

# Totley Independent

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## Open Gardens weekend breaks all records!

*Jennie Street writes:* Totley Open Gardens weekend on 10th and 11th July smashed all previous records. It was the most successful we have had since we started opening in 2002.

Visitor numbers were much higher than any previous year - with 380 coming to one garden over the two days. We found that people were really happy to be able to get out and spend an afternoon enjoying gardens, getting inspiration and ideas. The pent-up demand meant that all the gardens had a constant stream of visitors, which was really gratifying for us, and the weather stayed fine and sunny, which was so critical.

Visitors came from a really wide geographical area - the Wirral, Mansfield, Hayfield (near Glossop), Doncaster, Derby, Bamford, all over Sheffield, Chesterfield and Nottingham.

We received some lovely comments too - "Me and my mum had a wonderful day! She travelled from South Derbyshire to come for the day. Thanks to everyone involved"

"We're new to Totley and we had a lovely afternoon yesterday getting inspired and meeting new people - thank you to all involved"

"Thanks - we loved going to the gardens. My kids loved it too."

We raised just under £5,500 and after taking out costs of insurance, posters and programmes, we will be distributing £5,000.

This will mean £1,750 for Cherry Tree Support Services (35%), £1,250 for Transport 17 (25%), £1,250 for Totley Library (25%), and £750 for the Totley Scout Hut fund (15%).

This fantastic outcome has been the result of a lot of hard work by the participating allotment holders and gardeners. Two gardeners - Linda Prosser and Avril and Andy Holmes - provided wonderful cream teas and cakes, which are always popular and bring good income.

We would also like to thank all those who advertised in the programme, or made donations, and to all those who visited.

Community collaboration can bring wonderful benefits!

For next year's Totley Open Gardens, we already have two more allotments taking part on Mickley Lane allotments, and we wonder if there is anyone on Francis Fields allotments who would like to take the plunge? If so, please email me at [jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk](mailto:jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk)

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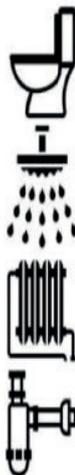
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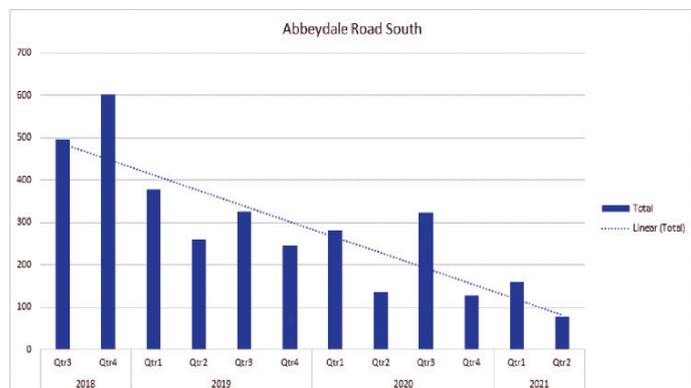
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## Traffic News

We have figures from the safety camera partnership manager, showing an interesting graph. The Abbeydale Road South camera, at the junction of Busheywood Road, and Totley Brook Road, should have educated many people that the speed limit is 30, despite it being the start, and end, of a dual carriageway.



In the first six months of 2021 there were detected 219 offences on Abbeydale Road South, with 97 offences on Baslow Road and 35 offences on Dore Road.

While the offences seen on Abbeydale Road South are still of concern, it is good to see that they have fallen dramatically since enforcement started in 2018.

Roger Hart

## Totley Show 2021

Totley Show will go ahead on Saturday 18 September 2021, at Totley Primary School, unless there is a U-turn by the government. Entries will be accepted from 8.45am on the Saturday morning with registration closing at 10.45am. We encourage people to bring their entries early as we will have social distancing in place and so it will take a little while longer to get through the processing of entries.

At our planning stage we were unsure as to what we would be able to do, and so many decisions have been made cautiously, with a view to maintaining social distancing.

We expect to have a one-way system in place for both the morning of entries and the afternoon, when people will be able to walk round the exhibits, but we will be encouraging everyone not to congregate at any stage. The exhibits will be spread out over the dining room and the sports hall to ensure maximum spacing. We are therefore not able to offer any refreshments this year because of this.

There is one minor change to the classes compared to what we had two years ago. The Open Medium classes, number 39 in the Adult Section and numbers 62, 63 and 64, for the 3 age groups in the Children's Section, have a specific theme this year and are categorised separately on the entry form. It is called 'Reflections on the Pandemic'. It is a one-off and we are looking for entries of anything that you have produced during the Pandemic. It can be literally anything from handicraft, baking, art, sculpture, woodwork, poetry or any other medium not mentioned. We are sure a large number of you have been busy during the lockdowns producing potential entries for the Show! A full list of classes and the entry form appear on page 16 of this issue of the *Totley Independent*.

The Show will close earlier than usual, at 3.00 pm, because we are not planning to have any entertainment. Therefore all entries can be collected from this time. We would like to encourage people to collect their entries but they can be donated if you prefer. There will not be an auction at the end of the Show this year, as we want to maintain social distancing.

It is likely that we will need more volunteers for the Show this year, in order to help us manage the additional areas for the exhibits in the afternoon. Therefore if you can help by offering us an hour or so on the Saturday afternoon please

contact me - my email address is at the end of this article.



Here is the Best in Show from 2018. Can you produce a similar display for 2021?

If there is one up side to the pandemic it is the community spirit that has been shown - not just locally but nationally as well. Therefore, please come and support this local event with the exceptional talent that will be on display. We are sure you will enjoy the day despite the change in circumstances.

Hope to see you all at the Show on 18 September 2021. If you have any questions then do not hesitate to email at the address below.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair  
totleyshowchair@hotmail.com

### We're scouting for talent

215<sup>th</sup> Sheffield (1<sup>st</sup> Totley) is a dynamic Scout Group that helps over 120 young people enjoy fun and adventure while developing skills for life.

With two Beaver Scout Colonies, two Cub Packs, two Scout Troops and one Explorers Group, our friendly leadership team needs new members so we can keep all our groups open.

If you choose to volunteer, you can work directly with young people or in a support role as a team or individual. Prior experience or a connection with Scouting is not necessary and we welcome people from different backgrounds.

**Interested?**

Contact Sue Bridgers or Helen Armstrong  
email totley1stscouts@gmail.com

scouts.org.uk/join  
#SkillsForLife

<p><b>Monday Scout Leader</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage &amp; lead the operation of the Section, delivering an exciting programme</li> <li>Support &amp; promote achievement of badges</li> <li>Support Group activities incl. nights away</li> <li>Manage Assistant Leaders and parent helpers</li> <li>Make good relationships with parents/carers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Assistant Beaver Leader (Mon/Tues)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the operation of the Section, in particular planning and delivery of an exciting programme</li> <li>Support &amp; promote achievement of badges</li> <li>Support group activities incl. nights away</li> <li>Make good relationships with parents/carers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assistant Scout Leader (Monday)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the operation of the Section, in particular planning and delivery of an exciting programme</li> <li>Support &amp; promote achievement of badges</li> <li>Support group activities incl. nights away</li> <li>Make good relationships with parents/carers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fundraising Team Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get involved with planning and delivering essential fundraising activities to raise money for our new hut</li> <li>We'd like to build a small team to spread the load and come up with new ideas</li> <li>Committee attendance not necessary</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sectional Assistant (Monday)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist section leaders in delivering the programme to young people</li> <li>Running games and activities as part of weekly section meetings and other events</li> <li>Assist young people with achieving badges and awards as well as nights away</li> </ul>	<p><b>Committee members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join our committee meetings for a few months to see what we do and decide if you could take a longer term role</li> <li>We're looking for a Group Chair and a Communications Lead as well as general committee support</li> </ul>

You don't have to be Bear Grylls to volunteer

# Tristan Swain

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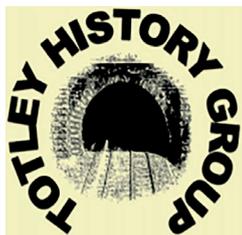
## Green Oak Park

Following two very successful meetings around the reformation of the Friends of Green Oak Park group, we are now looking for expressions of interest to form a small initial committee so we can register the group with Sheffield City Council.

As most of you will be aware we are unable to take any proactive action in the park without this official registration so we need to fill three figurehead roles to get started. The roles we need to fill are Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and we can provide full role profiles on request.

The S17 People Keeping Well will provide full support to the group once registered, and can offer support to anyone wishing to fill these posts. If we are unable to fill these roles we will not be able to progress with maximising this wonderful space for the whole of the community to enjoy. We know there is huge appetite for the group to reform by the levels of interest we have received, and it would be a shame not to be able to progress to the next stage.

Please contact Joanna Woodward at [Joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk](mailto:Joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk) or call 0114 250 2850.



## Totley History Group

We are still hopeful that we will be able to hold our much postponed AGM, which will be open to both members and non-members, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd September at Totley Library.

After the AGM you are invited to join the ever-popular Stephen Gay on a virtual railway journey from Sheffield's abandoned Victoria Station via Darnall, Kiveton Park, Worksop, Retford, Gainsborough, Brigg and Grimsby to the east coast holiday resort of Cleethorpes. Stephen will explore the history of the line and its surrounding countryside in his usual fascinating way aided by large collection of photographs that he has taken over many years. The first part of our journey we will take us to Kirton Lindsey through the 1,334 yard Kirton Tunnel whose castellated western portal was completed in 1848 for the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway. The second part of the journey will be on Wednesday 27th October.

