses back on the road as soon as we are able with our volunteers helping to get people out and about once again".

Totley History Group has announced events, Totley Scouts are hoping to have meetings after Easter, and TOADS is planning a new drama production for November! Friends of Gillfield Wood have announced their programme of outdoor events, and indoor meetings at the Library, for later in the year, and tell us that they are "in contact with our Council Ranger looking for the green light to go ahead with our monthly Practical Conservation Mornings. Hopefully these will begin again and take place shortly".

If the 'road-map' to normality does lead to a lifting of restrictions in mid-June, it's still going to take time. Organisations such as the Library, and those linked to the People Keeping Well initiative, report that many people's levels of self-confidence have taken a beating over the last twelve months. It's going to take a while for many - especially those who have been particularly vulnerable - to feel that they can safely go out, and about their business once again.

Zoom meetings have been taking place to make decisions - albeit, inevitably, tentative ones - as to whether the Totley Show, Totley Open Gardens, and the Library Plant Sale can take place. Questions about the availability of premises, whether there are enough potential helpers, and logistical challenges over such things as social distancing, may yet frustrate the good intentions of the optimists. Let's hope the obstacles can be overcome!

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## Tom Steel

Christine and family would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the people of Totley and beyond, who braved the January rains to say 'cheerio' to Tom. A special mention to Chris M. on Baslow Road who provided a one (garden) fork salute as we drove past.

It touched the family that so many people loved and respected Tom enough to line the main street of Totley, to provide a wonderful send off.

Christine would also like to thank everyone who sent a card with comforting words and memories of Tom, and their offers of support. These acts of kindness by friends and community are a great comfort and source of strength for his family. He will be sadly missed.

## Tom and the Gardening Club

Like so many Totley residents I was shocked and saddened to learn that Tom had passed away suddenly in hospital. Without doubt he will leave a huge gap in our local community as he was involved in and supportive of local events around the village; and he was so well-known and liked. A truly nice gentle man.

I had the pleasure of knowing Tom for over 30 years, regularly popping into Busy Bee for sound advice from him and Christine and of course to purchase items to help me do a bit of DIY, but our friendship went onto another level when Tom joined Allen Miller and me, along with Little Alan (to the children) Stead, to run the Totley Primary after-school Gardening Club. The four of us had a terrific time together.



It was wonderful to see how much the children enjoyed working with Tom. His quiet approach, patiently teaching them, whether on a one-to-one basis or as a small group; they hung on his every word. He would kindly donate trays of plants, all ready for adding to the productive school allotment or for the numerous hanging baskets that adorned the front of the school and the school planters at the main entrance to the school.

When it became clear that Tom should not be doing the heavier work, we would joke with him that we would tell Christine when we saw him with a spade in his hand, and he would with a smile, reluctantly put the spade down. I remember reminding him on one occasion that he must be careful and take it easy; he looked at me and poked his chest and said with that cheeky twinkle in his eye "but I only feel thirty-five in here", and I knew just what he meant.

One of the many highlights of Gardening Club was when the four of us, Allen, Tom, Alan and I had half an hour together at the end of each session, laughing and joking over a mug of tea. Stories did abound and Allen Miller, building supervisor extraordinaire, would often try to wind Tom up, in the nicest possible way, by telling Tom how his runner beans were going to be longer or his marrows and potatoes bigger and better than Tom's at the Totley Show. When I recently mentioned to Allen's widow, Leigh, that I had this image of Allen and Tom chatting away now, about who grew the best vegetables, Leigh's reply was simply "Allen would bow to the master".

Tom always found time to chat to people. I loved talking to him about photography and he was always keen to tell me about the wildlife he had encountered in his garden. He was so approachable, with warm smile and as I say, a twinkle in his eye. He will certainly be missed by so many. Our thoughts go out to Christine and family. It has certainly been a real privilege knowing Tom and knowing him as a friend.

*Chris Measures*

## Totley Open Gardens 2021

Totley Open Gardeners are planning to open their gardens this year on the weekend of 10th and 11th July from 1-5pm. It will be the 19th year that we have run this event. There will be about 14 gardens taking part, with a great variety of styles. There are gardens full of colour, a woodland garden, gardens with lots of shrubs, very colourful gardens, quirky gardens, gardens with sculptures, gardens growing fruit and vegetables, an allotment and children-friendly gardens.

Entry for the event is by programme, with a charge of £4 per person. All monies raised will go to support the local community organisations that TOG has supported over the years, to be announced in the next issue of *Totley Independent*. We also accept donations to help us raise funds. Since TOG began in 2002 we have distributed nearly £40,000.

Two gardens will be selling cream teas, and there will be plants, books and other things for sale in other gardens.

If you have just taken to gardening since lockdown, put the dates in your diary and come along to see our gardens - you will find inspiration, ideas and information everywhere.

At this stage we are not sure what social distancing measures we will be operating in our gardens over that weekend, but these will be advertised nearer the time, and in the programmes.

For more information, or if you would like to open your garden, please contact me either on 07527 929592 or email to [jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk](mailto:jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk)

*Jennie Street*

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## Totley History Group

The experiment of holding the February and March meetings by Zoom went well with encouraging attendances. After Penny Rea's talk, in February, about the Zion graveyard in Attercliffe a number of people expressed an interest in visiting the cemetery so consideration is being given to organising a summer visit. The talk in March was given by Ann Beedham and was about "The History of Stained Glass".

We will be holding another Zoom meeting on 28th April at 7.15pm when Pauline Burnett will be talking about "The History of Holidays". All are welcome to join this meeting and if are interested please contact our Secretary at [sectothist@gmail.com](mailto:sectothist@gmail.com) who will send you the access details.

Assuming that all goes well with the 'Roadmap to recovery' we are hopeful that we will be able to hold our much postponed AGM, which will be open to both members and non-members, on September 25th. After the AGM Stephen Gay will be giving a talk entitled "Sheffield to the East Coast by Train Part 1" which is about the history of the line and the countryside it passes through.

For updates on our activities please visit [totleyhistorygroup.org.uk](http://totleyhistorygroup.org.uk).

*Norman Rolfe, Chair*

## Councillors' Update

Local Councillors remain very busy with casework on a wide range of issues but of increasing concern is the backlog in Council house repairs. Sheffield has a very poor record on this compared to other local authorities and towards the end of last year it was taking an average of 57 days to get work done. This is totally unacceptable. If you have any problems with repairs do get in contact.



It has now been confirmed that the local elections that were postponed from last year will go ahead on May 6th. Voting will take place in the Library as usual but **you need to bring your own pen or pencil!** As an alternative to voting in person you can apply for a postal vote and information about how to do this will be sent out with your polling card.

There will be 3 ballot papers this year because as well as voting for our local Councillor there is an election for the Police and Crime Commissioner and a referendum on the way the Council is run. At the moment we have a 'strong leader and cabinet' model and the choice will be either to retain this system or revert to a committee system. The latter would involve more Councillors in the decision-making process, rather than just the 10 members of the cabinet.

Another change in the way the Council operates is a proposal to return to a form of the former Community Assemblies. These were abolished in 2013 after the Liberal Democrats lost control of the Council but now there are proposals to reintroduce a version of them. This will give a greater say to local communities and Councillors in spending in their areas.

As we emerge from lockdown we all must be looking forward to something like normality. Being able to see friends and family, have a meal out or a drink at the local pub are things to which to look forward. However, we think we still need to be cautious as we emerge from a year of restrictions. Many aspects of life will not be the same. Perhaps there will be less

shopping at stores, avoidance of travelling to meetings by using Zoom and a mix of working in the office with working from home.

But please remember to continue to support our local shops and businesses. As the saying goes, "use them or lose them". They have been invaluable to us all during this time and there are many benefits to actually shopping in person rather than remote purchasing all of the time.

Finally, our surgeries remain suspended but we hope to resume them in the near future. In the meantime please contact us by email if we can help with anything. Stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

*Colin Ross, Martin Smith and Joe Otten*

*[colin.ross@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:colin.ross@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)*

*[martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)*

*[joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)*

## Did this copy of *Totley Independent* pop through your letterbox?

Delivering copies of *Totley Independent* to every house in Totley? We never thought it would be possible. We assumed that we simply didn't have enough of a pool of volunteers to deliver the magazine to Totley's 1600-odd households. When we announced in the last issue that the April edition would be free of charge, we had thought that readers would simply collect their copies from our existing retail outlets.



But shortly after that, a couple of people got in touch and volunteered to deliver copies to homes in their own streets. And then word seems to have got around. Now we have a great team of Totley residents who have undertaken to deliver copies of the *Totley Independent* to homes in their streets. This amazing response from supporters of our magazine was quite simply stunning. Our thanks to them all!

So you may well have received your copy of *Totley Independent* through your letterbox. We estimate that this April issue will be delivered to around 80% of Totley homes. There are some streets which are still not covered – mainly the complex of streets around Green Oak Road and Green Oak Avenue – so if you're interested in taking on a delivery route every two months to around 60 homes, do let us know! Contact details as usual on the back page!



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## Totley Show 2021

The committee for Totley Show 2021 has recently met and has tentatively confirmed that we expect to proceed with the Show for this year, on Saturday 18 September 2021.

We plan to meet again in late April 2021 to discuss the social distancing aspect for the Show.

We consider this to be very important for the members of the public and all the volunteers involved with the Show.

It is still very hard to look forward more than a month. All the encouraging signs are there, with the number of cases and deaths dropping in the pandemic. A lot will depend on whether the school would allow us to use their premises.

We will put further details in the next issue of *Totley Independent*. I would not expect there to be many changes to the classes we had 2 years ago. We will also put updates on the Show's Facebook page.

Although we have a good selection of volunteers for the Friday night and Saturday, we can always do with more. Therefore if you can spare a few hours on either day, please do not hesitate to email me at the address below.

Let us all hope that by September 2021 the Pandemic is a distant memory.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair  
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com



## Friends of Gillfield Wood

Friends of Gillfield Wood holds its indoor meetings at Totley Library, usually on Monday evenings. There are about six illustrated talks a year and all are very welcome.

Our outdoor activities are numerous. One is the annual family walk with children in mind. It is a nature walk organised and run by Jill Hnat (from Totley Library) where FOGW guide and assist. A Bug Hotel has also been created in the grounds of the library for children to enjoy.

The advantages of holding meetings at the library include the excellent facilities provided - the kitchen and disabled toilet plus the large screen for our indoor talks. The evenings and events provide a wonderful forum for members and the public to catch up in a familiar, central venue and share their stories/sightings/news about the wood, or enquire about our Conservation Work Mornings that we run on a monthly basis in close association with Sheffield Council Rangers and Woodland Management Team.

Our indoor and outdoor events can be found on our website [www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com](http://www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com) or by emailing the Secretary on [fogwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fogwsecretary@gmail.com)

We aim to make Gillfield Wood as accessible as possible to all, and have recently had two radar kissing gates specially installed on the Totley Hall Lane path by the Public Right of Way team from SCC. These proved very popular over the last year when exercising locally was made a lot easier for all. It is important to point out that the paths in the wood are designated footpaths.

### Indoor meetings, 7.30pm in Totley Library:

**Monday November 8th:** Hedgehogs. An illustrated talk by Jo Wilkinson.

**Monday December 6th:** Our Christmas meeting, with an illustrated talk on Swifts by John Ellicock. Lester Hartmann

of the now famous "Peak Boxes" will be joining us with his specially designed Swift nest boxes, twenty of which we hope to erect in Totley at the end of April.

### Outdoor events in Gillfield Wood

**Sunday October 10th:** Small Mammal Trapping, with Val Clinging. The small mammals will be released after close-up identification. A family event, children very welcome. Special traps containing food will be set the night before.

**November 13th:** Fungi Survey with Chris Kelly

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## Totley Rise Methodist Church

Our building has sadly, but necessarily, been closed because of the pandemic. However, the Church has not been closed, and has continued to support the S17 area in thoughtful ways, through acts of community service and our online worship.

We are taking a cautious approach to re-opening our building, in accordance with Government guidance, but look forward to welcoming back both our worshipping community and our hirers when safe to do so.

We are pleased to be have been able to facilitate the re-opening of 'Play in Dore' breakfast and after-school club and delighted that the children are enjoying being back at school again.

Many people have been engaging with our weekly worship on Sunday mornings at 10.30am accessed via our Facebook page Totley Rise Methodist Church | Facebook or via our website [www.totleyrise.co.uk](http://www.totleyrise.co.uk) and we invite you to join us for our services.

Collette Duke

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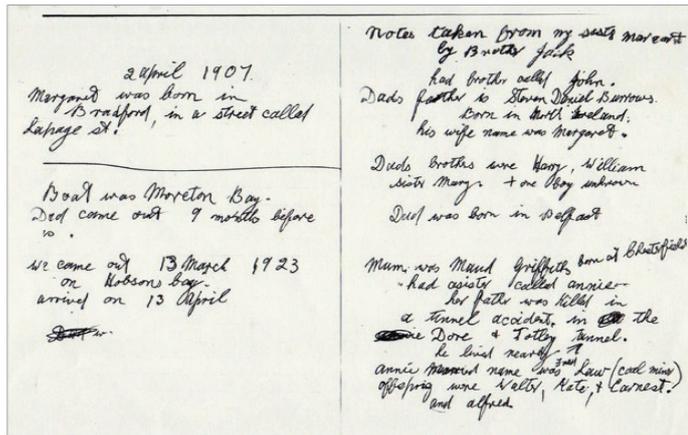
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## George Griffiths, Totley Tunneller

When Jack Burrows died in Perth, Western Australia, last year at the fine old age of 100 years, a scrap of paper found in his belongings led to his long-time neighbour, friend and administrator, Trevor Lawton, contacting Totley History Group to try to obtain some information about Jack's family history.

Trevor is no stranger to family history himself, having been a member of Saddleworth Historical Society many years ago. That scrap of paper in Jack's own handwriting gave his mother's maiden name as Maud Griffiths and said that her father had been "killed in a tunnel accident in Dore and Totley tunnel". There is no mention of an accident to a miner called Griffiths in Brian Edwards' book *Totley and the Tunnel* but from online newspaper archives and genealogy databases in England, Scotland and Ireland, we have been able to put together the story behind Jack's note.



Jack Burrows' note

On Monday, 18 February 1889 an evening of entertainment took place in the school room, Totley, under the patronage of William Aldam Milner of Totley Hall and Joshua Tyzack of Beauchief, in aid of the widow and children of the late George Griffiths, a miner who had been killed in the construction of the Totley Tunnel on 13 December the previous year. Nearly three hundred people paid for admission, a large number of whom were navvies and their wives and others who had come from Dore, Beauchief, Norton, Bradway, and Holmesfield.

Rev. J.T.F. Aldred, vicar of Dore, was chairman and at the opening of the entertainment he welcomed the navvies to Totley and said that the school room would be placed at their disposal any time they would like to put on their own entertainment. The programme commenced with a magic lantern show and was followed by an evening of music and song, featuring amongst others The Dore and Totley Christy Minstrels. At the close of the programme, William Milner proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to all those who had come forward to assist in making the evening a success. Thomas Oxenham seconded the vote of thanks on behalf of the navvies on the Dore and Chinley Railway.



Totley Church School

George Griffiths died following an explosion during the sinking of number 3 airshaft at Totley Bents. George was one of two men whose job it was to prepare and set the charges



Steam rising from No.3 airshaft

in a series of six holes about an inch and a half in diameter and two and a half feet deep bored in the rock. Each charge was made up of a cartridge of gelignite and a primer, a part cartridge into which was embedded a detonator to which was attached a fuse. When all six charges were in place, the holes were filled with water and sealed with clay and the fuses lit by means of a candle. The shaft was already between 120 and 150 feet deep and the fuses were sufficient to give the men between three and four minutes to be drawn up to the surface and to retire to safety. Three successful blastings had taken place in the morning.

In the afternoon, James Bembridge was getting the candles ready whilst George was setting the charges. He put cartridges in two of the holes which dropped to the bottom but the third one got stuck in the hole. As was the usual practice, he stood up to press the cartridge down with a long stick when there was an explosion. A team of men was sent down the shaft and both injured miners were speedily brought to the surface and medical attention summoned, but George died about an hour later. He had been struck on the forehead by the full force of the flying rock as well as suffering a broken right arm and injuries to his left leg. Although standing only a yard and a half away, James suffered very minor cuts and bruises.

The inquest opened at the Cricket Inn on 15 September for identification purposes only and was continued at the Crown Inn on 20 December when Major Cundall, one of H.M. Inspectors of explosives, was present. It was concluded that the explosion occurred when George was attempting to force a second piece of gelignite side by side with a first piece which had become stuck fast in the hole. The inspector explained that whilst gelignite is malleable under normal temperatures, it becomes quite hard when cold. It was likely that the cartridge had become affected by frost, making it much more sensitive to explosion. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

George Griffiths was aged 35 and lived in Chapel Street, Whittington, Derbyshire. He was buried on 17 December 1888 at St. John the Evangelist, Newbold. Little has been found out about the man himself. According to his brother James, who was in charge of the airshaft at the time of the accident, George was an experienced miner who had worked in many places across Yorkshire and had been used to similar explosives for about twelve years. George had married Florence Woodward in 1885 at Chesterfield Register Office. Florence was born on 31 August 1861 in Chesterfield, the first of seven children of John Woodward, a furnace labourer, and his wife Ann Hall, who married on 4 March 1861 in North Wingfield, Derbyshire. George and Florence had two daughters: Maud, born on 16 October 1885 in Newbold; and Annie, born on 5 November 1887 in Whittington.

The year after George was killed, Florence remarried to Frederick Hall at St. Bartholomew, Whittington on 5 August. Frederick was a bachelor and a furnace (*continued p.9*)



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labourer by trade who was born about 1862 in Derby. The family continued to live in Chapel Street, Whittington and Maud and Annie attended the Whittington Moor Junior School. Sadly, their mother died on 16 October 1892 at the age of 31 and was buried at Newbold three days later. By April 1896 Frederick, Maud and Annie were living at Court 4, House 8, Walker Lane, Derby. Maud and Annie attended the Orchard Street School.

What became of Frederick Hall we do not know but by the time of next census on 31 March 1901, Maud and Annie were living in Swinton, near Mexborough, having been adopted separately. Maud, aged 15, was the adopted daughter of Susannah and Arthur Earl, a coal miner, of 82 Queen Street. Annie, aged 13, was the adopted daughter of Alice and Charles Oliver, a greengrocer, of 24 Albert Street.



*Bridge Street, Swinton, near Mexborough*

Annie Griffiths lived in Swinton for the rest of her life. She gave her address as the Don Hotel, on Bridge Street, when she married Fred Law, a coal miner, at St. Margaret's Church on 3 June 1908. Fred was born about 1880 in Swinton, the son of Alfred Law, a labourer. Annie and Fred lived at 28 Fitzwilliam Street where they had five children: Mary Kate born on 12 December 1908, Walter born 28 September 1910, Ernest born 5 April 1918, Alfred born on 15 December 1924 and Betsy born about 1931.

As if the mining accident which killed her father were not enough, a second mining accident was to result in the death of Annie's husband. Fred Law was working at the Manvers Main Colliery on 4 April 1932 when he suffered a head injury which resulted in a loss of sight in the left eye and severe pain. During the early hours of 14 April he rose from his bed and left the house. When he didn't return, Annie, together with her son Walter and son-in-law, went to search for him but found only his hat and coat on the side of the canal, close to Green Lane Bridge. They went to fetch the police and searched for a while but finding nothing they abandoned their search until daybreak. The next morning, the police began dragging the canal and found Fred's body.

An open verdict of "Found Drowned" was returned by the coroner who added that there was no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water. At Doncaster County Court, on 31 October 1932, Annie Law was awarded compensation of £600 against Manvers Main Collieries Limited for the death of her husband. After considering all the medical evidence, the colliery company agreed that Fred had taken his own life whilst temporarily insane as a direct result of the injuries he had suffered in the pit. Annie never remarried and died in Montague Hospital, Mexborough in November 1946 at the age of 59.

Maud Griffiths was living at Liversage Street, Derby when she married John Burrows, an iron moulder, on 4 June 1906 at Holy Trinity Church, London Road. At the time of his marriage John was living in Bradford, Yorkshire but he had been born in Belfast, Northern Ireland around 1879, the second of six children of Stephen Burrows, an iron moulder, and his wife Margaret Greenlaw who had married on 31 December 1875 in Maryhill, Lanarkshire. Maud and John made their home in Lapage Street, Bradford where their first child, Margaret, was born on 2 April 1907. Their second child, John Burrows

junior, known as Jack, was not born until 3 February 1920 when the family were living in Rhyl, Flintshire.

In 1922 John Burrows accepted a job offer from the Forwood Down Engineering Company in Western Australia and the family emigrated to Perth. John embarked aboard the Commonwealth Government Line steamship Moreton Bay at the Port of London on 29 August 1922 bound for Fremantle. The following year, Maud, Margaret and Jack followed aboard the Hobson's Bay which left London on 13 March and arrived at Fremantle on 13 April 1923.



*Murray Street, Perth, Western Australia*

For many years the Burrows family lived at 626 Murray Street and later at 149 Cambridge Street in the Leederville district. Jack went to the Thomas Street State School and later Perth Boys School in James Street. His father arranged an apprenticeship at Forwood Downs where he became a fitter and turner. By the time of the Second World War, Jack's engineering skills meant that he was exempt from military service. He was sent to Hendon in South Australia to learn the manufacture of .303 ammunition. He returned to work at a munitions factory that was built at Adams Drive in Welshpool, a southeastern suburb of Perth. The factory expanded to include the manufacture of igniters for the Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft guns. During this time Jack met his future wife, Mary Henderson Boyack Ritchie, who also worked at the factories in Hendon and Welshpool.



*Jack and Mary Burrows, Perth, 11 March 1950*

Mary had been born in Grants Place, Kennoway Road, Windygates, Fife on 21 September 1917, the daughter of William Ritchie, a coal miner, and his wife Agnes Boyack who married on 31 December 1910 in Dundee. The Ritchies had emigrated to Western Australia aboard the Hobson's Bay in January 1927. Jack and Mary married in 1944. They had no children but enjoyed 71 years of marriage before Mary died on 28 July 2015 aged 97. Jack Burrows, grandson of Totley tunneller George Griffiths, died on 20 November 2020.

*Dorothy Prosser*

*(This article first appeared on Totley History Group website. THG thanks Trevor Lawton for his help in writing this article.)*

## An update from Olivia Blake MP



It's been over a year since I was elected as your MP, and what a year it has been. I wanted to take this time to get in touch and update you on what I have been up to in Parliament, and across Hallam to represent the people of Topley.

I know the past year has been really difficult and uncertain for many of my constituents. I have received messages from thousands of you, concerned about your businesses in Hallam; worried about loved ones in care homes; or struggling on the front line. I am continuing to do everything I can to hold the

Government to account over their response to this crisis, and make sure my constituents get the support they need.

At the time of writing I am campaigning for more funding for eating disorder services in Hallam; speaking out against the proposed cuts to support for small breweries; pushing for stronger legislation to stop peatland burning; and campaigning to restore and expand rail services in the Sheaf Valley.

I have also been running a campaign to change the rules around maternity support, so that pregnant people can have someone with them at appointments and during pregnancy. I was overjoyed to see the Government guidance change, and to know that birth partners are now allowed to be present at scans at Sheffield's Jessop Wing maternity unit. I want to thank those constituents who raised this issue with me at the start of the pandemic. You can read more about other issues I have been raising on my website.

My office and I are also working hard to support constituents who get in touch with queries about the new lockdown guidelines or concerns about the support available. I have raised a number of these issues in Parliament, including support for students, the self-employed and wet-led businesses. I can't hold my regular in-person surgeries, I am still holding weekly surgeries on Zoom.

Whilst addressing the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has been my priority, I have also been working hard to push the government over action (or lack of) on the climate emergency. Whilst the pandemic has been front and centre in our minds, and rightly so, the climate and ecological emergency isn't going away. Its effects are increasingly being felt throughout the world - including at home here in Yorkshire. Action is urgently needed if we are going to curb the worst effects of this crisis.

As many of you will know, this year is the UN Climate Summit, COP26. Over the next 9 months I am going to be holding a series of (virtual!) Climate Assemblies with Hallam residents, covering key topics from green public transport and food production, to biodiversity and international justice. I hope each Climate Assembly will be an opportunity for Hallam residents to discuss what action we want to see come out of COP26, and decide what steps we want to take here in our community to implement a post-covid green recovery.

And we've already hit the ground running. During our first Climate Assembly earlier this month, we re-launched a campaign, with Sheffield Heeley MP Louise Haigh and Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield, to improve green transport in our city, particularly along the Sheaf Valley.

Through detailed consultation with Friends of Dore and Topley Station we have developed a proposal to bid for government funds to expand capacity at the station, and build a new secure bike shed. This is part of a wider bid, which has been submitted to the Department of Transport, to restore stations at Millhouses, Heeley, and Beauchief, and build a new station at Topley Brook. There is something particularly fitting about reigniting our cities economy and addressing the regional inequalities in transport funding, through investment in greener, low carbon transport. If you would like to read

more about the bid, or feed into our survey to help us with the campaign, you can do so on my website here: <https://tinyurl.com/sheafvalleyrail>

The experience of the national lockdown has shown many of us, myself included, just how important access to green space is for our mental health and wellbeing. I know I have valued more than ever taking my dogs for a walk in the beautiful Peaks. I believe that as part of Hallam's recovery from the pandemic, we should be protecting and opening up our green spaces. By building and expanding low carbon transport links in Hallam, making it easier for people in Topley, and across South and South West Sheffield to visit the Peak District, we can open up access to nature for the many.



*Olivia with her dogs*

But green transport is only part of the picture, and over the next year I hope to support a number of campaigns in our constituency. I hope these Climate Assemblies will act as a springboard for action on the climate crisis, throughout our constituency and city. I welcome everyone in Topley to join these conversations, the next of which will be held on April 6th and will be about how we can build a sustainable and just food system.

As always, if there is an issue you would like me to raise, or a campaign you would like me to support please do get in touch! If you would like to hear from me more regularly, you can sign up to my monthly email update on my website: <https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/>.

*Olivia Blake MP*

## Holmesfield Church Walking Group

### Barlow Walk April 2021

On Wednesday April 28th at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from the Peacock Inn in Barlow. We will walk to Cutthorpe through the fields and return by a different route.

We will hopefully have lunch outside at the Peacock (optional) or across the road at Hackney House - this all depends however on the legislation at the time.

If you would like to come just turn up on the day. If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246 412767.

The walk is 4 miles long but there is a shortcut. The cost of the walk is £4 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church.





## Totley Library

**Lockdown** The publication of the "Roadmap to recovery" gave us the green light to start planning the reopening of the Library, the critical factor being volunteer availability. The services that were offered during the latter part of 2020 were provided by a very small number of volunteers which means that most of our active volunteers will not have been involved in a shift for over a year.

A plan was formulated so that all returning volunteers have access to appropriate familiarisation and refresher training and, as part of this, we were pleased to recommence an "Order and collect" service on 22nd March. In doing this we are keeping in step with Sheffield Libraries and other volunteer libraries.

If all goes well with the "Roadmap" the Library will reopen for limited browsing and Public Network computer access on 12th of April. Initially the opening times will be as before, from 2-4pm on Mondays and from 10am to 12 noon on Wednesdays and Fridays. The plan is to increase opening hours and days as soon as possible, but this will be entirely dependent on volunteer availability.

During the recent lockdown the opportunity was taken to refurbish and redecorate parts of the Library that would be difficult to do if it was open. In particular, the office was completely cleared and redecorated and recarpeted and much unwanted material has been disposed of. New blinds have been installed in the main library areas and the foyer has been recarpeted.



**New Books** Another activity that has continued during lockdown has been the purchase of new books. These include new bestsellers by your favourite authors, a range of books for adults and children around health and wellbeing and books for children about COVID. You can search for the books we have in stock at Totley Library by going to the website [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk) and following the links in Our Books.

**Plant Sale** Our gardening volunteers have continued to plan for a plant sale this year and the "Roadmap" mentioned above should allow for us to hold it on 22nd May. The precise organisational details will depend on the COVID restrictions that will be applicable. As soon as they are known they will be publicised on our noticeboard, on social media and at [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk).

**New Volunteers** We have been fortunate to receive expressions of interest from several potential volunteers during lockdown and have been able to give them some idea of what volunteering at Totley Library entails by having Zoom conversations. These volunteers will be integrated with the process of retraining existing volunteers as part of a drive to increase active volunteer levels which will enable us to expand opening hours.

We are keen to encourage new potential volunteers, so if you

would like to know more about the roles that are available and what they entail, please email your details to [totleylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:totleylibrary@gmail.com). We will get back to you to arrange an introductory chat but will be unable to offer a formal induction until the Library is up and running again.

**The Future** The amazing speed of the vaccination roll-out and the encouraging uptake rate give cause for optimism that a resumption of community activities will be possible later this year. We cannot be certain that everything will go smoothly over the next few months, but we are ever more confident that Totley Library will once again become a vibrant and active part of the local community.



**Latest Lottery Winners** The first-prize winner in the January draw was Wendy Sawyer, and the second-prize winner was Ian Macinnes. In the February draw, Sally Steel won first prize, and the second prize was won by Amanda Hardwick. Congratulations to all!

**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/>

*Norman Rolfe*

### Information from Sheffield Central Library

We continue to provide the following services.

The **Order and Collect Service** is for those wishing to receive a pack of 5 books selected for them by library staff at all libraries across the city plus Central Library, based on their preferences for genre submitted by email or phone. Contact details for the libraries can be found on the City Council webpage.

It is a minimum contact service. Customers place their order and then collect a bag of 5 items (Books, non-fiction DVDs, audio books, graphic novels etc) for either adults or children from the foyer or an external door of the library. They will also be able to return books they have had on loan.

**Online Events** We also have a growing list of online events for both adults and children. For the latest updates on upcoming activities check out our social media channels on Facebook and Twitter, and our Eventbrite page.

You can also view selected recorded events for a limited time on our blog.

**eLibrary open 24/7** We continue to provide online library services via our eLibrary with a simple registration process to become a member. The eLibrary contains a large range of eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks, and eComics. These services are available free of charge to library members.

**Home Library Service resumes** We are providing home library service deliveries in our new electric van. The service delivers to any Sheffield resident who is unable to get to their local library and has no-one to help them do so, or who may be able to get to the library but cannot carry the books they've chosen.

We can also offer the service on a temporary basis, for example whilst someone is recovering from an operation.

For more information about this service customers can call 0114 273 4277 or email [Mobileservices.Library@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Mobileservices.Library@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Organic Wildlife Gardening

Spring is a time of renewal and, hopefully this year, better times ahead. We have all had to make the best of lockdown, which is perhaps easier for some than for others. One cannot help but despair at the number of people who are dying from Covid 19, and be aware of how careful we all must be. I have, however, found it really frustrating that so many people cannot wait to fly abroad for a holiday, seemingly without any concern about the possible consequences to themselves or others, but also because the air quality has been so much better since flying virtually stopped, and that matters. The tax on flying may help to build up the national bank account but it will not save a dying planet. The only way we are going to do that is by living in a much less environmentally damaging way.

The particularly cold spell in February held up the appearance of spring flowers but, having learned last year that snowdrops are not native, I removed many of them here, and more this year. However carefully it is done, there is bound to be some loss of carbon dioxide that had been safely stored in the soil. Some plants can be killed off gradually by cutting them down to soil level whenever they appear and so I am now trying this in my garden. Native flowers provide the best pollen and nectar for native pollinators, having evolved with each other over thousands of years.

Much work is being done around the country to replace conifer woods with broadleaf trees. Conifers were planted for various reasons, one being the need for telegraph poles, but they do not support nearly as much wildlife as broadleaf varieties and very few are native. Some conifer woods are privately owned and are being opened for natural burial plots, along with a choice of native trees shrubs and flowers...very peaceful, personal and environmentally friendly.

While now is not the time to be planting trees, in late autumn a mini wood could be planted at the top of most gardens, with taller trees at the back, and smaller trees and then shrubs in front. Saplings from specialist nurseries are produced from our own indigenous seed which is vital to protect our biosecurity. Buying through the Woodland Trust would ensure that, and while supporting the Trust it could also be very helpful to those who need advice.

Large trees at the back could include oak, ash, elm, silver birch, downy birch, rowan, and alder. Smaller trees include hazel, holly, hawthorn, wild cherry, bird cherry, crab apple and field maple. It is important to have a variety of trees rather than a lot of the same species as they all support different wildlife in different ways which increases the variety of wildlife that is supported.