We hope that Totley Library will be available for both talks but this will have to be confirmed nearer the time.

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

*Norman Rolfe*

## Totley Scouts

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

This article is my last for this term as we are all now looking forward to a summer break and, hopefully a bit of a holiday.

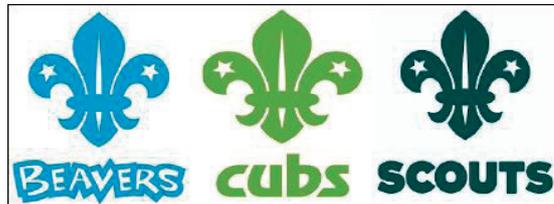
It has been wonderful to have completed a term of face-to-face meetings. The children have been fantastic, they have embraced the slight changes to our meetings with great enthusiasm and have turned up week after week to take part in the activities we planned for them.

We have had some cold nights outside but also some lovely summery evenings and have also had to resort to meetings inside when the weather has not been on our side. Each section has been working hard on badge work and the end of term sees us presenting over 100 badges to our young people.

Although our usual summer camps haven't been able to go ahead this year the Scouts held a day camp at the Scout Hut a few weeks ago. We had 40 young people turn up to spend the day with us. They cooked breakfast and tea put up tents and learnt some vital camp skills to set them in good stead

for next year's camping adventures. The day was finished off with toasted marshmallows round the campfire.

The end of term is always slightly sad as we say goodbye to some as they move onto the next section. Nearly all our young people move up through the movement, so it is lovely to know that they are going to continue their Scouting journey. We wish them all well as they move on and look forward to new adventures.



We very much hope that September brings a bit more normality for all of us and our thoughts can turn to overnight stays again and a return to our normal meeting pattern. I can't finish this article without saying a huge 'thank you' to all the leaders and helpers who have turned up week after week to help us run our meetings. I am so grateful for all the time, effort and support that you give. Also, a big 'thanks' to our committee and supporters who help to keep the group and the building running.

Enjoy your summer whatever you might be up to.

*Sue Bridgens, Group Scout Leader*  
[hallamadccubs@gmail.com](mailto:hallamadccubs@gmail.com)

## The Time Travellers Archaeology Group

We are still here and keen to resume normal service as soon as restrictions are lifted. We had hoped to be starting our guided walks around the local area and some practical field and river surveying in July. Please follow our website for information about the programme of events that we hope to be offering as soon as we can get going: [www.thetimetravellers.org.uk](http://www.thetimetravellers.org.uk)

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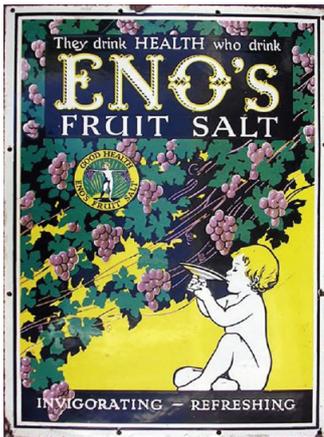
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## Prevention and Cure?

There has been a lot of discussion recently in the Yorkshire press about the tonics and remedies that were thrust upon us when we were young. For me, as a World War Two baby, this rang a lot of bells. I dare say that at the time when a varied diet was hard to get and food rationing was still current, children probably needed supplements and treatments, and that's certainly what I got in wholesale quantities! Information and inspiration may well have come from a hefty volume called *The Home Doctor*, which along with another called *The Family Lawyer* served for a growing boy to heighten the enamel receptacle (which incidentally and appropriately had 'Made in Poland' stamped on the bottom) while potty training was taking place. (Was this a way of developing into a healthy barrack-room lawyer through a process of osmosis I wonder?)

I've no idea if, as the adverts put it, I was a 'fretful, crying baby due to wind pain and colic', (and it dealt with teething troubles as well) but my mother was certainly a fan of Dinneford's Pure Fluid Magnesia which was a local product made at a factory that we passed on the bus on the way to an aunt's house. I'm pretty sure I was fed this stuff well after babyhood as I can picture the bottles with their white and blue labels in the house. It is interesting that these embossed bottles are now collector's pieces. The company also produced a 'Dinneford's Dictionary for Mothers' which was available from the manufacturers for a twopenny stamp: one can only imagine the range of ailments and treatments of the day that were probably contained within it. I suppose that a hundred years before, my fretfulness and tears could have been tackled with gin from dubious ingredients made in the type of dubious still which had made a resurgence in Victorian times. A more visually entertaining remedy which occasionally did appear in the house was something that fizzed - Eno's Fruit Salt. This first came to market in 1852 and is still sold today, albeit these days as a remedy for indigestion. The 1945 advert showed a clear-skinned smiling boy saying, 'Dad says a car won't run well if the oil isn't clean, and it's the same with the bloodstream, so I take Eno's Fruit Salt'. Andrews Liver Salt was similar and I think was preferred and used by my parents. That's still with us and is now made by the same manufacturer as Eno's.



Whatever Dinneford's was supposed to cure can't have worked completely as another product in the home armoury that I remember was 'California Syrup of Figs'. Described as 'nature's own laxative', this product based on senna pods and figs was first developed in Nevada USA in 1878. Unfortunately, it was still going strong in my day and was promoted to 'thoughtful mothers' who might have found that their children had woken up with the horrors of a 'coated tongue' or had a poor complexion or were lacking in vitality. And then there were the daily spoonfuls of 'Virol' which apparently started life as a compound made from animal

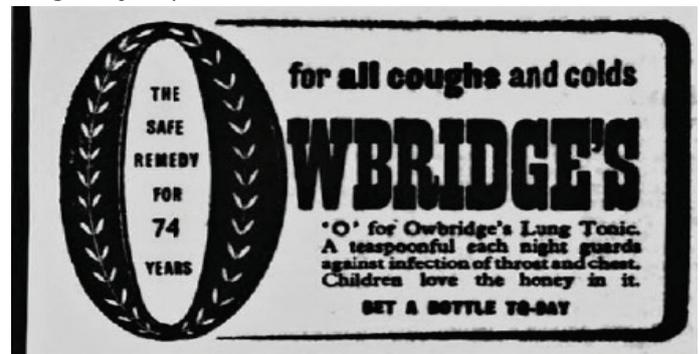


bone marrow, but in time moved to become a form of malt extract. I was at least encouraged to believe its possible efficacy by seeing the enamel signs advertising 'Virol' on most of the railway stations between Kings Cross and Leeds

when travelling to summer holidays with my Yorkshire grandparents. When in Leeds I was threatened by my grandmother with 'bitterallers' if I so much as dared to bite a fingernail. The threat of this incomprehensible aggressor was enough, and I didn't succumb to nail biting for fear of finding out what these things were. Only later did I realise that it was bitter aloes that were being talked about. If that weren't enough, there were also occasional doses of 'Scott's Emulsion' - bottled cod liver oil with vitamins rather than something you'd paint your walls with. Then small bottles of concentrated orange juice came from the local child clinic. I think that rose hip syrup may occasionally have been administered as well. Then cereals were sprinkled with Bemax wheatgerm - I was always suspicious of the 'germ' bit....



Heating in my parents' bungalow was from a coke fire with a back boiler, and my bedroom was some distance from it. As a child I can certainly remember frost on the inside walls and windows of my bedroom and I suppose that coughs, colds and chest complaints were an inevitable part of winter back then. But not to worry, there was always Angier's Emulsion to build up resistance against such things, and according to the adverts there was the additional benefit of sorting out general debility and digestive disturbances! If one were to come down with a cough or cold, according to the adverts of the time they could be 'rubbed away overnight with a generous application of Vick Vapour Rub, first sold in 1905 and still with us in some form today. I was given Owbridge's Lung Tonic if I had a cough, but according to the label it could also have dealt with my bronchitis, asthma, influenza, consumption, whooping cough or just plain 'hoarseness'.



My friend's mother was a district nurse who had worked in several countries in Africa and in Italy before coming to work in England. She fed her two sons sulphur and molasses, something which I was mercifully spared but which they spoke disparagingly of. I do, though, remember getting sulphur in a chemistry set which I got for a Christmas present one year but I'm not sure what it did and I certainly didn't ingest any. The case for prevention is less certain. As I worked my way through the childhood menu of measles, rubella, mumps, chickenpox and scarlet fever - with Rupert Bear for company - Angier's Junior Aspirin was administered for all ills unless Doctor Darke had prescribed something else. I think it was the scarlet fever that prompted my mother to put Dettol in the Flit fly-spray pump and disinfect the home before his house call. Doctor Darke sneezed violently on inhaling this antiseptic and disinfectant miasma, and continued sneezing throughout what became a hasty consultation and a rush for the door with cautionary advice for my mother on the way out. Aspirin for children seems to have been banned from 2002 and we're probably now firmly in the Calpol era.

Despite what was poured down our unwilling throats or applied to us back then, we survived, and thankfully can tell the tale today! One hopes that science will mean that 'Things can only get better', as the D:Ream song goes.

Mike Peart

## The Big Weekend (And Not Walking The Dog)

**7.59 am** - according to the cooker clock. But it's always fast so that we can always be late. Proper breakfast, ready for The Big Weekend. I decide to leave walking the dog to Sally and write a diary instead.

**9.03 am** Eric and Bron drop in to agree we need a bit more strength up front. Then...

**9.13 am** ...we all play dominoes with my really tiny tiny silver dominoes that came in their really tiny tiny real silver box. Eric and I pretend we can play without glasses.