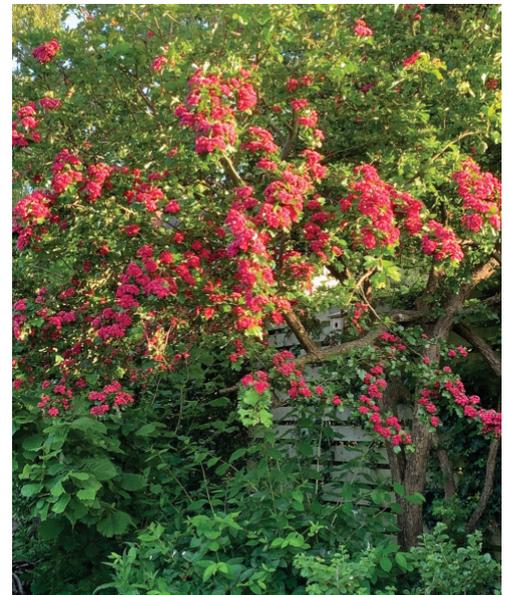
*Trees support so much wildlife*

Hazel and holly are both excellent small trees. Holly provides cover for nesting birds and the dry leaf litter is bedding for hibernating hedgehogs and small mammals. The flowers provide pollen and nectar for early bees, and the leaves are food for the caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly, and the yellow barred brindle moth, while the berries are for birds and small mammals.

Hazel is another smaller tree which is very good for wildlife. It provides food for the caterpillars of several moths that eat the leaves, eg the large emerald. When coppiced, the open area below encourages the growth of wildflowers, which support butterflies especially fritillaries. and also ground-nesting birds such as willow warblers. The hazelnuts are popular with woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, jays, and small mammals such as dormice. The flowers provide pollen for bees, but they find it difficult to collect, and can only gather small amounts at a time. The pollen is wind-blown, so is not sticky and the grains repel each other so they can disperse easily in the wind.

In front of the trees, shrubs will be another important layer for wildlife. These could include dog wood, spindle, wild privet, buckthorn, and dog rose, which are quite large, but can be trimmed, and broom, field rose, and sweet briar which are lower growing shrubs. In time, honeysuckle and clematis look lovely climbing up amongst the smaller trees and shrubs.

Among and in front of the shrubs, many shade-loving wild native flowers will grow well, eg wood anemone, blue bell, bugle, lesser celandine, wood forget-me-not, yellow pimpernel, wild primrose, sweet purple violet, hedge woundwort, sweet woodruff, wood sorrel, yellow archangel, wood cranesbill, foxglove, herb Robert, red deadnettle,



*Wonderful hawthorn blossom!  
Joys to come!*

white dead nettle, wild daffodils, wild primrose, red campion, Solomon's seal, lily of the valley, wild strawberry, hedge woundwort, garlic mustard and nettle leaved bellflowers. Even a few of these flowers will look lovely though the more varieties grown and the larger the area covered will affect the amount of wildlife supported. In fact, in the wild this is known as the ecozone and is considered to be the most environmentally friendly wildlife situation you can find in this country, which makes it extremely important.

Many people have been out walking during this pandemic, especially in local woods, and I am sure that if they came across any of these flowers they would have appreciated how lovely they are.

While all these flowers can be sourced from the specialist native flower producers, it is such a shame that they are not also grown by local nurseries and garden centres to provide a handy source. They are beautiful flowers, which need all the help they can get or they will join the list of extinct plants in this country which would also mean the loss of the pollinators and other insects that depend on them early in the year.

In the spring magazine of the World Wildlife Fund, Mark Wright, the director of science, has pointed out that ambitious action is needed to restore the natural world and avoid a mass extinction of species!

*Marian Tiddy*

## Not Walking The Dog

**Jack** Why have you called it 'Not Walking The Dog' this time?  
**Rony** Because I'm not walking the dog this time.  
**Jack** Because of Covid?  
**Rony** No.  
**Jack** Because of your late-onset epilepsy?  
**Rony** No.  
**Jack** Because of your down-below trouble?  
**Rony** I haven't got down-below trouble.  
**Jack** You will have, with you being 80-odd these days.  
**Rony** You're 84-odd in dog years Jack.  
**Jack** You'll go first  
**Rony** Wont!  
**Jack** Will!  
**Rony** Won't!  
**Jack** Will!

*Pause*

**Jack** And what about Sally?  
**Rony** She can join us later. She's doing her Joe Wickes' exercise now, seeing that we're not walking and have to self isolate. But I thought you were asking about my cataract?  
**Jack** I wasn't. And you've not got a cataract.  
**Rony** Have!  
**Jack** Haven't! Cataracts are what you get in gushing rivers, like the Totley Brook that isn't in Totley Brook.  
**Rony** Everyone knows that.  
**Jack** But not everybody knows that there was that family who lived at 3 Laverdene Drive when you were growing up...  
**Rony** You mean the Waterfalls? You've been listening and remembering all my nostalgia Jack.  
**Jack** Yes. And Your Geth wanted to kiss their Christine. But she wouldn't. And she used to kick her back door.  
**Rony** That's better! We can ask if we can put her in the *Independent*!  
**Jack** More nostalgia for old things no one else in Totley remembers! No wonder you're 80.  
**Rony** I'll bring us up to date then. My cataract is not that waterfall kind of cataract. Mine is in my eye, and the surgeon is going to slice it out.  
**Jack** Who's paying?  
**Rony** It's free on the NHS if I get it done soon.  
**Jack** What if you don't get it done soon?  
**Rony** There won't be an NHS.  
**Jack** There won't be a you either, of course. And I'll tell Sally what you've said because she hates you talking like that as if you're going to die.  
**Rony** It's not me talking like that.

*Enter Sally*

**Sally** Of course it is.  
**Rony** It's Jack talking.  
**Sally** Since when did dogs talk?  
**Jack** Can I have a cataract Rony ?  
**Rony** You can. But you're not allowed it free on the NHS. And we've no money since I was sacked by the BBC and we went to the dogs.  
**Sally** You weren't sacked!  
**Rony** Was!  
**Sally** Wasn't!  
**Rony** Was!  
**Sally** You're squibbling again! See!  
**Rony** Can't!  
**Sally** Can!  
**Jack** I'd rather have some more of your usual daft jokes than to have to listen to squibbling and squabbling like everyone else has squabbled and squibbled all lockdown. I never thought us three would...  
**Sally** Wouldn't!

*Exit Sally*

**Jack** I'll tell a joke now so no one squobbles or squabbles.  
**HEAD EATER** Good  
**Jack** Yes, Phil The Head Eater likes jokes he can tell people when he's walking round Totley distributing the *Independent* and hoping he'll be invited in for a free drink at The Fleur.  
**HEAD EATER** Keep that in!  
**Rony** Joke for Phil then. Who is the dogs' favourite composer?  
**Jack** Bach. Heard it before, told it before.  
**Rony** It's my late onset epilepsy if I have. I get *deja vu* and *jamaïs vu*, at the same time sometimes.  
**HEAD EATER** More jokes please! Then free drinks at the Fleur!  
**Rony** Who is the dogs' other favourite composer?  
**Jack** Haven't you just asked that?  
**Rony** I can't remember. That's what you get with late-onset epilepsy. You keep forgetting.  
**Jack** What?  
**Rony** What you can't remember.  
**Jack** You want to get out more.  
**Rony** I'm not allowed. But even if I was I couldn't go out on the Laverdene to see Mrs Waterfall. Or Tanty Judge. Or Tanty Nellie. Or the Misses Bottom. Or the Hogs. Or both Turtons. Or the Bishops and the Parsons.  
**Jack** Why not?  
**Rony** Because they've all gone. Like I will have all gone, soon. Then people might be sorry.

*Enter Sally*

**Jack** It'll be a waste of the NHS doing his eyes if he does go soon, won't it Sally?  
**Sally** I hate you talking like that Rony.  
**Rony** It's Jack talking like it, not me.  
**Sally** Jack is a dog. Dogs don't talk. That's why they are dogs .  
**Rony** But dogs do have favourite composers, like Offenbach and...  
**Sally** Oh....go squibble!  
**Rony** Oh ...go squabble!  
**Jack** Oh go wuff!

*Paws*

**Jack** And that's it for now folks for this episode of 'Not Walking The Dog.'  
**Rony** Hope so.  
**Sally** I hope so too.  
**READERS** And we hope so too.  
**HEAD EATER** And I hope so too. We've only got room for two more words.  
**Jack** Wuff! Wuff!

**Rony and Jack Robinson**

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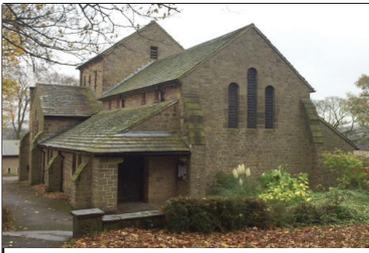
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## All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

### Hope

Assuming all has gone well and the lockdown measures have been successful, we will by now be starting to emerge albeit cautiously, from what has been for many of us a very long and incredibly difficult year of lockdowns. Our hopes have been raised by the prospect of "the roadmap", the long-awaited easing of restrictions and the limitations on our daily lives. The pandemic has shattered the hopes and dreams of so many people but it is safe to assume that most people hope to see an end to the pandemic.

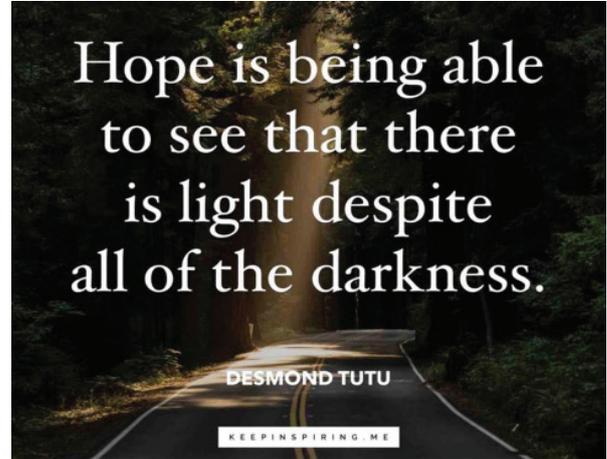
To hope is to want something that makes life better in some way. Not only can it help to make the current situation easier to deal with, but it can also help us to persevere because imagining an improvement in our current difficulties can give us the motivation to do all we can to make it happen. Hope, whether we recognise it or not, is part of all our lives. One of the recent posters from the NHS designed to encourage people to take up the offer of a vaccination states "Every vaccination gives us hope". Certainly for many of us, this is what we have been pinning our hopes on and is light at the end of a long and very dark tunnel.

There has been enormous pain and suffering as a result of this pandemic and many people have looked at the situation and find it impossible to believe in God let alone see why anyone would have faith and hope in Him. However, suffering and pain exist whether or not you have a faith, and belief in God does not exempt anyone from this. The Resurrection of Jesus celebrated at Easter, demonstrates that even when it

seemed all hope was gone, it was not the end of the story. Christian faith is based on the belief that even in the darkest bleakest times God meets us with a message of hope for a new beginning.

Wherever your hope lies as we begin to pick up the pieces of our lives, the Resurrection hope reminds us that we can have joy, peace, assurance and security in spite of all the pain, suffering and hardships and this hope is available to everyone.

The PCC have made the decision to suspend services in church until further notice. However you may still take part in worship as services will be available online at [www.allsaintstotley.church](http://www.allsaintstotley.church).



Members of our church family pray regularly for our community here in Totley and this will not change. However, if you would like prayer for a specific situation or person, we are happy to do this on your behalf. You can e mail Prayer requests to [churchwardentotley@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardentotley@gmail.com) Requests do not need to include surnames if you prefer and you will not be contacted unless you want your request to be acknowledged.

Liz Hayden, Totley All Saints Church



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## Snapshots of Local Life 100 Years Ago

In one respect, nothing's changed! Totley and Dore in 1921 were simply wanting to get back to normal after the Great War and the 1918/19 "Spanish Flu" pandemic. War had claimed the lives of 908,000 British and Empire service personnel and the 'flu had taken a further 228,000 British lives. Recovery was a mixture of remembrance, distraction and diversion. Memorials to the fallen were appearing. Yet, work apart, there was sport and a strong comedy element in what Sheffield's theatres and around 14 picture palaces were providing to distract. Marie Lloyd, known for her risqué songs and gestures, was at the Empire Palace with her stock-in-trade "Oh, Mr Porter" and "I Sits Among the Cabbages and Leeks" – the cleaned-up version of her earlier lyrics. Charlie Chaplin's successful comedy "The Kid" was seen by millions. For a few moments at least, film, albeit still silent, and variety turns were helping people to forget.



*Music-hall entertainer Marie Lloyd*

King George V had been on the throne since 1910 and David Lloyd George was in his final year as the country's last Liberal Prime Minister. A pound (£1) then would be worth around £49 now. During the year, the second ever female Member of Parliament entered Parliament. It was decided in Parliament that year that car tax discs should be introduced. Before the Great War, there had been 132,000 private cars in Britain. 1921 started with 243,000 cars and a further 72,000 were added in the following 12 months. In 1914 there had been 82,000 goods vehicles on the road and this had grown to 228,000 in 1921 which was an increase fuelled by the availability to road hauliers of ex-army vehicles and drivers who had learned to drive them in wartime. Following the Great War, the British Legion organisation was founded to help with the aftermath of a dreadful war. While the Prime Minister was promising "a land fit for heroes", unemployment rose to 2½ million as a lot of men demobbed from the forces found it hard to get work.

In 1921, Totley and Dore were still in Derbyshire. Totley's population was 1,341, up by 377 since the 1911 census. The

census which took place every 10 years was due to take place as usual in 1921, but the fieldwork was postponed for two months because of cases of industrial unrest, including a miners' strike. In May, because of the coal emergency, Sheffield City Council and Norton Rural District Council were urging the public to exercise the utmost economy in their use of fuel and lighting, and some local transport was curtailed. When the census was completed, the UK population was found to be 44,027,000, 52% of whom were women. It's now 67,886,011 with an estimated 50.6% being women.

Following the Great War, local committees were established and fundraising was taking place to provide fitting memorials for those who had sacrificed their lives in war. The Totley War Memorial had just been dedicated on 27th November 1920. Fundraising for it had started in 1918 with various local events and collections. The Totley project had been delayed because of the difficulty of finding a suitable site for the memorial, but the Rev Gibson, Vicar of Dore, had stepped in and had offered the land on Baslow Road for the granite cross and its plaque with the names of the fallen.



*Totley War Memorial*

Next to come was the Grindleford War Memorial to 16 men which was unveiled on 26th March 1921. Then in June at the Dore and Totley Union Church a memorial tablet and permanent roll of honour to all the men of Dore and Totley who fell in the war was unveiled. Finally, the Dore war memorial was dedicated by the Rev Gibson on 10th December 1921 with the Vicar of Abbeydale, the Rev Kerfoot, and representatives of all local denominations present. Another memorial, the Grade 2 listed lych gate of Dore Church was erected in 1921 and had been dedicated by the Archdeacon of Chesterfield in April along with a memorial tablet in the church itself.

Fundraising for Totley's new church which would eventually open in 1924 had been going on for some time. A grand summer fair in a field opposite Totley Grange raised funds to add to monies already raised by parishioners and the legacy of £4,000 left by Mr Ebenezer Hall of Abbeydale Park. It featured music from the Dore brass band, maypole dancing by the girls of Dore Church School and country dancing by Hammerton Street Council School girls. Another summer event was the annual route march and sports day for the Boys' Brigade which took place at Ashfurlong Farm, Dore. Two hundred boys and 20 officers had assembled at Woodseats tram terminus and had then marched via Beauchief and Dore to the ground where games and races took place before tea.

The Vicar of Dore, Rev Gibson, was vocal about Totley and Dore along with other parishes near to Sheffield being in the Diocese of Southwell with its minster about 40 miles away. He and others felt that the local parishes in the Deanery of Eyam should move instead to the Diocese of Sheffield. Despite the local feeling that Totley and Dore were "part and parcel of the city", they still weren't in the obvious diocese. The new parish of Totley was due to be created from the parish of Dore. Until 1844, Dore and Totley had formerly been in the parish of Dronfield. The Rev Gibson had been in

post for 26 years as Vicar of Dore and made his mark on Dore church with a new chancel, new windows, organ, eight bells, heating apparatus and a clock tower. Over £6,000 had been spent on the church structure and furniture since his arrival in 1895.

In August, Norton Rural District Council gave permission for a new street off King Egbert Road to be built, and this was later to be called Furniss Avenue. The council also invited tenders for the building of 24 cottages on the Rushley Road, Dore site. Leyfield Road, Dore on its south side was also approved for development, and the Midland Railway was offering nine building plots for sale on Totley Brook Road, described as "the most eligible building estate in the vicinity" and "a few minutes' walk from Dore and Totley station" where the Midland Railway might benefit doubly from the residents' ticket purchases.

Dore Moor Inn was a regular venue for cattle sales as was the Fleur-de-Lys at Totley. There was outrage in March when a large hayrick at Dore Moor was deliberately set on fire by, it was believed, mysterious individuals sympathetic to Sinn Fein and the cause of Irish independence. The Dronfield Fire Brigade attended but was unable to save the rick which was the property of the licensee, Mr Elijah Green. Similar incidents had taken place across the north of England and on railway property around London. Petrol was being used regularly to start such fires and firearms were being used in extreme cases. The island of Ireland had just been split between the Irish Free State and Ulster giving us what we now know as Northern Ireland, although the matter was still causing unrest. On a more positive note, Farmer Hancock of Dore was writing to the newspapers warning against factory farming systems to produce food at any price regardless of the welfare of animals and men. Working with Mother Nature, applying acquired knowledge, using careful and skilled men who were paid decent wages and the latest implements was, in his view, the only answer.

In June, the Mistress Cutler came to Totley Orphanage to present prizes at the annual speech day. The president of the orphanage spoke of the poor state of the finances despite large legacies. Commitments meant that they been forced



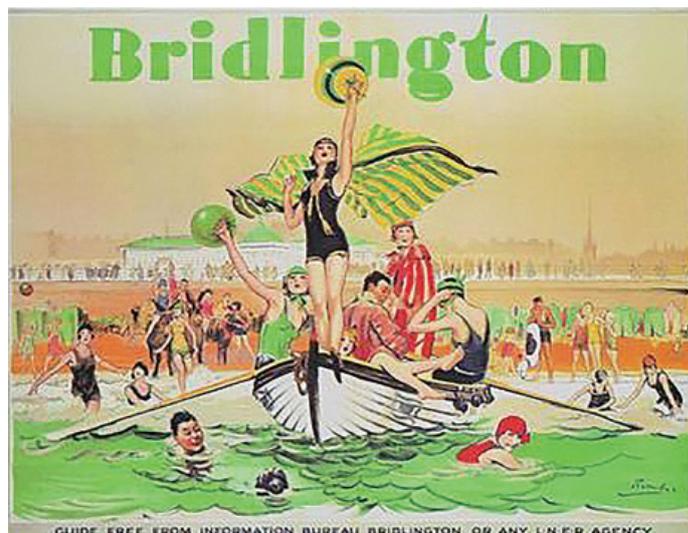
Cherrytree Orphanage, Totley

to stop educating the children themselves and send them instead to Totley school where the children had been praised for their conduct and work. The children entertained the visitors with songs and recitations. At a different educational establishment, Dore and Totley High School and Kindergarten was advertising with vacancies for boarders.

It seems that Sheffield's department stores were doing their best to endanger wildlife. The Cole Brothers' January Sale was offering the most unappealingly-sounding "Skunk Muffs" at half price of between 10 and 20 guineas (roughly £500 to £1,000 now). Meanwhile, Walsh's was offering "Becoming Neckwear" in the form of stoles and collarettes in marabou stork or ostrich feathers and White fox or Indian fox fur. At the time, a whole menagerie of animals was being used for fur; sable, mink, beaver, seal, opossum, raccoon and squirrel to name but a few. Mole and dyed rabbit were also available and cheaper. Cole's had relented by the spring when "seaside blazers in a large range of striped flannel" were offered for 69/6d or 73/6d (£170 to £180 at today's values). A good

quality men's suit in wool was 5 guineas and a winter overcoat was 70/0d. More fragrantly, the Chanel No 5 perfume was introduced this year by Rolls-Royce-driving Coco Chanel.

The 1921 Sheffield holidaymaker on a budget was offered numerous opportunities at resorts such as Bridlington, Harrogate, Blackpool, Southport, Scarborough, Llandudno,



1920s poster for holidays in Bridlington

Whitby, Morecambe, Mablethorpe and Skegness. Some enlightened B & Bs offered "separate tables" and even "free use of bath". Or if you weren't very adventurous there was always the Grand Hotel at what was described as "Bracing Baslow". Those who couldn't afford to travel might simply have taken the tram to Sheffield's range of picture houses, theatres and sports venues.

For the motorist, Sheffield's Ford dealership was advertising "Transportation is Civilisation. It is killing Fashion and is doing more for health than any number of printed rules or nasty medicines". The Ford tourer was £220 or there was a van for £205 and a tractor for £225. Other pricier makes were available for up to £1,650 for a Daimler, although the newly-appointed Rolls-Royce dealership didn't let on about their prices: it was probably considered vulgar to say! For those without transport, Sheffield omnibuses and trams along with the rail services into Sheffield and beyond and the Hope Valley railway line were obvious choices for work and leisure. A workman's weekly ticket from Dore and Totley to Sheffield was 3/3d (16p) and the one-month season ticket for any time and any train was 10/10d (54p), or 29/3d (£1.46p) for three months. For leisure, private companies offered charabanc services from Totley to Baslow, Chesterfield, Froggatt Edge and Calver. Walking was clearly popular and one local newspaper stressed its importance for women. "An erect carriage and elastic step mean more in a girl's general appearance than anything else. There is only one place to find perfect health and that is out of doors. A girl who takes long walks daily (in the morning for preference) never has a white face or a listless appearance. The morning air with its youth giving qualities is a gift which should not be refused by anyone."

Eye-catching adverts telling you "How to Enjoy Life" provided the simple answer which was to take Beecham's Pills. Alcohol was promoted for its health-giving properties. Gilmour's Oatmeal Stout brewed at the Lady's Bridge Brewery was "best for athletes". Wincarnis Tonic Wine, often taken by those who didn't profess to drink, was 3/3d and 6/- a bottle. A bottle of Gold Medal claret was 3/-, gin would set you back 12/-, rum was 12/6d and brandy "recommended by the medical profession" was 18/6d. For an evening in with your bottle of choice, Wilson Peck (with us until 2001) would sell you the latest HMV records at 5/6d (27p) for a 10-inch double-side disc or 12/6d (62p) for the 12-inch version. Gramophones of the day ranged from £7.10s to £125. While Marconi had made the first successful wireless broadcast in 1920, it wasn't until 1922 when radio broadcasts from the 2MT and 2LO (later BBC) radio stations could be heard on crystal sets. Meanwhile, fish and chips were always on the menu and the fish eaters of Sheffield and area were assured that on the Wednesday before Good Friday 1921, no fewer

than 77 trawlers had landed their catches at Grimsby, to say nothing of what was also coming in at Hull and Fleetwood. The railways were able to transport the fish inland quickly, and anyone in the vicinity of a railway station would have known by the scented trail when the fish train had passed through or stopped. Depending on what you wanted to put on your chips, a large bottle of Tomato Ketchup was 2/- or there was always HP Sauce for 11½d.

If you thought that using dogs to advertise toilet roll was a relatively new idea, you would be mistaken. In 1921 Chas Marsden & Sons Ltd of Holly Street, Sheffield were advertising their "Tyke" brand all British-manufactured perforated sanitary medicated toilet roll which was guaranteed chemical free for 5/6d per dozen or 30/- for six dozen if you were a hoarder or anticipating a pandemic. A picture of the Airedale Terrier "Tyke" appeared in the adverts. And if you thought that the phenomenon of global warming was relatively recent, there was a report of a four-inch long cicada, an insect normally seen and heard in warmer climes, being found in a garden near Bakewell. It might have travelled here in a box of bananas, it was thought, but it had been an unusually hot summer.

Judging by the number of column inches devoted to it, golf seems to have been the favoured and fashionable local sport for men and women at the Dore & Totley Club. The club had 325 men, 120 ladies and 15 junior members. They reported that the condition of the greens in 1921 had been helped by the hot summer which had kept the grass short, and grazing by sheep. In February, a member achieved a "hole in one" at the 160-yard 16th hole. In October, two club members with the lowest handicaps and familiar with the terrain played a match by moonlight using forecaddies in the vicinity of the holes to listen for the drop. Caddies were allowed to use torches only when balls went into the rough. The two players finished at 11 pm after playing for three hours and both men lost just one ball each. Miraculously, one valiant forecaddie was hit by a ball only once and wasn't apparently harmed! Abbeydale Park hosted rugby union, football, cricket and hockey, while target shooting and lawn tennis took place in the area. League football, racing and local sports were reported at length in the Saturday Green 'Un sports special. Another pastime, the growing of flowers and vegetables and the keeping of poultry, rabbits and other animals was encouraged by the Totley Allotment and Horticultural Society. Their fourth annual show in Totley saw prizes being awarded for flowers and produce as well as the best rabbit, best guinea pig, best local hen and best white Leghorn laying chicken.

an earlier report of someone's sighting of a kingfisher, "We have seen one several times by a brook near Dore and Totley station during October and November". 'Motorist' wrote in to point out that Abbey Lane and Abbeydale Road as far as the Beauchief were 100 feet wide, so why wasn't the road with its dangerous bends at Totley Rise and Mickley Lane also as wide as far as the Cross Scythes?

Crime didn't pay in the area. The year started badly for a drunk and disorderly scythe grinder on the Totley omnibus who used obscene language and assaulted the bus conductor at Totley. The case came to court at Eckington and £6 in fines were imposed. In June, PC Banham was on duty in Totley when he stopped a powerful car which he thought was being driven to the danger of the public. Both men in the car were from London. The passenger offered PC Banham a £1 note to say nothing about the matter: this was bluntly refused and the case came to Renishaw Police Court where the chairman of the magistrates said this was the worst case they had had to deal with. Fines and costs imposed on both men amounted to nearly £40 (around £1,950 at today's values). Then a raid on a Totley milk seller resulted in three farmers from Holmesfield facing charges at Renishaw Police Court for adulterating their milk. One was found to have added 20% of water getting him a fine of £1 with £3 costs. Two others claimed that the reason why their samples were lacking a third of the cream and fat was simply due to the milk being poured from one vessel into another. The court didn't wear this excuse and the fine was £5 with £3 costs. In November, PC Breed of Totley supported by Sergeant Hall and a gamekeeper arrested two men who were found poaching at midnight at Longshaw. One of the men had been sentenced before for the same offence and he was sent to prison for one month with hard labour, while the other was fined £1. At the end of the year, the illustrious PC Banham was in court at Dronfield to give evidence against a Sheffield labourer who he had seen trying window catches and doors of three houses in Totley Brook Road. The man ran away when he saw PC Banham but he was overhauled and arrested. He complained that if he walked down the street he was taken to the lock-up. He told the court, "I may as well go to bed for the rest of my life and then I shall be safe." Safety in this case was three months in prison!

And what of the future for Totley from the end of 1921? Some things nationally returned to normal but we were still in the doldrums with the after-effects of war and pandemic. The employment situation improved slightly but unrest continued up to the 1926 General Strike. This brought about another recession, the effects of which lasted beyond the end of the decade. Now, 100 years on, there's talk of the worst economic decline in 300 years. Totley's been there before, so noses to the grindstone again!

Mike Peart

## TOTLEY SHOW 1922

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**SECRETARY'S FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.**

IN submitting the 4th Annual Report of the Society I must first take the opportunity of thanking, on behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Barnshaw for the use of the field (for the third year), the subscribers and friends of the Society for their kind consideration and support, and the following ladies and gentlemen for their donations of special prizes—

Mrs. Miller, O.B.E., Totley Hall,  
A.L.D. "Swack, Esq., J.P., C.C.,  
Mr. J. Barnshaw,  
P. Patis,  
W.M. Parkin.

Readers' letters to the papers at the time spoke of Sheffield "creeping out" towards Millhouses and Totley. Local feelings were running very high at a possible threat to Ecclesall Woods which at the time were owned by Earl Fitzwilliam. The area of ancient woodlands was believed to be hiding reserves of coal, gipster and fireclay, all of which were used by local industries and which had been mined previously. Mercifully, strong feelings led to the woods being bought by Sheffield Corporation six years later. Another reader wrote in to add to

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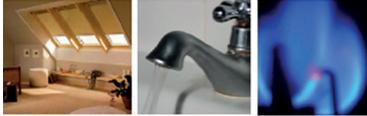
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## Friends of Dore & Totley Station

### It never rains but it pours!

We started March with small signs of progress, the daffodils and crocuses being the first to show. A pair of blue tits are nesting in the box beside the entrance. A large silver box that had been rusting away for decades has been cut up and removed together with its contents, some rusted buckets, cans, old brushes and other old tools! Some white lining has been redone in the car park. The canopy no longer has extra props.

The path from Twentywell Lane to the Rajdhani has been fully resurfaced and will be welcomed by the many who are now walking by for their regular exercise. The Sheffield Round Walk goes that way. The bench donated last year by Abbeydale Rotary is better used by walkers at present than by rail passengers.

From May 17th timetabled services should be returning to normal. We've seen the latest draft and only a few small details need to be resolved.

### The Hope Valley Capacity Scheme has been confirmed

This was finally announced in the House of Commons on the 11th March. We have a lot of excellent contacts and had received detailed plans back in October. We understand there have been a number of detailed issues which require some



*Station blue tit takes up train spotting*

slight changes, particularly relating to the signalling, and possibly excess water in Totley Tunnel. The maximum workload to be safely managed from one computer workstation could have fatal consequences if not got right. Ergonomics!

As the news is so recent we've yet to hear from Network Rail. We hope to be in touch very soon about the details here in Dore and Totley. The main construction site will be on the railway triangle at the bottom of Twentywell Lane. They should be preparing that area from January 2022, but we may see some earlier activity. The major construction will run from



*Fixing the canopy*

Westview Lane below Poynton Wood up to the triangle. It then proceeds past the station to opposite the mill pond for the Industrial Hamlet.

Work on the project by Volker Rail, the main contractors, and others may start in April 2022 with full completion due by September 2023. For part of the time some spaces in the car park will be needed for completion of the new lift towers and new platforms. Some space may be needed in the Westview Lane car park.

It is inevitable that there will be some disruption. A lot of the work can't be done while trains run. That means there will have to be fairly regular night work. Trains will have to be cancelled over several weekends and there are likely to be total blockades during bank holiday weeks.

If the weather allows the work to go to plan, and there are no more problems, we may see more punctual trains from October 2023. We may get quicker trains. We might get extra trains. Punctuality may improve. It's impossible to say today. A lot of other things can happen over the next 3 years.

However the May 2024 timetable changes will bring the first test of how successful this project will have been.

### Manchester Recovery Task Force Public Consultation

Manchester is almost 40 miles away but what happens in and around that city has a very big effect on our trains. The consultation has just closed but only one of the three options left our services unchanged. Both the others mean losing our direct Airport services from Sheffield. They would continue through to Liverpool instead.

Sheffield City Council, Sheffield City Region, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and many others have objected to this, including FoDaTS. In theory by standardising the many routes running through Manchester they should all be more reliable. We've questioned how running out to Liverpool through Platforms 13 and 14 will improve our services. For those going to the Airport it's supposedly simple to make a cross platform change. Possibly, but we contend that for the 90% of travellers not going to the Airport using those two platforms is a very major reduction in the quality of our service.

Unfortunately too many trains are trying to get through Manchester at present so some are going to have to change. There isn't sufficient slack to allow for recovery when any train is just a couple of minutes late. That delay knocks on very quickly at peak times. Any changes will probably happen in May 2022.

### Sheaf Valley Stations Restoration

Three MPs, city council leader Bob Johnson and city region mayor Dan Jarvis have thrown their support behind a bid for four new stations and two new tracks on the Sheaf Valley line to the south of the city. That would include four platforms at Dore and Totley and a new station at Totley Brook. Heeley, Millhouses and Beauchief might be reopened. The Restoring Your Railway Fund is not going to pay for all this. Their Ideas Fund may provide a grant to start an investigation, backed by an equal sum from in our case Sheffield City Region.

The money for developing the idea/s has to be obtained first. We're aware that Sheffield City Region and SYPTTE would prefer a tram based system. We know HS2 is expecting to add a third track from Dore into the city centre. It's clear to anyone who looks over the Archer Road southern railway bridge that four tracks won't fit between Tesco and Sainsburys.