**9.51 am** Nip up to the attic, still in my dressing gown, to see if yesterday's writing on the computer still makes sense. It doesn't, even in my new glasses. I panic and wonder why it's getting harder than ever to type or to get the right font or to understand myself.

**10.21 am** Nip down from the attic and think about an early red wine. Nip back up to the attic to make sure I haven't deleted the computer. Wonder if anyone else has got more anxious the older they get? And if, very soon, I'll not know anyone older than me anyway?

**10.33 am** Sally has a letter in the *Guardian*. Me and Jack are impressed. Having a letter in the *Guardian* is a good way to find out which of your friends can't read the *Guardian*, especially the pink middle bit without their glasses. Panic. Where are my new glasses? Oh, I'm wearing them.

**10.45 am** Sally is still waiting for other news from Holland, even though it will never appear in the *Guardian*.

**10.55 am** I shout a joke from the shower. "Her Nanny never needed glasses!"

"Why not?"

"She drank straight from the bottle."

"You're always on about her Nanny."

"She was the most f..."

"Never mind Nannies. Our Zoom nude model art class is at eleven. Just get dressed."

I get dressed, though I'm not sure why I have to, if the nude model hasn't?

**1.06 pm** Back in the attic after the life class. Panic. I look for my notes for this *Independent* piece, find them, but find I can't make sense of them with or without my new glasses, when I find them.

**1.15 pm** Talking births over lunch with Sally who is still expecting news from Holland where her daughter-in-law Suuske is now in hospital. My Goronwy was very trendy even 40 years ago, so he got a 'Domino Delivery' - which meant he was in and out of his mother and the hospital in three hours. It was like a home birth, with a midwife, but not at home. Easy peasy. All I had to do was make notes for the feminist play I was writing about having babies, and how men cope and...

**1.46 pm** ...at the exact moment I'm writing this, my Domino-Delivered Goronwy rings from Devon telling me that his Sandy has written a play that is about to be published. I say I hope it's a play about a granddad who once wrote a play about a dad having a home birth, and isn't it funny that Domino the pizzas deliver you as well. Goronwy pretends the line's gone funny, but I think he thinks it's his dad who has.

**3.05 pm** No news from Holland.

**3.45 pm** Through the hedge at the end of the garden, we can hear Totley folk talking all over Green Oak Park:

"How did you manage that when you were still socially distanced?"

And -

"You couldn't have!"

"I did."

"You shouldn't have!"

"I shouldn't. But I could. So I did."

And -

"Expect you'll be watching?"

"They'll need to make the ball do the work."

**4.12 pm** I keep on wondering if midwives worry when they do a 'Domino Delivery' in case you end up with a pizza instead?

**5.07 pm** Sally back from her allotment with lots of green stuff I hope she'll give away for charity. Just had a call that Suuska's contractions are very strong. I think about making a really hot Chicken Biryani remembering, from my own home-birth feminist days that a red hot curry makes the baby come quicker...

**5.46 pm** Still thinking about dominoes/dominos again. I remember Knocking and Picking Up in the Plume of Feathers in Greenwich and having to shout 'Count you spots' all night till the landlord Ken called, "Ain't you got homes to go to?" and we had to go to them even when we hadn't.

**6.02 pm** Bad panic. I've typed up to here for my *Totley Independent* piece - but have I accidentally deleted the whole of my novel? Thank God for Sally (and God) who make things ok again. They must both be having a funny day too.

**6.38 pm** I'm wokking the Chicken Biryani with broad beans and anything else I can find in the trendy Veg Box including some ethical paper and a purple caterpillar. Still no news from Holland. Hope it won't spoil the Open Gardens tomorrow. It's such fun to poke round other people's lives, especially the posh ones on the Grove.

**7.02 pm** Voice from upstairs. "I'm a grandma!" Grandma cries. A small red wine helps us both.

**7.16pm** Curry nearly burned enough.

**8.32 pm** Grandma Sally squeezes up our little garden to count swifts, she says, and to look at the sky through tinted glasses. I tell her what I'm writing for the *Independent* and she mutters that Jack's the one who's supposed to write it isn't he but...But Jack's not listening either. So I listen to myself (that's what diaries are for) and wonder if I dare make jokes about Going Dutch and Dutch Caps?

**10.14 pm** I'm last in bed. Panic about whether Jack's in his basket or has run off into the park, with him being jealous because he's not been Walking much this time...

I go downstairs and cuddle him as the fireworks start in the park, and the fans practise their boozing and patriotism for tomorrow. And agreeing that we can win if we just keep up the pace, remember it's a game of two halves and make the ball do the work.

I have a last little red wine to celebrate - well everything.

*Rony Robinson (with scrupulous editing by Sally Goldsmith)*

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## Councillors' Update

Since the last issue of the TI we are pleased to report that Colin Ross was re-elected as local Councillor for Dore and Totley Ward. The Council itself is now led by a Coalition of Greens and Labour, with the Liberal Democrat Group in opposition. In addition to our responsibilities in the Ward, Martin has been appointed Shadow Executive Member for City Futures (which includes Planning and Development), Colin is Chair of the City Region Scrutiny Committee and Joe is the Lib Dem spokesperson on Neighbourhoods, Parks and Leisure.

We were pleased to meet with a number of residents who are interested in forming a new Friends Group for Green Oak Park. This is a terrific facility for our local community and it would be good to get this group going. Amongst other things it would help us access more funding to maintain and improve the park. Martin, Joe and Colin went to a similar event in Whirlowbrook Park where a Friends Group is already having a positive impact on the gardens and open space. If you haven't been there we recommend a visit!

Discussions are under way about planting more trees in the Totley area. This could include a Community Orchard near the allotments on Mickley Lane. Colin took part in a recent walk to identify potential sites. More about this in future editions!

One source of funding for local initiatives is the 'Ward Pot' which aims to support our neighbourhood by making grants available to voluntary, and self-help groups and projects. This year's scheme is now open for applications and further details can be found on the Council website. Alternatively contact one of us and we will point you in the right direction.

On a more serious note we are becoming increasingly concerned about the backlog of repairs to Council housing. This is a city-wide issue and, although we are not currently aware of major problems in our ward, do get in contact if you have any concerns.

Another city-wide issue that we are monitoring is the 'Local Plan'. This is an important document that will set out a vision for how the city should grow over the next twenty years. It will include targets for the number of new houses, where they should be built and how precious green space will be protected. It should also include a vision for how the city centre will recover from its economic downturn. Options were sent out for consultation last year and a large number of replies were sent to the Council. The next version of the plan is however still not available. We are pushing for the earliest possible publication date.

And finally: with the easing of Covid-related restrictions we hope to re-start our face-to-face surgeries in September, but you can always contact by email or via the Council website.

Stay safe, and enjoy the summer!

Martin, Colin and Joe

*[martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)  
[colin.ross@counillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:colin.ross@counillor.sheffield.gov.uk)  
[joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)*

## Neighbourhood Watch

Theft of or from vehicles is always a regular occurrence in all areas of Sheffield, and more recently it is the theft of catalytic convertors that has become more prevalent. These vital parts of your vehicle contain certain precious metals which the villains are after, and they can be very easily and quickly removed from the vehicle. Some recent CCTV showed some men jacking up a car and removing the catalytic convertor in a very short time. Considering the cost of replacing the item which is usually in excess of £1000, the relatively small amount of cash the rogues get as scrap is minimal compared to the inconvenience and cost of having an immobilised vehicle.

South Yorkshire Police have indicated that the following makes and models are those being particularly targeted:

Honda Jazz, Mazda 121 and Toyota Auris registered between 2002 and 2008, but these are by no means the only ones.

Always try to park where the rogues cannot get next to the vehicle to jack it up. Park in a well-lit area and preferably in an area covered by CCTV where possible.

The other key area for concern is where vehicles are stolen following a house burglary. Entrance is usually gained to the property by breaking a window and the vehicle keys taken, allowing the thieves to drive away. In many incidents the keys had been left on shelves, in drawers close by or even hung on hooks by the door. Owners need to be a bit more imaginative about where they leave the keys so as not to make it easy for the criminals.

The same can be said about remote key fobs which allow the vehicle to be opened by keyless proximity. Effective protection (RFI pouches) from criminals detecting the fobs Bluetooth transmissions can be purchased for around £5, BUT the pouches still need to be kept somewhere where they are not on view or easily found, should thieves break into the property. For most of us the vehicle is the second most expensive item we own, so let's not make it too easy for the criminals to steal them with all the inconvenience and cost that brings.

As we approach the relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions we hope to resume NHW meetings once again. It has been over eighteen months since we were last able to have an open meeting for our members and residents. Whilst we send out regular updates and information to our members of S17NWA, changes within our group have left us with a couple of coordinator vacancies which we hope to fill when we can get back to normal meetings.

Whilst we have been in regular communication with the Neighbourhood Policing Team based at Woodseats, there have been significant changes to the officers based there. We now have another new Inspector and two new Sergeants responsible for local policing; the one constant has been PCSO Adrian Tolson, who now covers Dore, Totley, Bradway, Whirlow and Bents Green - not an area he can walk around. Whilst we try to keep contact details on our website up to date, these operational changes to the staffing make this a moving situation and residents are requested to make all contact via the normal channels, via phone, email or online, not to Adrian directly.

If you are not already a member of Neighbourhood Watch, why not join? There are no fees and we can provide door stickers and No Cold Calling stickers. We also have a selection of personal, window and door alarms. Our membership form is available to download on our website: [www.s17nwa.co.uk](http://www.s17nwa.co.uk). We also have a Facebook page: S17NWA NHW Group .

We hope to see you soon.

*Les Day, Regional Coordinator Sheffield SW NHW  
07985 424363*

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# Totley Open



# Gardens 2021



# Friends Of Gillfield Wood

[www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com](http://www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com)



Due to lockdown, we have been unable to run our popular indoor meetings at the library during the last twelve months, and our outdoor events had to be put on hold as well. Nevertheless, it is our intention to try and start such meetings and events again this autumn, with guest speakers and leaders already booked in the hope the programme will go ahead.

Please see the planned diary of events on page 27 of this issue. The events are always available for anyone to attend, members or non-members, but we may have to restrict numbers this year and ask for bookings only. A decision regarding this will be made nearer the time.

Fortunately, we got the go-ahead from Sheffield City Council to restart our Practical Conservation Mornings. The first one took place in April of this year with Council Ranger, Nell Dixon taking over the reins from Chris Roberts. A big thank you has to go to Chris for all his work and support over the years. Our own Andy Brewster organises the dates and agrees the work involved for one Sunday morning in each month, which over the last few months have included repairs and improvements to fencing, repairs to dry-stone walls as well as path repair at the two kissing gates at the bottom of Topley Hall Lane. Work is also ongoing regarding the wildflower meadow by the picnic area at the west end of Gillfield Wood; the pond at the west end of the wood and the pond just below the Topley Hall Lane entrance.

We have had to limit the numbers taking part in our conservation work sessions due to the Covid regulations but hopefully we can open it up to more members soon. Please let Andy know if you are interested in such work by emailing him on [fogwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fogwsecretary@gmail.com).

Having mentioned the two kissing gates above, it is pleasing to note that the two additional new metal gates we had requested have now been put in place by the council; this follows discussions and an agreement we had on site with the council over a year ago. One gate, a kissing gate, is at the west end of the wood by the bus terminus; the other gate is now one of three that give access into the wood from the bottom of Topley Hall Lane. All four gates provide ease of access for those in wheelchairs or on mobility scooters if they are in possession of a RADAR key, and for others who found it difficult or impossible to negotiate the old stiles.

The group has continued to be proactive in clearing litter from the wood and reporting to the council issues relating to fly tipping, broken stiles and damaged or fallen trees that are a danger to the public. The council has responded positively to all our requests so that our wood and fields remain a pleasure to walk through.

As articles in past issues of *Topley Independent* have indicated during the last year, Friends of Gillfield Wood (FOGW) have established a Swift Group in Topley with a view to protecting Swifts, establishing their current status in the village and hopefully over the coming years increasing the breeding population of this iconic bird in the village. To be part of the Swift Group, and on the contact list, you do not have to be a member of FOGW. We encourage local residents to join the Group and get involved in watching Swifts around their house and around Topley. Please email [swiftsoftotley@outlook.com](mailto:swiftsoftotley@outlook.com) if you are interested.

One of the first steps the Swift Group took was to apply to the Council for a grant from the Ward Pot. This was successful and enabled us to purchase ten dual chambered

Swift nest boxes. These, together with a number of privately purchased Swift nest boxes, were erected around the village



*Mick Warwick (FOGW) and Lester Hartmann (Peak Boxes) with Swift nest box sponsored by Topley Pharmacy.*

in March of this year in anticipation of the Swifts returning from their winter quarters in Africa. All the boxes were made by Lester Hartmann of "Peak Boxes" - he works out of the Hope Valley and kindly erected the boxes for us. Although we are seeking to apply for another grant to purchase some more boxes from him over the winter, Lester is likely to come to Topley in September to put up some more of his boxes that have been purchased by Topley residents. So, if you are interested in purchasing your own Swift box from Lester and wish him to erect it for you in September, please let us know.

Friends of Gillfield Wood continue to make every effort to link with the local community through projects, events, website, Facebook and Twitter; and of course, we cannot thank the *Topley Independent* team enough for their ongoing support by raising our profile through the publishing of our articles and the advertising of our events.

We are also very pleased to be supporting a new initiative. This is a community project to create a number of wildflower sites in the village, including some on grass verges. And as this article was being written, FOGW had an onsite meeting with Council representatives, including the Community



*Onsite Trees Meeting with the Council on 14th July.*

Forestry Manager, to discuss the possibility of planting more trees in areas near to Gillfield Wood - something that we would very much like to see progressed. One suggestion has been the planting of trees in some of the hedgerows that border the Topley Hall fields; another is the creation of a community orchard. There is a long way to go with these ideas, but at least we have made a start.

We have just had our tenth AGM and we now enter our eleventh year as a group. So much to look forward to in the months and years ahead. Please consider joining our group and taking part - you will be made very welcome. We are most grateful to all our members for their tremendous support.

*Chris Measures*

day and it was fantastic to see everyone there. This annual fundraising event achieved £1,338 (close to 2019 levels), which will go towards book purchasing and improvements in the library over the next year.

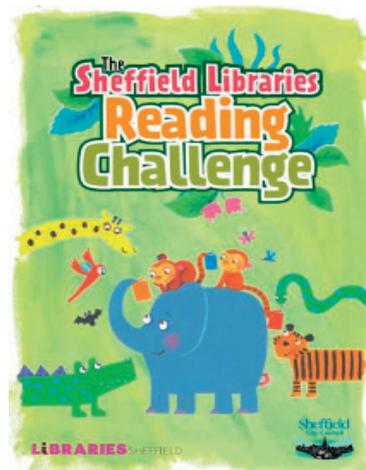


**New Volunteers**

As mentioned above the key to expanding our opening hours and range of services is the availability of volunteers. Whilst it was always expected that not all our volunteers would resume duties as restrictions eased, it has now become clear that we will not have enough volunteers to enable us to make plans to open at pre-pandemic levels. We were fortunate to receive applications from prospective volunteers during lockdown and we are working hard to carry out the necessary training to get the new volunteers active as soon as possible but we are still keen to encourage new potential volunteers. 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) and we will get back to you to arrange an introductory chat. We would be particularly interested in hearing from people who would be interested in becoming trustees as some of our existing trustees will be retiring at our next AGM.

**Summer Reading Challenge**

The Sheffield Libraries reading challenge has been running at Totley Library since Monday 19th July. It's FREE to sign up to the challenge which is suitable for children from birth to 11 years of age. Just ask at the Library. All you have to do is read four books of your choice during the summer and collect a sticker for each book that you read and add it to your collector's folder. Participants will receive a certificate and limited edition pin.



**The Future**

Apart from working to expand our volunteer base and increase our opening hours we have been able to restart Babytime sessions which are proving very popular and need to be booked in advance.

We are also hoping to resume other children's activities and events from the middle of September and will be looking to enable community groups to be able to restart meetings as soon as possible.

For up to date information on our activities please go to our website at [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk) or go to our Facebook page.

**Latest Lottery Winners**

In the May draw, the first-prize winner was Patricia Buckley and the second-prize winner was Audrey Tims. The first-prize winner in the June draw was Christine Parker, and the second prize was won by Barbara Maciejewski. Congratulations to all!

*Norman Rolfe*

**Coming out of Lockdown**

We would like to extend a big thank you to all our returning library users for their ongoing support and appreciation of the library. Since we re-opened on 12 April, the numbers visiting the library have been increasing steadily and it has been lovely to welcome new users and their families to the library.

We have recently increased our opening times and the Library is now open from 2 to 5pm on Mondays and from 10am to 1pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Browsing is available as is access to public computers, printing and photocopying facilities. Computer sessions need to be booked in advance by telephoning the Library on 0114 236 3971 during opening hours. These opening times will be kept under review and will be increased in line with volunteer availability. Following the lifting of government restrictions on July 19th the range of facilities and numbers of people allowed into the Library will be increased on a phased basis. In order to keep you and our volunteers safe, our volunteers will continue to wear visors and we will request that customers wear face covering and sanitise hands. We will continue to monitor the numbers in the Adult and Children's sections and at busy times a queuing system may be in operation to maintain social distancing.

**New Books**

We have continued to purchase a wide range 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.

**New in adult books**



**New in young adult books**



**New in children's books**



Alternatively, if you prefer to purchase books, our Sale Shelves have been re-stocked, so please pop into the library to have a look. We have a good selection of crime, fiction, non-fiction, CDs, DVDs and jigsaws. A minimum donation of just 50p per item is expected.

**Plant Sale**

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our plant sale on 22nd May. There was an impressive turnout on the

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## Library Coffee!

Join us in Totle Library on Thursday mornings 10.30 – 11.30am for a free coffee and a natter!

Over 60s and better – but everyone welcome!!



Natter will be starting up again on Thursday, 9th September in the Library. It's a totally informal drop-in for a friendly chat, a hot drink and a biscuit (or two!), so please call in, we'd love to see you! But please note, on Thursdays the library itself is not open for business.

*Totle All Saints Church*

## Totle Independent

Have you thought about advertising in 'Totle Independent'?