Putting it bluntly, we share the desire for a full investigation, but urge caution on any who have high hopes of anything coming out of this, or quickly. However, if anything does we could be beneficiaries at Dore & Totley – although probably not with four platforms. We'd hope other options will be considered, either within this scheme or in some other way.



*Bench and planter*

Covid is coming under control and we'll soon be able to travel again. Dore & Totley's a good place to start a journey. However it's also a good place to invite your distant friends to visit. Take them to the Rajdhani or Summer House. Maybe take them a bit further, to the Omega at Abbeydale or the Castle Inn just up Twentywell lane.

No need for food if they bring a picnic and walk to Beauchief Abbey, Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Ecclesall Woods, or even over Totley Moss to Grindleford and get the train back.

Let's go travelling.

If you're a Facebook user, you can 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 at [njbarnes@outlook.com](mailto:njbarnes@outlook.com)

There's lots of information on our website at; [www.fodats.net](http://www.fodats.net)

*Chris Morgan, Chairman*



## Images of Sheffield

### 1. Abbeydale Picture House

#### The youth of yesterday

Can you imagine going out dancing on a Saturday night, hoping perhaps for a kiss with a boy or girl? Or having a few joyous drinks with friends, staying out past the last bus home maybe? Outrageous!! You just wait till your mum finds out... But it's actually your parents' behaviour I was thinking about, or your grandparents even. A friend I used to work with once told me that she met her husband at the Abbeydale Picture House and that they carried on dancing there long into their marriage. It stuck in my mind I suppose mainly because of the look of joy and mischief she had in her eyes at the sight of this tarnished old building.

The Picture House was built in the 1920s and must have been like a beacon to everyone in the area, not just because of its brilliant white tiled walls and glorious domed entrance, but because it was the biggest cinema in the city. It was an all-encompassing place for people to meet, to dance, eat, drink and watch films. It was the face of entertainment for all, come the evening time.

But then things changed. We retreated back into our homes for audio/visual stimulation. We diversified into little pockets of society didn't much see the need for grand centres of coexistence. In a final act of ignominy the theatre was used to sell furniture to help make staying at home more comfortable.

Happily now, one of those little pockets of society has taken it over and is moving it back into the hearts of the community. So, should you and your partner be looking for somewhere swinging to go to of an evening why not get your glad rags on and give the next gig at the Picture House a go?

Photo and text: Simon Deeks



## Local Elections 2021

What's unusual about the local elections this year?

Last year, due to COVID-19, the local elections were cancelled but the Government is allowing local elections to be held again on Thursday May 6th 2021.

This time the elections here in Sheffield will be a little different - not because of Covid but because alongside the usual Councillor and Police & Crime Commissioner ballots there will be the **Sheffield People's Referendum** ballot asking you to choose how would like Sheffield City Council to be run.

The result of this is legally binding for the next 10 years, and it's rather important because the outcome will affect every Sheffield resident in one way or another for a long time to come.

How did the referendum come about? It's quite historic. This referendum is only happening in Sheffield, and that's because local campaigners, coordinated by a non-political community group called It's Our City!, submitted a successful petition in 2019 with over 26,000 signatures on it calling for Sheffielders to be heard. It is the largest petition of its type submitted in the UK to date. Petitions are usually toothless in Sheffield but this particular petition had clout under the 2011 Localism Act and that has forced the council to hold the referendum at the next local elections, like it or not.

So what's the question? It is actually prescribed by the

Localism Act and will be:

"How would you like Sheffield City Council to be run? By a leader who is an elected councillor chosen by a vote of the other elected councillors. This is how the council is run now.

Or

By one or more committees made up of elected councillors. This would be a change from how the council is run now."

Simply put - we have the choice of keeping everything as it is now or changing to a modern committee system.



Choosing to stay the same will mean that decision-making power will continue to be invested in the 'executive', normally referred to as 'the Cabinet', and the 'Strong Leader' who has ultimate and overriding power.

In the alternative, the Modern Committee System that is being campaigned for by "It's Our City!", all 84 councillors can be involved in decision-making through smaller themed committees, fully enabling them to represent voters at council. This, campaigners believe, will be the first stepping-stone to better local democracy, where cross-party collaboration can exist enabling an environment where citizens are listened to before council decisions are made instead of being informed after the fact.

How can you vote? Sheffield voter turnout at local elections has been very low. Hopefully, this time, more of us will vote in the Sheffield People's Referendum because the outcome will have a lasting impact on the future of our beloved city and those who inhabit it.

In advance of these elections the council will send details about the referendum to every household. This will also include an invitation to apply for a postal vote which may be your preferred method this year given Covid restrictions. You don't have to vote by post but you do have to be registered to vote! Please check that you are registered, or register now if you have changed address, name or any other details at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

More information can be found about the Sheffield People's Referendum online from the Council at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/campaigns/scc-governance-referendum> and from the non-political Its Our City! community group, who championed the original petition, at <https://www.itsoursheffield.co.uk/>

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## On the Beat



Greetings everybody and hopefully welcome to some new readers picking up a copy of the first free *Independent*. I'm old enough to remember the very first issue in 1977(!) with its

cover illustration of a customs post at Totley Rise! I don't think we've quite got to that stage yet...

As I write, Spring is showing signs of arriving - the snowdrops are out and the new shoots are everywhere. With it comes a slight sense that maybe we are entering a new phase of our battle with COVID and there is a very faint light at the end of the very long tunnel we have been in for the past 12 months. I'd urge everyone to keep following the rules as and when they change over the next few months. As I've said in previous columns, if anyone is unsure about what they can and cannot do please drop me an email and I will try to find answers for you. Please try and make sure you know where your children are and who they are with, especially if they have to leave the house in an evening. The current rule is that we can now meet one other person outside, and no more, although hopefully by the time you read this restrictions will have relaxed further. Unfortunately we have seen some more damage recently to the gym equipment in the park and we are continuing to see reports of anti-social behaviour from a number of locations locally.

Talking of the last year, can I just say a public 'thank you' to the wonderful brigade of Totley (and further afield) litter-pickers. Litter seems to have become so much more of an issue in recent months; I'm sure analysts could come up with a reason although it's not immediately apparent to me. Whilst litter is not strictly speaking a police issue we do get lots of complaints, and I hesitate to think what the streets would be like without these willing volunteers. Remember, anything you drop does not magically disappear, please try and find a bin or take rubbish home with you as I'm sure the majority of the people reading this do!

Crime-wise, we are still seeing low numbers of residential burglaries but a high number of shed/garage break-ins where, in particular, cycles are being



stolen. If you have a bike in a shed or outbuilding consider adding security by chaining the bike up or fitting anchor

points as well as making sure the security on the access to the building is adequate for the purpose. Garage bolts can be bought at hardware stores and will help to stop the door being forced. Conversely if there is nothing of value in the shed/garage leave it open or unlocked, nobody will try and break into something they know has nothing valuable in it.

We also had an evening or two of thefts from vehicles. This seemed to be particularly targeting the Seat Mii/VW Up/Skoda Citigo type cars with the detachable dashboard module. Again please make sure nothing of value is left in a vehicle. Open the glovebox when parking so anyone looking in can see there is nothing for them inside.

If you want to keep abreast of any emerging crime trends locally please remember to sign up for SYP alerts. Send me your name, postcode, house number and email address and I can do this for you. Once signed up you will receive localised information relating to burglaries and other useful messages relating to frauds, scams and other crime prevention information.

As ever I can be contacted on 07787 881945 or via email at [adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk) Remember that this is not a method to report actual crimes/incidents - these must still be done via 101 or through the online portal on the SYP website. The phone is only on when I'm working, so please make sure you leave your name and number if it goes to voicemail and I will get back to you.

Thanks for reading

*Adrian Tolson, PCSO 8136  
South Yorkshire Police  
Sheffield South West Neighbourhoods Team  
Woodseats Police Station  
Tel: 0114 2963684  
Mobile: 07787 881945  
[southyorks.police.uk](mailto:southyorks.police.uk)*



After a very difficult time for the whole TASS family, we are so pleased to have ALL our amazing children back into school at last. During lockdown we provided all of the following support:

- Live lessons on Zoom supplemented with pre-recorded materials eg from White Rose Maths, Oak Academy and many other sources.
- Differentiated activities and resources which were posted on the website on Friday evening to allow parents/carers a chance to have a look over them. Resources and activities were also posted daily on Class Dojo.
- Children uploaded their work into their portfolios on Class Dojo (a school communication platform that teachers, students, and families use every day to build close-knit communities by sharing what's being learned in the classroom

home through photos, videos, and messages). Here, it was responded to and feedback was given to them by their teachers in writing and also at afternoon reflection sessions.

- To support any pupils that were struggling with new concepts teachers extended their zoom meetings for smaller groups of children or booked extra Zoom meetings.

- Parents/ carers could contact the teachers via Class Dojo or by email.

Despite all of this support, we know it was not the same as being at school and we'd like to say a huge thank-you to all of our families for the hard work they put in to facilitate their children's learning. It's hard to put into words how very much we appreciate it.

All staff will, of course, continue to follow all the best practice protocols advised by the government to reduce the risk to all the children and staff in school. In addition, all staff will be undertaking twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests.

This lockdown has been really stressful for the whole TASS family and will be doing our utmost to support the mental health and well-being of all of the children on their return to school through PSHE and circle time. We will also be looking to make the most of our wonderful grounds as the Healthy Minds Team at CAMHS has emphasised how effective exercise and engaging with the natural world is in supporting well-being. Happily, our Trim Trail has just been reinstated thanks to our wonderful PTA Fun-d raisers and we will be able to use our Woodland Workshop and gardening areas to the full. We have also got on well with the renovations to the library which will soon be a super spot for reading and choosing books.

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

*Karole Sargent and Trudi Brown  
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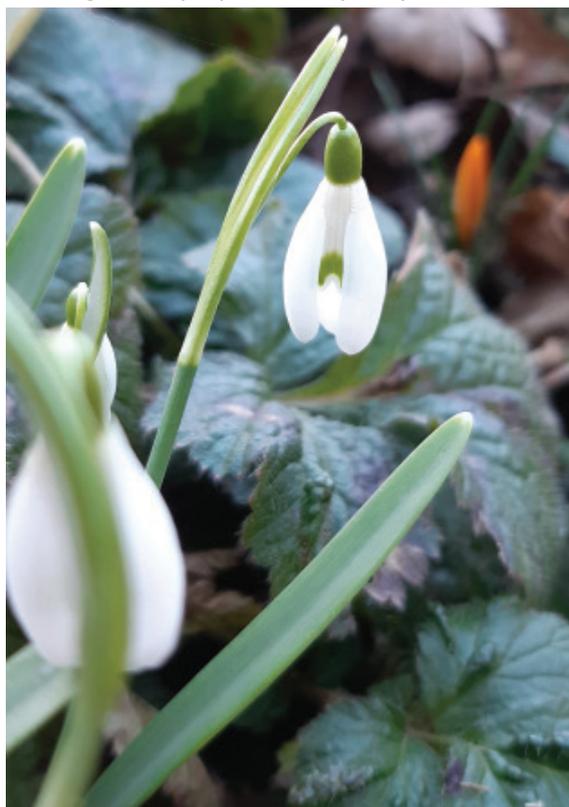
## Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing

PEOPLE KEEPING WELL  
**PKW**  
IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Every Friday, a group of around ten women meet on Zoom to discuss nature, the importance of connecting with the outdoors and how this can help deal with the isolation of lockdown. Working with People Keeping Well and Age UK Sheffield, the sessions are run by Horticultural Therapist, Caroline Cook. As one member describes the sessions, the time spent together has created a community online, which has 'unlocked creativity, thinking about aspects of nature and art more holistically.'

Each week, Caroline shares her knowledge, while drawing on the varied and abundant expertise of the group too: amongst us we have a retired homeopath, a yoga instructor, an artist and much more. As an Age UK volunteer, I was brought in to support Caroline with the technology, but my Friday mornings spent with the ladies have become so much more. It continues to be the highlight of my week.

Caroline runs the sessions by concentrating on a particular aspect of nature and how it can improve our wellbeing, often with a mindfulness exercise that calms, soothes and invigorates: I have often left our meet-ups feeling too relaxed to go back to my work! One week, Caroline focused an entire session on the beauty, surprising strength and hopefulness of the snowdrop. It was a week that became something of a symbolic one for our group. Like the snowdrops, the group have shown resilience and perseverance during a particularly tough time during lockdown. The image of the snowdrop piercing through the ice, slowly, gently but nevertheless with subtle strength and purpose was quickly associated with the



Snowdrops Photo: Colleen Catterall

qualities that were needed during the isolation of lockdown. The promise of vaccines and the lifting of restrictions chimed with the hope of spring that the snowdrops bring in their appearance. The imagery resonated so much with one member of the group that she has now adopted the moniker of 'Mrs Snowdrop'!

Snowdrops appear in varied abundance, and Caroline informed us that there are over 2,500 types. As one member noted, the snowdrops remind us that we are 'uniquely individual but together.' In this spirit and in response to how much the snowdrop inspired the group, we have created a poem by each individually writing a line or two to finally bring them together as a whole:

Snowstorm strong spear of beauty Andersons of spring,  
Like a dainty little fairy dancing in the breeze,  
Little snowdrop, you're a real message of hope that all  
will be well,  
Snowdrops announce the beginning of spring,  
Their strength may be surprising and you have to look  
close,  
An optimistic, resilient, soldier,  
Bringing hope by wearing its heart on its sleeve,  
In dark times and grey days, a reminder that the world  
is still beautiful,  
Drawing attention to an urgent need to protect, pre-  
serve and restore,  
In the depths of winter you are a warrior forcing your  
way through the icy ground,  
But in early Spring we see only your delicate beauty, a  
dancing ballerina, a sign of hope, the dawning of a new  
season,  
A scene of beauty, of endurance, of hope.

Hopefulness and perseverance have been needed by many of us negotiating the use of technology during lockdown, and our group is no different. While we sometimes experience technical hitches, unforeseen internet issues and confusing moments, we stumble along with patience and a good sense of humour. One group member says: 'I had problems coping with Zoom and panicked each time I joined a group, but I settled after the first meeting as it was just other ladies like myself. I have become my more relaxed self again and regained confidence.' Another group member notes that she would have 'failed to manage in the last year without the contact of FaceTime and Zoom.' While many of us find virtual meetings difficult to use, it has provided an opportunity to remain connected to others and, perhaps surprisingly, connected to nature too. As one member says, our Zoom meetings have been important, especially after the 'prolonged isolation of this latest lockdown which has been tedious and dreary for those of us living alone.'

Caroline's sessions focus specifically on how engagement with nature can help our wellbeing. They have helped us consider our encounters with our local area and what can be missed on our daily walks that have become so important for many during lockdown. Caroline's explanations of the 'sensory stroll' encouraged us to take in the sights, sounds and smells of the outdoors. As a result, our members would highly recommend that everyone, 'wander, pause and look' to fully take in the experience while on your walk. Caroline's sessions are helpful even for those who cannot easily get outside, as we are encouraged to consider the sound of the wind on the window or the fractals of the veins on the leaves of a houseplant. As one group member notes, 'joining the Nature and Wellbeing course has not only brought a date to my empty calendar but also the encouragement to take a moment to look at the beauty nature has to offer even in the depth of winter. Seeing new faces and connecting with new friends has been a blessing during the lockdown.' While winter and the lockdown necessitated members of our group to stay home to stay safe, Caroline's sessions have helped cultivate friendships and camaraderie all while enabling us to remain connected to nature.

One of our members, Catherine, was interested in joining the group. Having had some experience using Zoom with her church, Totley All Saints, and being a keen gardener, she felt she would enjoy a course focussed on nature. Here are her experiences:

Caroline is welcoming and relaxed so the group has quickly formed a friendship, and now we all share our ideas with confidence, knowing that they will be appreciated by everyone. During the first course we considered winter through each of our senses, remembering from childhood the sound of ice cracking on frozen puddles, or recalling how we learned to identify the footprints of birds and animals in new snowfall on our gardens. We learned how to identify trees by noting their different bud formations on bare winter branches, and looked at various types of catkins.

During the weekend of the Big Bird count we all reported that our regular visitors had deserted us, and so our results were disappointing, but only a fortnight later we shared one member's joy that 'the birds are back' in the garden of her retirement home!

We had a 'taste' of homeopathic medicine from one member, who had been delighted to share her pharmaceutical knowledge with us, (but with a warning not to experiment at home!). And this linked to a poem about an ancient Indian grandma practicing her folklore, long before the discovery of modern medicine.