We publish six issues of per year, now free of charge and delivered to almost 2,000 Totle homes. It is also available through numerous Totle shops. Our advertising rates per issue are as follows:

A4 (full-page, portrait): Black and White £80; Full Colour £120

A5 (half-page, landscape): Black and White £40; Full Colour £60

A6 (quarter-page, portrait): Black and White £20; Full Colour £30

A7 (one-eighth-page, landscape): Black and White £10; Full Colour £15

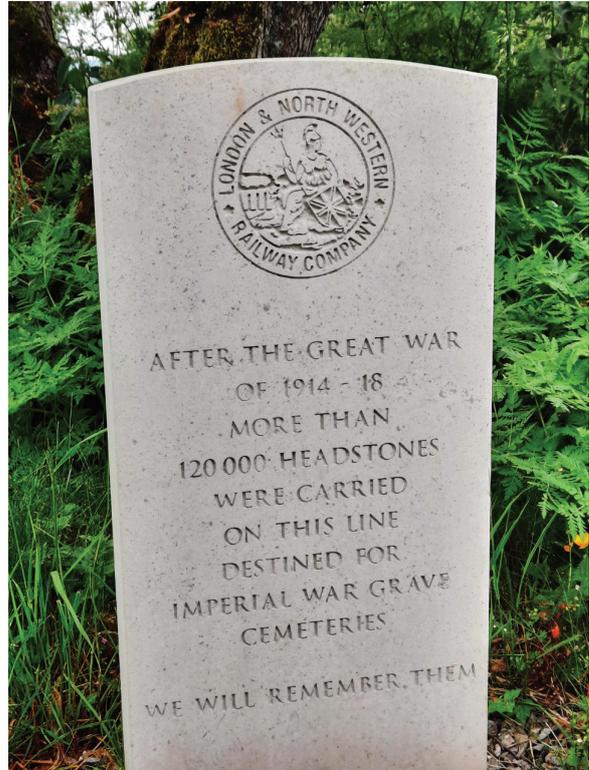
We can offer a basic advert design service in-house.

If you have any queries, just give us a call on 0114 236 1601 or contact by email:

**advertising@totleyindependent.co.uk**

## 120,000 Headstones

While out for a walk recently I came across this incredibly sad memorial. It read ... "After the Great War of 1914 - 18 more than 120,00 headstones were carried on this line, destined for Imperial war grave cemeteries". The line itself was a tiny narrow-gauge track near the village of Middleton in Derbyshire. On a quiet summer day it was so atmospheric that I had to find out what happened.



After WW1 most of the overseas memorials were made of Portland stone from Dorset, but demand was so great that other materials had to be found. The limestone mined near the Hopton Wood quarry was a suitable alternative, so they were given a huge order for more headstones. The marshalling yard for the railway is very small and it would have taken them years to mine, cut and polish the stones.



Can you imagine how it must have felt doing those jobs? Many of the labourers would have served in the war or known people who didn't come back.

A tragic reminder of a terrible war.

*Martin Smith*

## Update from Olivia Blake MP



Hello! I hope this update finds you well and enjoying the Sheffield summer. It has been a busy month or two both in Hallam and in Parliament. I thought I would update you on just some of what I have been doing to represent the people of Totley.

In some exciting news, I have been appointed the Shadow Minister for Nature, Water and Flooding and will be joining the Shadow Environment team to be nature's voice in Parliament. We are living through a climate and ecological emergency and need

radical change if we are to protect our communities and the natural world. From worsening flooding to a decline in precious species, we can see the impact with our own eyes here in Sheffield. I am really looking forward to working with campaigners and experts from our city and across the country to develop a rescue plan for our natural world.

At the time of writing I am currently organising a Nature Emergency Summit in Sheffield, to bring together everyone in our city to discuss the nature crisis we face. I will be announcing more information about this summit soon and how you can get involved!

The Environment Bill also finally returned to Parliament, and as a Shadow Minister I sponsored a number of important amendments, including an amendment calling on the Government to fully ban burning on upland peat. Sadly the Government rejected this amendment, but I am continuing to campaign on this issue. I have also been pressuring the Government over their lack of biodiversity and nature restoration targets in the lead up to COP26, important climate talks which will be held in Glasgow later this year.

I know many of you are very concerned about the effect of the UK-Australia trade deal on our community. I have been speaking out about the dangers of this zero tariff trade deal, which will threaten the livelihood of local farmers, including those in Hallam, and only increase emissions from imported food. We should be working to create a localised, green food system, which ensures everyone has enough food. The Government's trade deal will do the exact opposite.

After a huge petition, signed by lots of people in Totley and Hallam, a debate was called on protections for hedgehogs. I spoke during the debate and raised these issues on behalf of constituents. If we're aiming for species abundance then raising the threshold for species protections is a step in the wrong direction. We shouldn't wait for species to become critically endangered before extending protections to it.

We have also had an update from the Government on our bid to restore rail services to the Sheaf Valley - including expanding Dore & Totley station and opening a new station in Totley Brook. We will find out whether we have secured the bid later in the summer. You can read the full update and more about the original bid on my website.

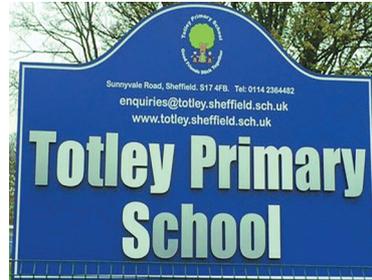
I have also been continuing the campaign for more support for people who miscarry, an issue very close to my heart. A few weeks ago I lead a debate in Parliament on the recent findings of the Lancet report into miscarriage and the state of miscarriage care in the UK. A re-focus on miscarriage is desperately needed, and long overdue. The days of leaving women to suffer in silence must become a thing of the past. I made this argument to the Minister during the debate and spoke to local and national press about the issue. During the debate the Minister committed to putting two of the three findings into the Government's Woman's Health Strategy, which is a huge win for campaigners across the country and such a great step. Of course so much more still needs to be done to improve miscarriage care and I will continue to work closely on this issue.

I want to thank everyone who has sent me messages of support over the past year on year, and I particularly want

to thank all of the constituents who have shared their experiences with me. You can watch my full speech during the debate on my website: [oliviablake.org.uk/](http://oliviablake.org.uk/)

If you would like to hear more about what I have been getting up to, you can sign up to my monthly newsletter on my website, and as always, please do get in touch if there are issues you would like me to speak about or campaigns I should join.

*Olivia Blake - MP for Sheffield Hallam*  
[olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk)



## Reflections on a topsy-turvy school year at Totley Primary

It seems almost unbelievable that the end of the school year is upon us! This time last year, I think many of us suspected that the 2020-21 school year would have the odd hiccup

but few could have predicted just how disrupted and unpredictable things have been. One thing which is certain, though, is that the children have been magnificent! Throughout isolations and lockdowns (and for some children /year groups these have unfortunately been multiple) the resilience and 'bounce backability' they have shown has been incredible.

The fantastic staff team here at Totley Primary have also been magnificent and have continued to show unending care and commitment towards making the children's experience of school as positive as possible, whilst working their socks off to try and make up for the classroom time children have missed. Our parents, carers and the wider school community have also shown great kindness and support to me and the team during this extended period of challenge. Here's hoping that 2021-22 brings greater certainty and a steady return to the way of life we all enjoyed, pre-pandemic.

One recent highlight at Totley Primary was our Sports Week, which was an absolute hit! Watching children compete within their year group bubbles, whilst representing their wider house teams was fantastic and an experience that many of our younger children haven't had before. It was great to see children enjoying the spirit of healthy competition and taking part in the right way, cheering on their team mates but always thinking about winning and losing graciously. It was no surprise that many children achieved their 'Team Player' awards within our Attitudes to Learning rewards for their excellent sporting conduct.

As well as the TOT-lympics classics such as sack racing and egg and spoon fun, children showed the very best of themselves when working alongside coaches from Qualitas and Abbeydale Tennis club. Here's hoping that next year



will see further opportunities for sport and physical activity opening up both within and outside of school and that 'school bubbles' can be consigned to the history books!

*Ben Paxman, Head Teacher*

*The Totley Show Society is proud to announce*

# Totley Show 2021

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

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September  
at Totley Primary School**

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

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

## The Programme

- 8.45 Registration opens
- 10.45 Registration closes
- 11.00 Judging of classes
- 1.30 Doors open to the public**
- 1.45 Prize money may be collected
- 2.45 Last raffle ticket sales
- 3.00 Collection of non-donated entries
- 3.00 Purchase of donated items

## How to Enter the Show

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

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

You may donate your item to be sold at the end of the show, but this is not compulsory. Any prize money not collected by 3pm will be put towards next year's show. Thank you for entering!

### Notes:

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

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

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

# Totley Show 2021

## Entry Form

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

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>email</b>	
<b>Address</b>	

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

### HANDICRAFT SECTION

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

### DOMESTIC SECTION

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

### FLORAL SECTION

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

### FRESH PRODUCE SECTION

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

### ART & SCULPTURE SECTION

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

### PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

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

### WOODWORK SECTION

45	Wood turning	
46	Open woodwork	

### CHILDREN'S SECTION (up to 14)

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

### REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

39	Open any medium	
62	Open any medium (up to 8)	
63	Open any medium (9 to 11)	
64	Open any medium (12 to 14)	

*Official use only*

Entrant number	
Total number of entries	

Total entry fee due	
Entry fee paid	

# New Wildflower Meadows for Totley

## The Project Idea

During last year's lockdown, when the grass verges of Totley went unmown for weeks and even months, did you despair at the untidiness or was your heart lifted by the sight of flowers blooming amongst the grass and insects buzzing about in the foliage? Well, some Totley residents enjoyed the unaccustomed sight of nature taking its course, and felt disappointed when Amey's mowers finally came along and reduced the lush vegetation to patches of brown scorched earth. From that experience an idea emerged – could we actually make some of Totley's verges into permanent wildflower meadows, and see bees and butterflies flitting about alongside some of our streets? A new community group, Wildflowers of Totley, was born, with the aim of achieving just that.