Another week, one member spoke about her shrub, *sarcococcus*, sometimes called Christmas Box because it flowers in the winter. She described how a few sprigs from the plant, brought indoors, could fill her warm room with beautiful fragrance.

At the end of every week we have a short period of mindfulness, leaving us all feeling calm and relaxed... by then we really feel as if we have taken a walk out in the fresh air and enjoyed the benefit of it.

The five weeks passed quickly and we've now moved into a new course, 'Connecting with Nature in Spring.' We've looked in detail at some of the many varieties of our favourite early flower, the snowdrop, *Galanthus Nivalis*, and how it's been a feature of artwork and poetry over centuries. We've even written our own poem! Now we're learning about garden design and solving some of each other's problems!

We hope that by reading about our experiences you will see the value of overcoming technology fears to ensure connection and community as we emerge from the restrictions that have been a part of our lives for the last year or so. As one member says, 'Don't be afraid, it opens a whole new wide world. Just have a go!' With the coming of spring, we are looking forward to seeing the hedgerows and identifying the trees as they



'Snowdrops' by group member Mary Mallon

begin to flower. We will carry on sharing our experiences and memories while looking at poetry and artwork that will continue to teach us how to connect with nature in a deeper way. For the moment, we will be doing this via Zoom but we are hopeful that soon we will be able to meet up in person (some of us for the first time!) for some socially distanced mindfulness nature walks. If you are interested in finding out more about Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing please do look at Caroline's website at [www.gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk](http://www.gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk) or you can email her at [info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk](mailto:info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk) or phone Age UK on 0114 250 2850.

Jess Hannington  
Volunteer, Age UK



## Eat well to get healthy for Spring!

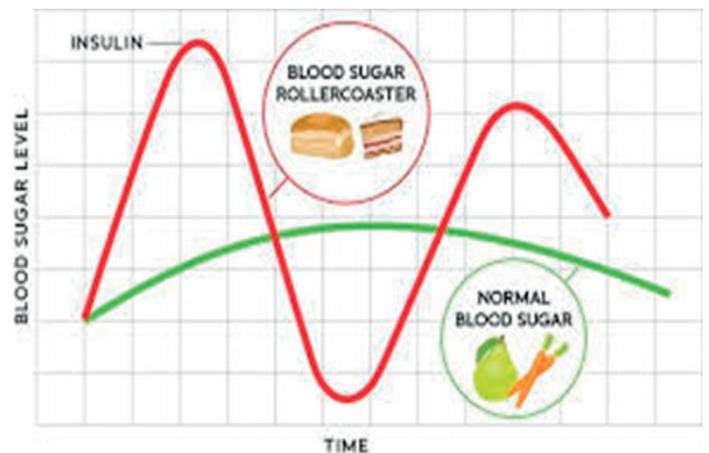
It's been a long, long lockdown, but the end is in sight and fortunately we'll soon be able to return to some of our longed-for activities – seeing family and friends and getting out and about again! As we prepare to get our freedoms back it's a great time to think about the steps we can take to improve our health – so that we can get the most pleasure out of life when it returns to normal!

Whilst many of us have been exercising quite a lot during lockdown, perhaps fewer of us have given the same attention to our eating habits. Lockdown has been hard, and when things are difficult, we often turn to food for comfort - a recent study found that a third of us were eating more during lockdown.

So, what can we do now to take a few small steps to improve our eating habits? Small changes can add up to a make a big difference, so here are a few suggestions:

### 1. Taming the blood sugar roller-coaster

When we feel a bit stressed or tired, we often distract ourselves with a sugary snack – maybe a biscuit with coffee mid-morning or some cake in the afternoon. But an hour later we'll feel tired and hungry again. This is the effect of changes in your blood sugar levels. After a biscuit your blood sugar levels rise sharply, only to fall rapidly again soon afterwards, which makes you feel more tired and stressed. This is often called the blood sugar roller-coaster as illustrated below.



The way to avoid these peaks and troughs is to replace the biscuits or cake with a protein-based snack such as:

- a handful of nuts or some trail-mix
- a piece of cheese and some olives
- slices of apple with peanut or other nut butter

By adding in protein and reducing sugar, your blood sugar levels won't rise as high or drop so low afterwards, making you feel less hungry and more comfortable throughout the day. By avoiding sugary snacks, you will feel more in control of your appetite and have more balanced energy levels.

### 2. Healthy breakfasts

A good healthy breakfast sets you up for the day, and if you're someone who just grabs a piece of toast or a bowl of cereal in the morning there's probably room for improvement! Some ideas of how to make a healthy breakfast:

- Always include protein, such as eggs, bacon, oats or yoghurt, to help control your blood sugar and keep you full for longer, so you can reduce reliance on snacks;
- Include fruit or vegetables, such as tomatoes, mushrooms, spinach or berries to help increase your daily intake;
- Include healthy fats, for example, Greek yoghurt with fruit, nuts and seeds;
- Try and vary your breakfast so you get the benefit of a variety of nutrients;
- Fish can be a good start to the day – try smoked salmon on scrambled eggs.

Don't forget – eggs are a healthy option and there are no

longer limits on the number of eggs you are advised to consume!

### 3. Variety is the spice of life

A greater variety of food is associated with a longer healthier life than one with less variety, and a greater range of food has also been found to help with weight loss. One of the key ways to increase the range of different foods you eat in your diet is to broaden the range of plant foods you eat. Here are some ideas:

- Try and increase the number of different vegetables and



fruit you eat, choosing new ones as they come into season;

- Include lentils, beans and other legumes in your diet – add to stew and casseroles or to salads;
- Add nuts – you can crisp them up in the oven to make them crunchier;
- Add seeds to salads or grind them up and use as a topping for porridge or yoghurt – flax and chia seeds are particularly good as they contain lots of omega 3 fats.



### Free healthy eating course

Making small changes in how we eat can add up to make a big difference to how we feel and can help us to lose some weight.

If you are interested in learning more, we are offering a FREE healthy eating course called Springboard2Health which includes six short webinars, 13 recipes, a free e-book on blood sugar balance and access to a dedicated private Facebook group. Sign up to the course via this link: <https://cinnamondays.thinkific.com/courses/springboard2health>

Isabel Hemmings and Sue Wharton, Registered Nutritionists (MBANT) Cinnamon Days, Nutrition & Lifestyle Solutions <https://www.facebook.com/CinnamonDaysForWeightLoss>

## Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

I was wondering what I was going to write about this time round as we are not close to rehearsing yet so have no immediate prospect of even a concert let alone a show. We still hope that 2022 will see our 50th show in the April of next year and it is to be *Pirates of Penzance*, that best loved of romps. Unfortunately, however, another past member has passed on, but at least I can write about this one with some fondness. He was Jim Laurie who lived on Totley Brook Road until the last few years when he lived in Meadow Grange Care Home. He caught Covid19 last April and was apparently unaffected but later the medics attributed much of his shortness of breath to compromised lungs due to the covid virus; (no mention of the cigarettes he had consumed in large quantities!). He had a fall, they think due to dizziness caused by lack of oxygen, and caught pneumonia. The hospital treated the pneumonia but his lungs eventually gave up and he died in Ashgate Hospice on 9th February aged 91. I attended the funeral on March 2nd on the Society's behalf and I am so glad I was invited. Ian, Jim's brother introduced me to his three sons and their families which was lovely. The service itself was excellent, what with Jim's eclectic musical taste and sense of fun. We entered to a Hallmark of Harmony Barbershop piece and had another later in the service (*Goodbye Suzie Goodbye*) and finished with the Goons' *Ying Tong Song*. I think that these musical choices tell you a lot about Jim. He had been a member of the Sheffield Barbershop chorus as well as having had 16 years with us.



Born in 1930, he was too young to have fought in the war but he did his National Service and spent time in Austria where I believe he was a noted marksman. He was also a big cricket fan and had been a slightly unusual spin bowler. He bowled slow left-arm round the wicket which made him difficult to play.

He was a G & S member from 1990 until 2006 and as far as I can remember never missed a show during that time. He was never one to take principal parts but was a stalwart member of the chorus, though I remember he did take one principal role as Old Adam in *Ruddigore*. He was a dry wit but always fun. How he lived to the ripe old age he did is beyond me with the cigarettes he smoked. His smoking caused us occasional consternation as Richard Cotton will attest. Jim was always nipping off for a fag!

One occurrence was so startling for those on stage. It all happened during a production of *Patience* in 1993. Jim was one of the Dragoon Guards and had got the marching off to a tee. During one of the performances however, Jim had popped out for a quick cigarette. Unfortunately he lost track of time. The Guards were to march on in single file and do two circuits of the stage before lining up to sing a chorus number. As we were about to go on no Jim was to be seen in the wings - \*@!\*? - We'll have to do it without him we said. So off we set. One circle completed sans Jim and as we were half way round the second one who should pop in from the side and join the back of the line but Jim of course, totally unconcerned. How we didn't burst out laughing I have no idea. I doubt half the audience even noticed but we nearly corpsed. Thereafter we gave an award for the biggest gaff during a performance. The award was a profile silhouette of Jim's face and of course we named it after him. The Jim Laurie Award has been won by many of the members including some illustrious ones including Mark White, David Bramah and, not surprisingly, me.

Jim enjoyed the joke enormously - another sad loss but with many happy memories.

Derek Habberjam



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**ISM** MEMBER

## Fighting Fit during Lockdown

### A Case Study from Community Wellness Services

S17 resident Sarah Glossop decided to not let her heart condition deteriorate during lockdown, and so has been completing her exercise online. Sarah explains:

"At 48 years old in 2018 I was unexpectedly diagnosed of dilated cardiomyopathy, a serious heart muscle condition. Running my own business In Dore and being a busy mom to a 14-year-old, my world was turned upside down I was devastated by the diagnosis. As I was self-employed I was worried I wouldn't be able to continue my business.

I started medication straight away and underwent a cardio rehab programme through the NHS; exercise was positively encouraged and I was told to keep exercising - once I had completed the rehab course, I was free to exercise without constant supervision. This was when I was introduced to Clare Wasden, a Specialist Cardiac instructor and Operations Manager for Community Wellness Service.



Sarah Glossop

Sadly, their therapy centre and fitness facility on Ecclesall Rd had to temporarily close due to lockdown 3, but I have been able to continue to exercise throughout lockdown because of classes being on zoom. This has kept my heart condition stable and I continue to be well and to work. These sessions have been kindly commissioned through the S17 People Keeping Well Network run by AgeUK.

I have had the opportunity to experience other classes such as mindfulness and yoga/Pilates classes, and being supervised and supported whilst doing the sessions makes me feel reassured and comfortable. Members of staff at CWS are extremely knowledgeable and there is such a great feeling of inclusiveness - it does not matter what level of fitness or ability you have, as everyone is made to feel warmly welcome. I have benefited from a range of free sessions during lockdown. CWS have been terrific and I cannot thank them enough! Being able to continue to exercise through lockdown has literally been a lifesaver! Thank you CWS!"

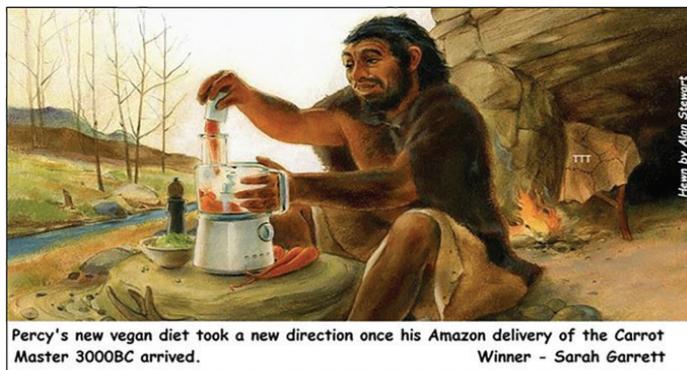


As an archaeology group, with lockdowns and all the stop-start events of last year, we keep in mind that what we are interested in and have been expecting to investigate, won't disappear in the meantime! So in the hope and expectation that we will be back in business at some point in 2021 we have been taking a look back at what we have done over the last 10 years because 2021 is the 10th Anniversary of the formation in January 2011 of our group.

It all started with a casual enquiry from John Baker, the editor of *Dore to Door* at that time, for like-minded people to set up an archaeology group which would offer talks, walks and ultimately access to local digs. Like Topsy it has grown! Our very first event was a walk through Ecclesall Woods with John, to highlight the many archaeological features within the Woods. That walk has been repeated several times over the years as more and more of our members came to appreciate the wealth of unique and special features right on our doorstep: Iron Age Hill fort, ancient cup and ring rock art, industrial evidence like Q pits, walkways, mills and much more.

One of the biggest boosts to our group came with the participation in the first Whirlow Hall Farm excavation undertaken by Dr Clive Waddington and Archaeological Research Services. This proved to rewrite the whole history of this part of South West Sheffield with its discovery of Roman, Iron Age and pre-history settlement. It also allowed our newly formed group to learn directly those field skills necessary for future work on our own account.

The Time Travellers eventually through Heritage Lottery funding ran their own dig at Whirlow Hall Farm in 2016 but to see just what was found then and how much else we have got up to the best idea is to look at our web-site: [www.thetimetravellers.org.uk](http://www.thetimetravellers.org.uk)



Percy's new vegan diet took a new direction once his Amazon delivery of the Carrot Master 3000BC arrived.  
Winner - Sarah Garrett

Meanwhile our members (of which there were 120 at the last count) have been keeping amused with exploring archaeology online, identifying mystery objects and picture caption competitions. A recent winning entry was this one from Sarah Garrett.

*Dorne Coggins*

## Correction

We've been asked to correct an error which appeared in our last issue, where, in a 'Letter to the Editor', it was suggested that Police Community Support Officers were responsible for enforcing the law relating to parking offences, especially on double-yellow lines.

In fact, the responsibility for enforcement of this area lies with the local authority, not the police. This area is governed by the Traffic Management Act 2004, and parking attendants, now called Civil Enforcement Officers and employed by local authorities, have responsibility for parking-law enforcement.

## Memoir Writing sessions

Everyone has a story to tell – that’s my experience after more than 20 years as a professional journalist. With that in mind, I launched a series of workshops based on writing memoirs through the People Keeping Well project and boy, are we uncovering some stories!

From wartime memories to travelogues, family histories and stories of public service, we’re uncovering the richness of stories within our own communities.

The work we’re sharing here is the result of an exercise based on food. Group members chose whether they wanted to write a starter, a main, a dessert, a cheese course or a coffee and mints course.

The starter was an event that foreshadowed the future. The main was an experience that you never wanted to end, the dessert was a lovely experience that was sweet but that you didn’t necessarily want to live on for the rest of your life, the cheese course was – what’s your cheesiest memory? And the coffee and mints was – what was your wake up call?

We wanted to share our work, in the hope that others will want to join us – all welcome! At the moment, we’re running over Zoom but as soon as we are able, we’ll be doing sessions face-to-face. Two of our participants have never used Zoom before and they’re now able to access it for this and other sessions, which is a brilliant bonus. It’s a lovely, supportive group and I’m sure we’re all familiar with the desire to tear our hair out over technology from time to time, but we’ve all helped each other navigate the tech and stay sane while doing it.

The only requirements of joining are a brave soul and that during the sessions, no-one mentions the C-word – Covid. We’re all so tired of dealing with this by now, we felt it would be nice for people to have two hours a week where it never got a mention and I have to say, that’s been such a lovely plus of doing this group.

*Kathryn Reaney, Workshop Leader, Memoir Writing  
 People Keeping Well project*

The starter course for my 1970s meal is the iconic prawn cocktail.

A base lettuce layer of my SRN training at Northern General hospital. No student loans or academic years for us starting in 1976 for a 3 year comprehensive training, alternating blocks in the school of nursing and wards. We were paid a small amount each month, did 6 weeks in the school of nursing, practised giving injections in oranges, learnt how to give bedbaths, oral mouth care, etc etc. Then the real learning happened when allocated a ward to work on. We did shifts, first time doing nights an upheaval in daily routine, but we just got on with it. The heatwave during the summer spent sunbathing in the nursing home grounds between shifts. Living in the nurses home on site, huge baths, cleaners, fondly nicknamed Colditz. A lot of support, co-counselling, laughter and tears went on within those walls.

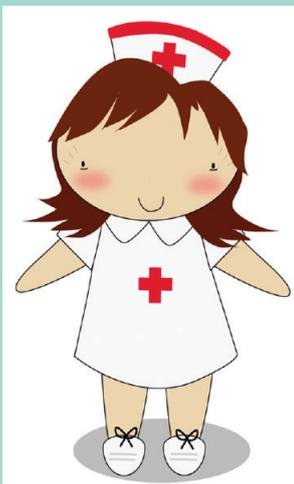
A pay phone located on the ground floor which was per each wing, right up to the attic rooms. Inconceivable in today’s mobile phone and wifi lives.

The prawn layer would be the people, patients, colleagues and friends, hierarchy of the system. Matron, the depiction of students by the colour of waistbands, chatting with patients, happy usually to share their health story for a case history and their often interesting life story too. Precious memories of friends during this time.

Marie rose top layer would be the yummy sauce of nights Rout. Cheap weekday nights out at Genevieve, Crazy Daisy, Turnups at Nether Edge. Trips to Northern General’s social club, the loud music, tacky carpet and plastic glasses in the Wapentake. Sunday evenings at the Stonehouse.

All in all this yummy starter based a very happy 40 year career in Nursing for me.

**By Hilley J**



I was born into a world where Germans and Germany were our implacable enemy, dropped bombs on us, killed our brave Tommies. There was no argument, it was a fact. The Germans I knew from radio, comic books and films were ruthless, cruel, uniformed monsters who spoke in clichés: Donnerwetter! Gott in Himmel! Achtung, Achtung! Schweinhund! Engländer 'raus! Their language was guttural, although I had only a vague idea what guttural meant – probably harsh or nasty in some way? Then, when I was about 8, came Karl.

Karl stayed at my parents’ invitation for two summer weeks as part of a group from eastern Germany. He was 13 or 14, blond, had no money and a colossal appetite, spoke rudimentary English, dressed in shorts and braces, and bowed his head and clicked his heels deferentially when addressing my parents.

I was relegated to the attic, but willingly gave up my bedroom for this fascinating stranger. I followed my mother like a shadow as she showed him around our tiny house. I remember how she pointed to my bedroom: “Karl sleep here”, him taking her to mean the narrow landing and saying “too small, Karl big”. I remember how he told us how pitifully poor his family were, how, as he swallowed his umpteenth slice of Gunstone’s, in Germany only sick people ate white bread. I remember the tears in his eyes as he spoke of his father, gone to Russia, long time. I remember the tears from all three of us when he left. I never saw him again.

But I remember him.

There were moments of sheer comedy too, a hundred hilarious misunderstandings. I remember the general hysterics when he would say Titty Hall instead of City Hall, his grumpy “too wide, too far” at having been obliged to walk home from the city centre, and my mother taking pity on him and giving him a precious twopence for bus-fare each day.

Inevitably, I chose to study German at grammar school and university, taught German, made a close, lifelong German friend and shared his passion for promoting international understanding. Germany was etched on my heart forever, the fault in my stars.

**By John Foster**

## A tale of two Billys

That terrible Friday morning 5th June 1981.

The usual disco had been the night before at the 'Flouch' public house. The Flouch was a rural public house practically in the middle of nowhere in the countryside but it was big grand place and lots of locals from all around used to go there. It would start around 7-ish and finish at 11pm.

Me and my then husband were laid in bed listening to the radio as Hayley our baby girl had woken up early. Hayley was 16 months old. Radio Hallam news came on the radio at 7am which covered the local news, we heard the Flouch disco mentioned and turned up the volume. The newsreader said the motorbike rider Mark Forester aged 21 had died at the scene. The accident had occurred on a country road after leaving the Flouch.

Hard to believe Billy (this was his nickname) was dead. Our baby girl loved him - he was like an uncle to her. Billy was funny, kind and caring and had been our best man at our wedding.

Billy's name was actually given him by his friends, all done in fun. He had a craze of singing a song which had the name 'Hare Krishna Hare Rama'. I think it was the music and the mantra that fascinated him at the time... and then he shaved his head. Even his family called him Billy. He has Billy (besides his proper name) engraved on his head stone because he was so well known by his nick name. Billy was handsome and a real comedian.

My then husband John was annoyed at me because I had not let him go out with him on the bike he had borrowed, but I didn't want to be alone and he blamed me that Billy was killed. He said "it would not have happened if he had gone with him"...but who's to know? They may have both been killed.

Later that day after the initial shock we made up and decided that if we had a little boy he would be called Billy.

After a long and painful labour, the midwife announced "It's a little boy" - he had finally arrived on 8th December 1984. His little nose was squashed on one side but he was perfect. I was so happy my little boy was born at last...All I ever wanted was a boy, my everything.

The midwife turned and asked what are we calling him so she could write it on his label for the cot. He shall be called Billy, I said proudly; No second name just Billy. That's unusual she replied are you calling him after Prince William? No, I replied. It's after a friend who we knew who died in a motor bike accident. Oh, the midwife said, that's nice. I got fed up after a few times of explaining to the nursing staff in hospital that he was named after a friend and not Prince William, but after a while I decided to say yes he is because it was easier. Everyone in the village where I lived knew why he was called Billy.

It was an unusual name at the time. It certainly wasn't a common name at school and like the first Billy, my Billy was funny and likable and loved riding motorbikes.

Who would have known 20 years later, my Billy would meet the same fate as his namesake, in a similar country road in the same area.

And after all this... there's been some more little Billys born in the village named after my Billy. It makes me smile to know Billy, old and new, are both remembered.

**By Eva Watts**

## Inspirational Trails: Totley and Blacka Moor

I'm just an ordinary runner, never won a race since school (a long time ago!) and my talent is not matched by my ambition, but it's never stopped me from dreaming because every time I lace up and head out of the door I've already won. Now don't get me wrong, it can be hard when it's cold and wet, but I use the mantra 'you never regret the runs you did, only the ones that you didn't!'

I'm lucky enough to live on the very doorstep of the Peak District and during these strange and uncertain times, I've never taken for granted being able to get out into the hills within minutes of my home, whilst others have been trapped in urban areas, and this is one of the reasons why running has become a big part of my life.

I'm a Police Officer with a demanding and responsible portfolio, which is rewarding, but there have been times when the stress that comes with the job has taken its toll on my mental health. A fact that until a couple of years ago I would not have even acknowledged, never mind admitted! I always thought of myself as pretty much invincible, with a 'man-up and get on with it' attitude and this is how I and others dealt with it... that is until it bites you. Sadly, some of my colleagues didn't cope and are no longer with us, but thankfully public attitude has changed and mental health is now recognised without stigma, help is available and it's ok to say I'm not ok.

Running is my go-to antidote; being outdoors in all weathers in the right kit is a brilliant way for all of us to find peace, easing the pressures from the constant noise of a busy life and offering a brief escape from responsibility. I have found that runners are generally such nice people, especially those that love the trails. I'm extremely fortunate to have many like-minded friends, with whom I can run, spend time and share my experiences.

I'm a passionate nature nut and wildlife photographer so running is a good excuse to get out into the countryside. I love exploring new places, covering the ground more quickly than walking, experiencing wildlife and to recce new locations for return trips with my big camera to immerse myself in nature. I love running in the Lakes and completing sections of the South West Coastal Path in Cornwall, both stunning and breath-taking areas of the UK. However, my heart belongs to the Peak District, a place where I've memories stretching



right back to my childhood. I have a catalogue of incredible routes and special places, but my regular run is very close to home; a 5-mile loop of Totley Moor and Blacka Moor, home to a beautiful nature reserve managed by the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. I've done this loop hundreds of times but I never tire of it, I never know what I might see. Also, it's part of the fell running series organised by Totley AC, loved by runners of all abilities; from racing snakes to tortoises, everyone can enjoy the idyllic landscape and challenging terrain.

From leaving home on farmland paths which have been very busy during the lockdowns with families and dog walkers, the route takes me into and through the ancient Gillfield Woods. Totley Brook sits within these woods, winding its way south-

wards towards the River Sheaf where Sheffield draws its name.

The wood is home to red and roe deer, badgers, foxes, owls, hawks, all kinds of small mammals and birds, it's rich in diversity. I've often left home and only covered a mile in an hour as I can't tear myself away from watching the stags rutting at this time of year. In Spring, I marvel at the sea of bluebells and the cheerful bird song that is music to my ears.

The route climbs upwards through more farmland until a short run down a quiet lane brings me to cross the busy Sheffield to Baslow Road. A well-used but unmarked path next to a hidden Boundary Stone leads me up onto Totley Moor. This is where I get my lungs working - red grouse burst from the heather as I climb up to what is referred to as Brown Edge on the map. This is my favourite spot to sit, rest and ponder, on an inset bench seat within a large cairn. A couple of years ago, a single strip of wood served as a makeshift seat until some mindless fool threw down large stones and smashed it. I'm used to encountering this mindless behaviour, but it still frustrates me.

I decided to extend my community spirit further and I carried a replacement bench seat that used to be part of an arbour in my garden on my shoulder all the way up to the moor. With the help of my friend, I rebuilt the cairn and replaced the seat for all to use. It's a great view over the moorland and the city far below and features in my many photographs of sunrises, purple heather moorland and wintry snow scenes. I always smile when I see walkers taking a break with a coffee and enjoying it. I just wish some of them wouldn't leave their rubbish behind, but this is when my Plogging comes into action, returning the moor to its natural state.

A short climb to the trig point provides rewarding views over the Peak District, Hope Valley, White Edge, Higger Tor and Stannage Edge, often the start of my long-distance runs. I sometimes stand at the trig staring out into the distance, planning my next big adventure. It's also a good meeting point for local runners.



Back to the route, a muddy and rocky trail leads over Totley Moss where it's often boggy, and heads towards the strange structures that rise out of the heather moorland. The biggest of these is the large black circular brick structure of an air shaft, connecting the moor to the 3-mile-long Totley Tunnel below. The occasional sound of a train still seems odd in a place that feels so wild, mixed in with the noise of red deer stags rutting in the heather and grouse and curlew calling to one another.

The other, much smaller structure is the remains of an old explosives store left over from the building of the tunnel in 1888, and often serves as a perch for hunting kestrels, merlin and owls. The trail passes by the head of the moor where a simple gate and wall stile mark the turning point into the high pastures of the old Strawberry Lea farm, where the White Cannons from Beauchief Abbey kept sheep, and Totley is mentioned in the Domesday Book, just footprints of structures past. I take in the view before a quick descent onto a rocky track down through the beautiful and diverse Blacka Moor nature reserve, full of birdsong and wildlife and a popular spot for families to explore the maze of trails that crisscross through it.

The trail emerges onto the quiet Strawberry Lee Lane, passes another airshaft hidden in trees (there are five in total) and finally descends towards my favourite local pub, the Cricket

Inn, home of the Totley AC Pavilion. On a hot summer's evening or weekend, it's the perfect place to finish a run with a pint or two of local Thornbridge ale, brewed in nearby Bakewell.

I'll never get onto the podium for a fastest time, but running has given me so much pleasure, calmness and enrichment, reminding me that whatever comes my way, as long as I can lace up my shoes and head outside, then I'm winning at life. In these challenging and unprecedented times, enjoying our natural local environment is the perfect remedy for us all.

Physical activity can help with mental health problems. If you need help and support, please contact the charity Mind. You can also join the charity Sport in Mind, by getting active everyday, to beat the blues away.

*Story and photos by Zafar Ali*

## Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

As we go to press there is a very gradual opening up. At the URC we are following advice from our Synod moderators to take things very slowly.

The Singing Teapot choir will hopefully start meeting outside on Tuesday mornings from April 20th. We will be open in May as a polling station although won't be able to serve refreshments as in previous years. Some of us will be supporting Christian Aid in May by taking the 300,000 steps challenge, remembering women of Kenya who have a daily walk for water.

Our Sunday morning services continue on zoom. See [www.sheffieldurc.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldurc.org.uk) for details

We hope you've enjoyed reading our messages as you've walked along Totley Brook Road!

*Elaine Ferguson*



At the time of writing, the children of Totley Primary, have just completed their first week back in school following 62 days of the school building being closed to most pupils since the 4th January Lockdown announcement. Much of our remote learning throughout this challenging period was much enhanced via use of the Google Classroom platform and live teacher sessions, but there is no substitute for children being in the classroom environment, learning with their class teacher and classmates. Goodness me - what a fantastic buzz there has been in school, as children have come back together and the corridors have come back to life!

Our focus over the next few weeks will be ensuring that children have a really positive re-introduction to school life, are given the time and space to reconnect with friends and staff and have plenty of exercise, as well as going over routines and expectations. Alongside this, teachers will be revisiting some of the key curriculum knowledge which was delivered during lockdown, to check what children have understood and remembered. This will help us to establish if any children need extra support and help us to shape the curriculum to best meet the children's needs over the rest of the year.

With positive news in the media around the progress of the vaccination programme, falling infection rates and brighter, warmer days on the way, it really does feel like a more hopeful time. It is clear, though, that caution is still the order of the day. The fact that we have received news of positive cases in school after only a few days of being back together - resulting in further isolation being necessary for a significant number of families - is a stark reality check that there are further twists and turns to negotiate yet in this most challenging of times. A huge thank you to all of our children, parents, carers and staff for their positivity, resilience and togetherness throughout and our very best wishes to everyone in the Totley community.

*Ben Paxman, Head Teacher*



## Transport 17

A year ago we had just held a successful coffee morning and there was much rumbling about the virus that has had such an impact on all our lives. What a year it has been!!!! We now have a roadmap and people are beginning to look forward to how things might be. Some will feel really comfortable about this for others it will be quite unsettling.

We have contributed to the front page news of this edition and that one liner is our driving force. As we plan to go forward we are conscious that we need to build our bank of volunteers and this seemed an ideal time to give our current volunteers a voice. They were all asked if they willing to jot down some of their thoughts and comments about about being a volunteer. Something which would give a feel for the role, what they enjoy about it, why they decided it was a role for them, the buzz they get from it, perhaps what they have missed about it during the last year. Anything they might say to somebody else to encourage them to give volunteering for Transport 17 a go.

The response has been really great and the words that follow are those of our volunteers. It is a very different article to the usual narrative and you may find yourself dipping in and out of it. Some sent back quick notes, whilst others penned a paragraph. The wonderful thing about them all is a common thread which really communicates what Transport 17 is all about. We hope you enjoy meeting everyone.

### Steve Westnedge (Passenger Assistant)



Help people to get out and socialise, many would be housebound otherwise.  
Meet lots of people, many with interesting pasts.  
Good fun.  
The appreciation shown by passengers makes you feel good knowing you have made a difference to their day. Made good friends at Transport 17. All very rewarding.

### Andy Birch (Driver)



I was recruited to T17 by Bob and Colin at Totley Show in 2019. I had been retired since the end of 2017 and was looking for some sort of voluntary work. I started out as a passenger assistant to begin with but now I am a driver. I love the the job and have really missed it during the lock down. The ladies and gentlemen who we take to the lunch clubs appreciate what we do and I look forward to seeing them each week.

### Mike Roberts (Driver, member, Management Committee)

I got involved with T17 after I retired in 2004 having heard about it from Peter Gauntlett. I have enjoyed being involved, I like driving and I get a real kick out of seeing our passengers or "customers", as I prefer to think of them, getting together with their chums at the various coffee mornings and lunch clubs we facilitate. There's often lots of friendly banter with the passengers and my fellow volunteer passenger assistant and it is really rewarding to see people who may not otherwise be able to do so, getting out and enjoying themselves. Over time I have met many great characters and had lots of interesting conversations and I can truly say that I wouldn't have missed it for anything. Who knows, one day I might even have the chance to be a back seat driver myself!

### Diane Ellis (Passenger Assistant)



Being a volunteer gives me great pleasure to know that I can bring so much happiness to others by giving up a few hours of my time each week. By volunteering for Transport 17 as a passenger assistant, it enables a lot of elderly people to get out to the Lunch clubs. It is something for them to look forward to each week by having a lovely meal and time to spend with friends and make new ones, which otherwise they would be unable to do. Taking into account the small amount of time I give, I get an enormous amount of satisfaction from volunteering and meeting these lovely people who are so grateful for the time we willingly give.

### Darryl Creed (Driver)



I volunteer for Transport 17 as a driver and help make people's lives more fulfilled by giving them an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones over a lunchtime meal.