## Convincing the Council

We realised that it was both impractical and undesirable just to ask the Council to stop mowing the verges, or to mow them less frequently. They do this in some parts of Sheffield, alongside dual carriageways away from houses and where visibility for traffic is not an issue. In residential areas they are much more reluctant to take a 'wilder' approach, partly because of safety issues, partly because many residents wouldn't like it, and partly because of the difficulty of contracting out a range of mowing regimes, rather than the current one-size-fits-all approach. So we had to find a way to start small, and to convince the Council that we had a manageable scheme.

## Identifying the Areas

Another issue is that not all patches of grass will happily convert themselves to wildflower meadows if simply left unmown, or are mown only once or twice a year. It was Totley resident and ecologist Rebekah Newman, who joined the group and advised that wildflower meadows are much easier to establish on ground with low fertility – if the soil is too fertile the grass will simply overwhelm all the other plants. We approached Friends of Gillfield Wood for support and they very kindly agreed to fund some soil sampling and testing of the various patches of grass we had identified as potentially suitable for wildflower planting.



Red Campion - one of the wild flowers to be planted

This helped us narrow down the grassy shortlist to two areas: firstly, the patches of grass alongside Baslow Road adjacent to the Totley Grange estate, and secondly the meadows belonging to All Saints Church, off Totley Hall Lane. The Totley Grange verges are managed by Sheffield City Council and the church fields are managed by the church.

## Totley Grange

At Totley Grange we needed to get the support of residents to convince the Council to allow us to go ahead with the project. We delivered a survey to all the houses on the estate, and were delighted that the great majority, over 80 per cent, supported the idea. That meant that the Council was willing to give us a licence for one year to manage the large areas

of grass alongside the main road. The Friends of Gillfield Wood once again stepped in to help, allowing the Wildflowers of Totley group to operate as a subgroup so that the licence could be issued to a constituted body. We held an open air event (with tea and cake!) for Totley Grange Residents on 13th June, to explain to people how we will establish the meadow and how it will be maintained, and to ask people to sign up to help with the work. We now have a group of about a dozen volunteers, who will help with the preparation, sowing and general maintenance.

## All Saints Church

All Saints Church has also enthusiastically supported the idea, and will be setting aside a large area of their meadow furthest away from the church, for wildflower planting. Church members will work with the group to carry out the work involved. If the project is a success, they will consider extending the area set aside for wild planting.

## How do you Establish and Maintain a Wildflower Meadow?

So what is involved in preparing and maintaining these areas for wildflowers? In August or September we will have to create up to 50 per cent bare ground, using a harrow, to make sure the wildflower seed can make contact with the ground and germinate successfully. Immediately after doing that, we will sow the seed, a native mixture including knapweed, field scabious, red campion and ox-eye daisy. Then in March or April next year we will need to mow the sites to remove lush grass growth, and take away the cuttings to prevent build up of fertility. Then we only mow again in August, September and October, removing the cuttings each time. We hope that throughout the Spring and Summer the flowers will be blooming and the insects buzzing!

## Support and Volunteers Needed!

It is a lot of work, which is why we need as many volunteers as possible to help with the project. It will also cost money, both for the start-up costs of harrowing and seed, and for the annual mowing programme. We've put in an application for funding to the Graves Trust, and will be seeking other sources of funding as we progress the project. If our project is successful, we are hoping that the Council will take on the management in future years, and indeed set up and support similar projects throughout the city. They've recently declared a Nature Emergency, and this would be an ideal way for them to help nature and biodiversity in Sheffield.

Can you help us establish these wildflower meadows in our community? We're keen for people to join us, even if it's just for one-off events like helping to rake off and remove grass cuttings. But we'd also like to welcome more members to our group, to help manage the project, apply for funding, liaise with the Council and help with publicity.

## Contact Us

If you'd like to help or would like more information contact us at: [totleywildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:totleywildflowers@gmail.com)

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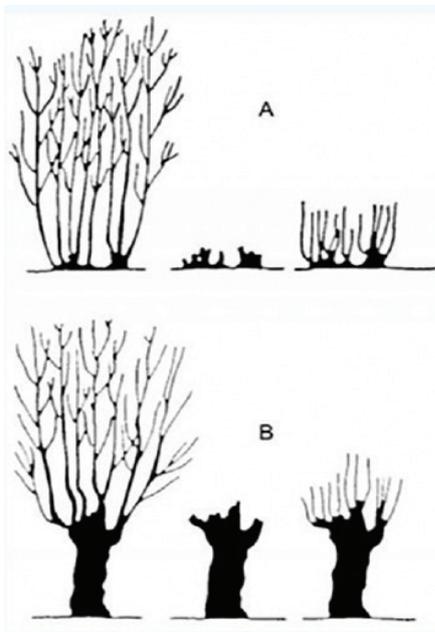
## The Working History of Totley 1086 - World War 1

'Totinglei' features in the Domesday records of 1086 as an area of woods, wood pasture and waste, measuring 1 mile by 0.5 mile, with four bovates of taxable land. A bovat represented the area that an ox team could plough in one year, usually estimated as 15-20 acres depending on the terrain. It is probable that this refers to land between Totley Brook (below present day Storth House) and the Old Hay Brook at the bottom of Hillfoot Rd, although neither of these small streams was named at that time. Wood pasture refers to land such as that seen in Longshaw, grazing land interspersed with trees that may be managed for other purposes eg fodder, timber, pollarding.

From this you can see that the axis of the developing settlement was on a track running from Holmesfield to Dore, unaltered until Baslow Road was built during the second decade of 19thC, creating future expansion at right angles to the original village.

### Pollarding and coppicing

Trees were pollarded to keep new growth out of the reach of browsing animals, but coppiced trees would need to be enclosed by fencing to prevent damage. After severe pruning the regrowth was harvested in cycles of approximately 10-20 years, to produce timber that had a number of uses.



Above: A - Coppicing; B - Pollarding

The long, straight poles of the new growth could be used for fencing, broom/besom making, simple furniture and, importantly in Totley, to make charcoal and white coal for the lead smelting process. A variety of timbers were grown, but most likely in this area these would be hazel, field maple, sweet chestnut and oak.

Oak trees, grown within the fenced compartments of what we now know as Gillfield Wood, provided pannage for swine in the autumn ie foraging acorns. Oak, of course, is a strong and durable timber and was used particularly for the framework of buildings. Wasting nothing, the tannin-rich bark was needed for the process that turned animal hide into leather, another occupation recorded in Totley.

### Medieval Period

From the 12th-16th century Canons at Beauchief Abbey (1183-1537) had the rights to graze their sheep on land at Strebereley (Strawberry Lee) and would drive their flocks from the Abbey via Akley Bank (the Anglo-Saxon word for oak meadow), passing the village cross opposite Summer Lane to access the moor where they had a sheep grange. The number of canons at the abbey was small and they used local labour to augment the workforce.

Lead smelting developed as an industry in Totley, initially using the slopes of Strawberry Lee to catch the wind that increased the heat of the fire. Large pounds were built where the locally produced charcoal and white coal (dried wood) combined to create the temperature needed to extract lead from the crushed ore, quarried and transported from Derbyshire's limestone area. Eventually footblast bellows replaced any dependence on the wind.

In 1568 John Humfrey, a goldsmith and engineer, invented water-driven bellows for the Strelley family of Beauchief Hall. They had bought their land following the dissolution of the monasteries and the power of the River Sheaf in the valley was being put to good use. Despite Humfrey trying to protect his invention with the equivalent of a patent, it is known to have been copied and in use in Totley shortly afterwards. At the time of his death he had a number of court orders pending against people who had 'stolen' his invention, including the Earl of Shrewsbury, smelting in Totley. Here the water power came from the Old Hay brook, where eventually four mills served the village, variously used over the centuries to smelt lead, grind corn, make paper, and forge and grind scythes.

When the lead smelting industry ceased in the very early 19th century, the smelting houses were adapted to make steel products, primarily scythes, but the lead smelting process had left a dangerous legacy. The Dore enclosure document of 1834 refers to a few 'bolland' fields, that is, poisoned by lead, and names one at Old Hay. The problem was caused by centuries of lead particles being carried in the smoke from the smelting process, then falling onto the fields down wind of the forge.

Brian Edwards recalled talking to an elderly villager in the 1970s who recounted his mother forbidding him to play in the valley bottom almost a century after the lead industry closed, because villagers still considered the land to be poisoned. Conversely, we have been shown a field on the upper slopes of Hillfoot Rd that was used around the same time where sickly horses were grazed. Away from the contaminated fields at the bottom of the hill, its grass contained healing herbs that helped with the animals' recovery.

Evidence of many quarries around Totley remain, and in each census there are quarrymen, stone crushers and stonemasons recorded, producing stone that had many uses...buildings, walls, roads, posts, memorials etc. Through many generations Elliot has been a Totley name associated with this industry. As early as 1726 Christopher Elliot was enclosing six acres of the common land around a coal mine on Totley Moor, leased by Lord Middleton to Mr John Fenton and Mr John Nodder. The commoners took exception to this and repeatedly pulled the wall down each time it was rebuilt, first 'publicly' in daylight, but then under the cover of darkness. Finally, Lord Middleton issued an order forbidding any further damage, tying it into a clause that threatened to re-negotiate the commoners' rents (upwards, one supposes). Presumably this put a stop to the problem.