### Phil Kirkup (Passenger Assistant - now retired but continues to help in the office)



I was approached by my old friend Dave Longley to become a driver for T17! This was some months after my 70th birthday! Unfortunately after some weeks I was found not to be medically fit to drive a public service vehicle and I therefore became a passenger assistant. I worked for several years with Darryl but the whole operation of T17 is so full of lovely kind people and just to witness the the passengers when they've had a day out at the lunch club or wherever and to know how

much pleasure they have had as a result of the T17 is wonderful. I would recommend anybody to get involved, it only takes approximately 4 hours of my day and just to see the results of happiness of our passengers makes it all worthwhile. Keep up the good work.

### Stuart McDonald (Driver)



Having always been brought up to help wherever possible others less fortunate than myself and having conducted my busy professional business in a similar manner it was somewhat devastating to find that following the sale of my business that I had extended time on my hands with the dilemma as to what I could do particularly as I had the added advantage of a driving licence with category D1 entitlement. It was only when travelling back from Baslow one afternoon that I passed

the distinctive offices of Transport 17 in Totley. The mind then played overtime and an approach was made to offer my services if these were acceptable. At my first visit I was asked if I could act as a companion to one of the drivers and assist in the pickup and return of those passengers who were attending their respective luncheon clubs, all of which are held at various church halls, all of which are

held at various church halls run again by devoted volunteers. The experience was quite humiliating realising that these outings were without doubt the highlight of many of our passenger's week following their confinement in their homes, in which, in some instances they felt trapped. How they have been coping during the epidemic I hate to contemplate. The gratitude of all those elderly and obviously lonely passengers is soul destroying and my fellow drivers and companions appreciate the fact that we are able to devote even a small part of our time to provide some relief to those lonely individuals that we are able to serve. Hopefully we will not require similar services ourselves in years to come. I have no regrets at that initial journey from Baslow those many months ago and the fact that I am still able to help in some small way, those less fortunate than myself. I cannot wait for the luncheon clubs to reopen, not for the free lunch we are provided with, but in order that we can resurrect our services to those requiring our assistance and who rely on us for transportation. I am sure there are others in the immediate area who may have time to offer a worthwhile service to those wishing to escape from the confinement of their homes and mix with their friends and acquaintances made from previous outings, which has been far too long in its resurrection. I am aware that there are areas in the administration team that require some voluntary partial assistance, so you do not need to drive.

**David Longley (Driver)**



This has been one of the most satisfying jobs I have done. We meet a lot of people who are so grateful for what we are doing which gives one a great sense of achievement. The hours are reasonably flexible so I can fit the job around holidays and social life.

**Peter Marquis (Passenger Assistant)**



Being a volunteer is a very rewarding job as I enjoy meeting, caring for and helping different people in the community.

**Dave Ireland (Passenger Assistant)**



I have been a volunteer at Transport 17 for 7 years. I am a Passenger Assistant which means I help people from their home onto the transport and make sure they are comfortable. I work one day a week and occasionally "fill in" on other days if required. It is very enjoyable chatting, having a laugh and getting to know the passengers as we travel along picking people up to have lunch at their Lunch Club. I hope we are able to return to normal service soon.

We wanted this article to illustrate the face of Transport 17, for you to meet the people who play such a big role in the organisation and to get a better understanding of what Transport 17 is. We hope we achieved that. It would be even better if the words of our volunteers had sown a seed in your mind that being a volunteer for Transport 17 might be for you. At the moment we are not operating but as the summer progresses we plan to be back in action and the need for your help will be very real. If you would like more information or would like to register your interest please leave a message on 0114 2362962, e-mail admin@transport17.co.uk or visit www.transport17.co.uk

*Sandra Longley  
(on behalf of the Management Committee)*

**Totley Scouts**

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

Easter is nearly upon us and our thoughts have really turned to Spring, lighter evenings and warmer weather. We are all feeling slightly more optimistic with the lockdown restrictions easing and for us at Scouts we are very much hoping that we can resume our face to face meeting after the Easter break.

Our meetings will be run slightly differently as we are only able to have a maximum of 15 children at both our indoor and outdoor meetings for a while. We have worked very hard to make sure we comply with all the rules for opening safely and have carried out detailed risk assessments to ensure we comply with Covid regulations.

We can't wait to see all our young people coming back through our doors and to run our meetings again. We have had lots of our young people take part every week at our zoom meetings but there is so much more we can do when we meet back together again.

Even though we have had to meet on zoom for a while now it hasn't stopped us earning badges and taking part in some great activities.



During this term the Beavers have been working on a number of badges. We started off at the beginning of the term by learning some knots over zoom. The Beavers did so well and some even learned to tie their shoelaces. We had great fun working on our chef badge. We had two weeks of cooking over zoom, the first week we made savoury muffins and the second week we made delicious marble cakes. We have planted seeds for the gardener badge and the Beavers are busy looking after them to see how they grow. We planted cress and have some amazing cress head creatures, we also planted tomato seeds and sunflowers. We are looking forward to seeing how these grow over the next few weeks. We are currently working on our builder badge and tonight the Beavers are creating amazing models out of recycling.

The Cubs have also had fun cooking and we made some camp donuts! These went down a storm with everyone and I think many more have been made over the last few weeks. We had a great time finding out about China and doing some fun activities for Chinese New Year. The Cubs have also started work on their Gardener Badge and have been slightly more adventurous by planting sunflowers, sweet peas and mini pumpkins, we hope to be able to have a pumpkin carving competition with these later in the year. The Cubs are currently doing a Runaway Robot Challenge when they have to design and build their own Runaway Robot, they will then vote on their favourite.

The Scouts started the term with a Taskmaster challenge night, they have made lasagne in a mug, completed challenges to earn crystals in the Crystal (continued p. 33)

## Totley Scouts (from p.32)

Maze, they all did a presentation on their favourite hobbies for the Hobbies badge and last week made armpit fudge.

We have also had the pleasure of enrolling some new Beavers and Cubs into our group and are looking forward to enrolling a few more before Easter.

We always appreciate any support that we receive for our group and, in particular, our fundraising efforts for a new Scout Hut. There are a couple of ways that you can support the Group and our fundraising. Firstly, we have been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund this year. If you have a membership card for the Co-op you can choose us as your local charity, and we will be able to benefit from purchases you make at both the Co-op on Baslow Road and the Co-op in Dore with absolutely no extra cost to you when you use your membership card. We would be thrilled if you could support us in this way and it will make such a difference to our fundraising efforts.

Secondly, you could join our monthly lottery. Tickets cost £5 per number, per month and you can purchase multiple numbers. At the beginning of every month we will draw a ticket and you could be in with a chance of winning £100. If you would like to be part of our Lottery please email Fran Arnold on [totleyscoutsdraw@gmail.com](mailto:totleyscoutsdraw@gmail.com) and she will arrange to get a lottery form to you and give you further information.

*Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader*

## Totley Scout Group Fundraising Tote Bag

Would you like to purchase one of our lovely reusable tote bags and help us raise vital funds for our new scout hut appeal?

These lovely tote bags are made from 100% cotton and feature a contrasting handle in black. They are hand embroidered in a deep purple with the wording 'I'm supporting my local scout group' and feature the name of our group.

The tote bags cost £10 and 50% of the money will go straight back to the group and into our fund for the new scout hut.

If you would like to purchase one of our lovely bags please contact Sue Bridgens on [sue@thewindswepttree.co.uk](mailto:sue@thewindswepttree.co.uk) or you can send a message through our website on our contact us page [www.215thtotleyscouts.co.uk](http://www.215thtotleyscouts.co.uk). Alternatively please call 07802 588649.

Thank you for your support



## People Keeping Well

Due to Covid, most of our current programmes are being run on online platforms such as zoom. If you need assistance in accessing these platforms we have provided a simple guide for you to use below. If you need further help please and someone to guide you through it please don't hesitate to contact Joanna Woodward on 0114 250 2850 or via email at [joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk](mailto:joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk)

All activities are created to be inclusive, everyone is welcome to join! All Activities are suitable for people living with dementia and their carers, family or friends.

### Activity timetable

Information about accessing these activities can be found below.

#### Monday

Gentle Circuits: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Monday Coffee Morning: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month - Delivered by SMG - provided by PKW.

Cosy Creatives: Online Creative writing sessions - Every Monday 2-3pm - Hosted by Anne - provided by PKW. Great for anyone interested in writing, being creative and meeting other people online. No previous writing experience necessary and carers very welcome! Sessions are delivered by art therapist Anne and begin with a look at and discussion about a piece of writing based on a new weekly theme (a poem, short story or memoir extract). Then there'll be individual writing tasks, or a group poem written together (depending on what the group wants to do!) Sessions finish by reading our individual pieces

of writing or reading out the group poem, and coming up with ideas for the following week's theme.

Memoir Writing - it's your story: Begins Feb 10th, 10 week course, every Monday at 12pm - 2pm - Delivered by Kathryn Reaney (professional journalist) - Provided by PKW. Book on now! The aim of the workshop sessions is to get you writing your own life story. We aim to be a positive space for creativity that will get you thinking about experiences and the stories you have created along the way. We are deliberately staying away from a discussion or reflection of Covid, fully aware of the impact that the pandemic is having on mental health and wellbeing. This will be a Covid-free space. Topics we will cover include: what makes a good story, difficult memories, what is a memoir, tackling the blank page, how do you get hold of your memories, publishing and finding an audience.

#### Tuesday

Zumba Gold: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Singing Teapot Choir: 2nd and last Tuesday of every month - recommencing in March 2021 following a Winter break - Delivered by Yo Tozer loft - provided by PKW.

Dore and Totley Rosemary Memory Café: 3pm-4.30pm, every week - Online chat, quizzes, live singers and more, created for people living with Dementia and their carers - Delivered by Josee - provided by PKW.

#### Wednesday

Carers Café: 10am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month - Delivered by SCC.

Strength and Balance: (Can be chair based) - 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Inclusive chair based exercise and con

versation group: to keep you feeling active, healthy and connected to others. For carers and cared for adults with a mild/moderate learning disability and/or autism. Via Zoom every Weds 1:15 -2:30pm. Provided by SMG Sheffield Mencap and Gateway.

#### Thursday

Short Stories: 2pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month - Listen or bring your own story to share - Delivered by SCC.

Gentle Circuits: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - Provided by PKW.

#### Friday

Mindfulness: 10am, every week - Delivered by CWS - provided by PKW.

Carers Café and Quiz: 10am on the 2nd Friday of every month - Delivered by SCC.

Sporting Chatter: 10am on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month - Provided by PKW. An opportunity for sports fans to socialise, make friends, catch up and enjoy sports based activities, from quizzes to watching films.

Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing: 10.20am - 11.30am, every week - delivered by Horticulturist Caroline Cook - provided by PKW.

### How to join the activities:

To access or book to join any of the sessions listed, simply see who the session is provided by and then contact the relevant team via the details listed below:  
CWS: Community Wellness Service: Call 0114 553 7807  
SCC: Sheffield Carers Centre: email [Janjan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk](mailto:Janjan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk)  
SMG: Sheffield Mencap and Gateway: Contact carers outreach project worker's: Katie 07447391437, or Ellie on 07735316347. Or email: [cope@men-cap.org.uk](mailto:cope@men-cap.org.uk)

*(continued p.34)*

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

South West Sheffield PKW (People Keeping Well):  
Contact Joanna Woodward (Community Development Officer) joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk or call Age UK Sheffield on 0114 250 2850.

Josee:

Contact josee.rollet@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 07852 291830

Caroline Cook Horticulturist: email info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk or Telephone Age UK 0114 250 2850. Visit gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk  
Kathryn Reaney: email reaneywrites@gmail.com or call 07854 751932

Please note that all of our activities are currently being delivered on virtual platforms such as Zoom. Please contact the activity provider if you require assistance.

## Totley Swift Group

The Friends of Gillfield Wood Group has been spreading its wings, and last year set up a Swift Group in Totley.



Swift Groups are being set up all over the country - in cities, towns and villages. Having set up the Totley Swift Group we have had a very successful year surveying the village for nesting sites during the breeding season of 2020. Swifts choose to nest in gaps in brickwork in properties, near or under gutters, or in holes in roofs. They return to the same nest site year after year.

One of the aims of the Totley Swift Group is to try to protect these existing nesting sites because so many sites have been lost to house, roof and guttering improvements when residents were not aware that they had Swifts nesting in their property. There has been a massive decline in the Swift population nationally in recent years - a frightening 57% decline in 21 years.

Although we have certainly noticed a decline in numbers in Totley over recent years, we are still fortunate to have about 20 pairs of Swifts still breeding in the village. Not that many, but a base from which to work. A few Totley residents joined the Swift Group and were monitoring Swift numbers after the Swifts arrived back from their wintering quarters in early May of last year. This survey work continued through to the Swifts' departure south in July/August. It was an exciting time, especially when the adults were successfully feeding young at confirmed nest sites, and then 'schools' of Swifts were seen flying below the tops of roofs calling or screaming as they do. It is exhilarating to watch and hear these iconic dark birds, with scimitar wings, flying at speed in family groups just above your head at dusk.

One of the group's aims is to introduce Swift nest boxes to certain suitable properties throughout the village to try and give Swifts alternative nesting sites, thus hopefully building on the current numbers nesting in the village. We are very pleased to say that just after setting up the group, we made a successful application for a grant from the council which has enabled us to purchase 10 specially designed Swift boxes. In addition, 10 new nest boxes of the same design have been purchased by individuals. Each box has a dual nest chamber, so effectively we are providing the Swifts returning from Africa this spring with a choice of a further 40 new nest sites.

These nest boxes are made by Lester Hartmann of Peak Boxes. Lester runs his business from a workshop in the Hope Valley. He is known nationally for his nest boxes and has provided great support to our group during our first year. He has worked closely with a number of Swift Groups in north Derbyshire villages. His website [www.peakboxes.co.uk](http://www.peakboxes.co.uk) is certainly worth a look.

It takes just a few minutes to erect a box on the outside wall of a house. A flat wooden bracket is attached to the side of the house initially, and then the Swift box is hooked onto the bracket. Unlike most other nest boxes, where it is recommended that you clean them out before the start of the breeding season, Swift nest boxes do not need to be cleaned out each year, so the boxes can be left undisturbed. The boxes are designed to last. It is also pleasing to note that Swifts do not make a mess on the sides of houses as some species of bird are known to do. The Swift box is not large, it is elongated and fits under or as near to the gutter as is suitable; it is discreet and not unsightly. The box we have gone for in this first year is, as mentioned, a dual combination Swift box with two nest chambers and the bracket behind the box can also be made for bats to use for roosting.

There are so many fascinating facts about Swifts. Did you know they sleep on the wing? Or that young swifts do press-ups to strengthen their wings in the nest before they fledge? And young swifts can go into a torpor-type state and lower their metabolism for long periods in the nest if food is scarce and until they are fed by the adult swifts.

Did you know Swifts spend 90% of their lives on the wing? So, should you see a Swift diving into a hole in a house's brickwork in early May to get to a nest, it might be the first time that bird has not been on the wing since it left Totley in say August of last year. In those eight months it has been in flight all the time and has been to Africa and back and has over-wintered there as well. Quite amazing!

Should you be interested in monitoring Swifts from May through to August around the outside of your house or in your street/road or in other parts of the village, Totley Swift Group would love to hear from you. Nothing onerous, we just want to establish the status of Swifts in Totley and build on the picture we have at present. It would be great if one or two more residents come forward to let us know about Swifts nesting in holes in their houses - nest sites of which we are not already aware.

If you are interested in being involved, and would like to have your name added to the Totley Swift Group contact list then please write to the email address: [swiftsoftotley@outlook.com](mailto:swiftsoftotley@outlook.com). There is no charge for being a part of the Swift Group and you will certainly not be bombarded with emails.

As you read this article, Swifts may already be arriving and feeding over our reservoirs and lakes and it will soon be the beginning of May, when the first Swifts appear over Totley. Members of the Swift Group will be hoping that they will be the first to see a Swift over Totley this year and will also be hoping that it will be before May 5th which was the earliest date one was seen last year. Just a bit of fun, but will you see one first?

One date for your 2021 diary is Monday December 6. FOGW have arranged for John Ellicock to give an illustrated talk on Swifts at Totley Library at 7.30pm. Hopefully the meeting will go ahead and Lester Hartmann will also be able to join us to show us some of the nest boxes he makes. It should be a wonderful Christmas meeting. All are welcome.

In the meantime, if you are interested in joining Friends of Gillfield Wood as a member, please write to [fogwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fogwsecretary@gmail.com). Please also take the opportunity of browsing through the FOGW website [www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com](http://www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com).

*Chris Measures*



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