Britain was an agricultural economy but the quality of local land was poor. Subsequent landowners found it hard to make a worthwhile return from the rents of their tenants, the land being occupied by many small farms (5-20 acres was typical). Lower Bents Farm, built pre-1621, is now the oldest building in Totley. Families scratched a precarious existence dependent on the vagaries of each season's weather, and often needed a second income. This becomes evident in the early census returns starting in 1841, but any other work had to exist within the village or its immediate vicinity when reaching it on foot was your only option. If harvests were poor, the tenants feared they had to choose between paying the rent or buying food for their family and animals. For this reason an appeal to D'Ewes Coke (owner of the Totley Hall Estate) in 1818 requested a reduction in rent, or at least not a proposed increase. Thankfully he agreed.

### Totley Hall Estate

Parcels of land exchanged ownership from time to time following the distribution of land in the 16th century (dissolution of the monasteries). Sometimes this was to finance improvements to the house or estate of the owner's seat of power, which might be many miles away. The full story of land ownership in what became (*continued p. 23*)

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## The Working History of Totley 1086 - World War 1 (from p. 21)

Totley Hall Estate can be found in Josie Dunmore's extensive research, available on Totley History Group's website [www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk) (ref. People of Interest: Coke Family, and Peter Flint). Her work clearly illustrates the ups and downs of trying to make a living from a rather mediocre piece of land, whether you be the landowner or the tenant.

The Coke family owned the estate from 1791-1881, and one important legacy they built for the village was the infant school in Totley Hall Lane, financed by D'Ewes Coke and opened in 1827. It provided the village children with the opportunity to become literate and numerate. It would be another 43 years before The Education Act 1870 made basic schooling compulsory throughout the country.



*Hannah Wild, the first schoolmistress*

In 1881 the Estate was sold to William K. Marples, an edge tool manufacturer who had been living in Grove House at the bottom of Hillfoot Rd. He immediately set about modernising and extending the house but unfortunately died a couple of years later. It was then sold to William Milner, a barrister and JP who further extended it and made the Hall his family home for the next 50 years. Thus the somewhat neglected farmhouse (originally built 1623) took on a grander role within the village and William became its self-appointed squire. In Victorian times a family of this standing had many staff to service the needs of their household, thus creating employment for the villagers: butler, cook, coachman, gardeners, maids and servants are listed in the censuses. A farm manager and a number of agricultural labourers were also needed to run Totley Hall Farm, and Milner took pride in entering the annual agricultural show, although how much of the actual cultivation was done by him is uncertain!

### Into the 20th Century

At the start of 19th century Totley had been a linear village of approximately 20 households, rising to more than 123 one hundred years later - that is, properties within the original Totley village footprint and not including New Totley and Totley Rise. It had a post office, a larger school (moving from its original site to Hillfoot Rd in 1877, the Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1848, and a number of shops that made the village self-sufficient - baker, confectioner, butcher, grocer, greengrocer, draper, general store, fish hawk, cordwainer and cobbler, four drinking venues and a horse drawn carriage service from Sheffield to Bakewell, the horses for this service being exchanged and rested in a paddock behind the Cross Scythes' smithy shop. Farmer and scythe smith, Samuel Hopkinson, had grasped the opportunity to create the hostelry by selling beer to passing travellers when the turnpike road was built in front of his farm in 1820 and it has remained a focal point in the village ever since.



*Totley Hall in the early 1900s*

Totley Forge and Old Hay Wheel, which had survived the demise of lead smelting by embracing the steel industry (scythe manufacturing), finally closed by the 1890s. Upper Mill near Grove House and Nether Mill (its site now lost under the railway tracks) never made that transition and had closed some 50 years before.

One industry in the village that continued into the 20th century was file cutting. This was usually a 'backyard' industry where the cutter would have a building containing his simple equipment and a small forge. A block of stone or heavy tree trunk had a bed of lead on the flat upper surface to support the unhardened steel blank. Placing it on the lead, the cutter tapped repeatedly on his chisel at approximately 60-100 taps per minute, using the weight of a 10lb hammer to make the abrasive surface on the file. First one side, then the other. The purpose of the lead was to cushion the file and prevent damage to the topside as the reverse face was cut. The finished item would then need to be hardened by heating and quenching.



*A file cutter's hammer showing wear on the shaft where it was held. To make one file required approximately 2000 strikes*

The brickworks on Totley Moor that had opened in 1834 was still providing work for the villagers. Initially the ganister clay that lay below the local coal seams was used to make crucibles for steel production at Abbey Dale Forge, with fire bricks being another of their products. Despite the forge soon sourcing a more superior ganister from elsewhere, the brick production had continued.

As Totley had grown during the 19th century, the range of jobs hardly expanded. When Dore and Totley station opened in 1872 it became possible to commute to Sheffield, Dronfield and Chesterfield and a few professionals and skilled workers moved into the village, a barrister, a pawnbroker, a pearl and ivory fluter (associated with cutlery manufacturing) etc.

What brought a short-lived but huge influx of workers to Totley was the building of Totley tunnel, 1889-93. The navvies and tunnellers were largely an experienced group of men that moved around the country as Midland Railway built the rail network. Many were housed in temporary camps, the main one being built on Moss Rd. However the locals saw opportunities and rented rooms, became washerwomen, brewed and sold beer, and generally catered for the needs of the men. Reading newspaper reports of the time one might get the impression it was a bit like the wild west - fighting, drunkenness, arguments with the locals and (*continued p. 24*)

## The Working History of Totley 1086 - World War 1 (from p. 23)

outbreaks of smallpox and typhoid, but put into the overall context of such a large number of incomers living here for four years, was it as bad as it seemed from reading the newspaper reports? The school built a wooden extension to cater for the extra children (many navvies had their families with them), the railway company employed a missionary to tend to their spiritual needs and business in the local shops and hostellers must have greatly benefitted. But by the turn of the century peace had returned to the village.

Occupations listed in the 1901 census are the familiar ones that had gone before, and are seen again in 1911, however change was coming. In 1914 the Great War took men away from home, and statistics tell us that one in ten did not return. Roy Milner, a son from Totley Hall, was the first village casualty. In all, Totley has ten names on the war memorial, indicating that perhaps one hundred men from the combined districts of Totley and Totley Rise could have been away for up to four years. This would have had a huge impact on the workforce.

By the time the men returned Totley had a motorised bus service, opening up the possibility of a daily commute and a job outside the village. But did that happen?

The 1921 census will be made public at the end of this year. It will be interesting to see if a trend is beginning to emerge.

Pauline Burnett



## All Saints Church

Totley Hall Lane

## Stepping Out

At the time of writing this, it looks as though July 19th will see most of the current COVID restrictions lifted and the return to "normal life". For many of us, this will be long awaited, welcome news, yet for some this will feel like a daunting prospect. Lockdown has been a difficult and often life changing experience for many people and to return to our pre-pandemic way of life may be neither possible, nor desirable.

Dame Prue Leith, wrote recently in the 'i' newspaper. She spoke of her genuine fears about the coming "Freedom Day" as it has been dubbed. Lockdown had left her feeling institutionalised and reluctant to leave the safety of her cosy routine. The thought of venturing beyond her comfort zone fills her with fear. Doubtless she is not alone in this feeling. However, sometime, if not on July 19th, we will all have to overcome our fear and step out into a world that has been changed by COVID and learn to live with this invisible enemy as best as we are able.



Fear is our human response to a perceived threat or danger and it can be a very powerful emotion. Quite often it is irrational and can limit our horizons. The Bible recognises that there will always be fears and concerns for humanity. It contains at least 366 'Do not fear' statements which remind us that God is a source of comfort, strength and reassurance in troubling times. One of the most searched for Bible quotes during the pandemic was from the book of Jeremiah.

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11

We all approach Freedom Day shaped by our personal experiences over the last 16 months. Not everyone will feel confident in instantly abandoning all the precautions they currently have in place. Just as the community has looked out for each other during the pandemic, we need to continue to follow God's instruction to be mindful, considerate and caring towards others as society begins to return to a "new normal".

We have returned to worship in church on a Sunday at 10am. Recording of the services are also available on line at <http://www.allsaintstotley.co.uk/>

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

Liz Hayden, Totley All Saints Church.

## Golf Club's Charity Contribution

All golf clubs faced incredibly challenging times last year, but despite the cancellation of their 125th Anniversary celebrations, Sheffield's Abbeydale Golf Club had much to be proud of during 2020.

Their Club Captains, Jane Morris and Stuart Hitchman, with the help of fellow members, raised the magnificent sum of £8,100.67 in aid of the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice at North Anston and a cheque for that amount was handed over to the hospice's Regional Fundraiser for Sheffield, Shannon Gossage, at a special ceremony held at the Sheffield 17 club.



Shannon Gossage from Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice (right) receiving a cheque from Stuart Hitchman and Jane Morris, Abbeydale GC Captains 2020

Abbeydale GC was delighted to nominate Bluebell Wood as their charity recipient for 2020 and, despite disruption to the club's golfing activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they used every available opportunity to raise as much money as possible for this extremely worthy cause.

Their Club Captains worked tirelessly for the charity, both on and off the course, and raised funds by several different methods, including a Bridge Competition and a "Captain's Golf Challenge" against fellow members.

Bluebell Wood cares for children and young adults whose lives are sadly just too short, by supporting them both in their own homes and at the hospice's premises in North Anston.

They believe that every family deserves to make magical memories with their child, whether they have years, months, weeks or days together.

Bluebell Wood is a home from home for families facing the toughest of times, with plenty of fun activities for children to try, including soft play, arts and crafts, music therapy and much more.

They need to raise almost £14,000 each day in order to keep their doors open, so the cheque from Abbeydale Golf Club was a valuable contribution towards their day-to-day operating costs.

# Ask Your Pharmacist

## Weight Management

This is the time of year that many people attempt to lose weight – maybe to look your best for a holiday or a wedding, or merely just a case of “sun’s out, guns out”. Of course, a desire to look good for those long-awaited holidays, rescheduled weddings, and hopefully days in the English sunshine will enhance our desire to achieve an optimal weight this year.

It has been widely documented that many people have put on weight during lockdown (48% of respondents in a BBC survey said they had). Maybe this is why we have seen a large number of enquiries recently about helping people lose weight. We always advise a holistic approach to weight management rather than achieving a specific body image. We will help you achieve a weight and body condition that helps you live a healthy life.

Achieving your ideal weight can have huge benefits for many reasons including physical and mental well-being, as well as boosting self-esteem. The current pandemic has also shown how being overweight has huge negative impacts on quality and length of life. Reaching an ideal weight will also allow you to be more active and enjoy a non-lockdown life better. A lighter bodyweight will also reduce the stress upon your load bearing joints, reducing joint pain. Many people who lose significant weights say this can be hugely liberating.



While it can be difficult to achieve in practice, weight loss is a simple matter of using more calories than we consume. Sensible dietary changes and modest changes to your activity levels can achieve weight loss although results may be modest too. We can advise you on such changes (and help with any difficulties you may be encountering).

To help achieve greater and quicker results we stock a variety of supplements and meal replacement products. Our meal replacement products are very high quality and high in protein with a low glycaemic index, and so they keep you satisfied for longer. This means you eat lighter meals and snack less.

If you wish to lose a large amount of weight or wish to lose weight quickly, we offer a Very Low Calorie Diet which replaces meals with Total Food Replacement formulas. These are low in calories but nutritionally complete, so they will keep you healthy, well-nourished and comfortable while you lose weight. These products are only available to buy from pharmacies participating in the Pharmacy Programme so that you have a highly trained healthcare professional on hand for information, as well as advice and encouragement.

When followed properly you can expect to lose a stone a month (a stone and a half for men). We have many patients who have achieved this rate of weight loss with quite a few going on to lose as much as four stone each. I’m sure you will agree these are fantastic results. Compared to this programme, trying to eat a healthy nutritious very low calorie diet with foods is almost impossible.

The benefits of this programme are far more than just cosmetic. Studies have shown this diet can reverse the symptoms of diabetes. It can also be enormously beneficial for blood pressure problems.

Our pharmacists (Jasmine and I) have recently completed training which allows us to provide a couple of new novel treatments to help you manage your weight. These target the central nervous system pathways responsible for hunger and eating, helping patients feel less hungry and resist food cravings. Clinical trial evidence shows these medications are more effective than weight loss alone and will ultimately help you achieve the weight loss you desire.

If you are interested, please come and see us at Toley Pharmacy. One of our trained pharmacists will explain all the options available to you (including lifestyle changes without medication). We will also help you start your journey to a healthier lifestyle and support you through any programme you choose. These programmes also offer great value for money, costing as little as £1.50 per day.

Tajinder Singh, Toley Pharmacy

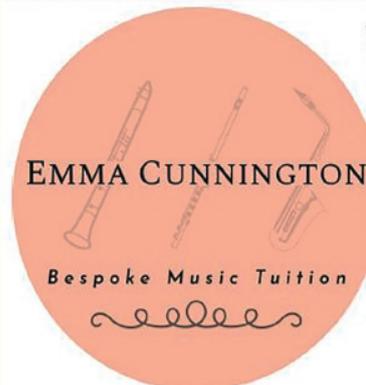
## Holmesfield Church Walking Group

### Cheshire Cheese Walk

On Wednesday 11th August at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from the Cheshire Cheese pub in Hope (it is on the Edale Road). We will walk past the Losehill House Hotel, cross the Edale Road back on a footpath near Normans Farm, then back to the pub for lunch (optional).

The cost of the walk is £4 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church. If you would like to come, just turn up on the day.

The walk is about 4 miles long but there is a shortcut. It is a fairly flat walk. If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246 412767.



Mobile: 07763 048915  
Website: [www.emma-music.co.uk](http://www.emma-music.co.uk)  
Email: [emma-music-sheffield@outlook.com](mailto:emma-music-sheffield@outlook.com)

### Woodwind, Music Theory & GCSE Music Tuition

Graduate of the University of Huddersfield, and Manchester Metropolitan University (joint PGCE with the Royal Northern College of Music).

I hold an enhanced DBS. Please see my website for more information.

SCAN ME



ISM  
MEMBER



## Images of Sheffield

### 3. The Thespian Quarter

Credit where it's due, whether it was by luck or by judgment, the planners have managed to make Tudor Square into a really nice area, by day or by night. By 'eck!

If I were to liken it to a play it would have to be 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The playhouses are now overlooked by the slack-shod-trousered youths sat on the little tufted mounds of grass and stone, who are themselves objects of interest for the worldly travellers of coffeehouse and pub. And in the interests of adding a little impartial knowledge of all, we have the visitors to the Central Library. Add to that the mystery of the illuminated steam jets in the floor that would grace any fairy kingdom and you have something very special. It almost comes as something of a Shakespearian tragedy to think that for many the area is little more than a place where once a year you can practice sinking the pink with John Parrot...

But I know I am not alone when I say "Nay, faith, let me not play a woman; I have a beard coming." (Flute, Act I, scene ii)

Photo and text: Simon Deeks



### On the Beat

Summer is upon us. Possibly! As I write England have just qualified for the Euros final and we are awaiting final confirmation on the lifting of legal restrictions around Covid. After those restrictions are lifted it appears it will be a matter of personal choice as to how you move forward. I hope we will continue to respect each other's decisions on this and allow people the time they need to return to whatever used to be considered 'normal'. Hopefully though we will start to see the return of the local events, clubs and social gatherings that we've all looked forward to in previous years. Change is also happening at Woodseats, we have a new Inspector Katie Rowlands-Wilson and a new Sgt John Clack. We're currently educating them in our ways!

Crime-wise there is still not too much to report, thankfully; we are still having a few garage and shed breaks around and about the Ward area but actual house burglaries are still low. If anyone is worried about their domestic security as we start to return to workplaces we would be more than happy to come along and see if we can offer any suggestions or advice. Just drop me an email to the address at the end of the article. We have continued to carry out our Operation Slow Down speed monitoring in the area and are trying to keep up with the suggestions of places we could carry it out. Again, as restrictions lift we hope to get community members involved in these, it can be interesting to see that often the perception of the speed of a vehicle from the pavement is often not reflected by the results of the operation.

We are seeing more complaints coming to us regarding noise from neighbours, unfortunately the Police have very little power to deal with noise complaints. Reports should be made to the Environmental Services section of Sheffield City Council, all the details can be found on the Sheffield City Council website. I had another trawl through the *Independent* archives and found an interesting letter from 1981 in which the writer complains of the noise from 'transistor sets out of doors and indoor wirelesses and record players blaring through open windows' He also asks at the end of the letter for people to buy less noisy gardening equipment! If you have a few moments to spare every back issue is available online and it's enlightening seeing that the problems cited by people years ago are still the problems that trouble people today. It's also a trip down Memory Lane for those who have been in Totley a while seeing familiar names and reports from events and meetings. I even found mention of me passing

a piano exam and some reviews of the King Egbert School musicals I was in long long ago!

As ever, if you have any worries or concerns please contact me. If you are organising any events that may require police attendance please give us as much notice as possible. I'll repeat that the phone number and email I include in this article should not be used to make reports of incidents or crime. 101 or the online portal are the ways to do this. Email is [adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk) and phone number is 07787 881945.

Thanks for reading

Adrian Tolson, PCSO 8136  
Sheffield South West NHP



## 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.

These evenings provide a forum for members and the public to share their stories/sightings/news about the wood, or enquire about our monthly Conservation Work Mornings that we run in association with Sheffield Council Rangers and Woodland Management Team. All our 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.

**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.

**Monday November 8th:** Hedgehogs. An illustrated talk by Jo Wilkinson. 7.30pm in Totley Library

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

**Monday December 6th:** Our Christmas meeting, with an illustrated talk on Swifts by John Ellicock. Lester Hartmann of the famous "Peak Boxes" will be joining us with his specially designed Swift nest boxes. 7.30pm in Totley Library.

## Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Totley Brook Road, S17 3QS

Our Building is Open!

We're pleased to say we are now holding services at 11.30 am on Wednesday mornings. All are welcome to join us for a short time of worship.

Several groups have also started meeting, including pilates, yoga, aerobics classes and the Dore School of Performance Arts. Other groups will start this month and in September.

On August 12th we will be a polling station, offering local residents the opportunity to vote in the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan for the Dore Neighbourhood Area.

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

Elaine Ferguson

## People Keeping Well

Due to Covid, most of our current programmes are being run on on-line 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 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

### Activity timetable

Information about accessing these activities can be found below.

#### Monday

10am Gentle Circuits Online Exercise Class. Provider A

10am Sheffield Mencap and Gateway Coffee Morning. Provider C

11am Walking Football for Men & Women Springs Leisure Centre. Provider A

12- 2pm Memoir Writing delivered by Kathryn Reaney, a professional journalist. Provider H

2-3pm Cosy Creatives: Online Creative writing sessions. Provider E

2-4pm Writer's Drop in: for writers who want readers and readers who want to hear the new writing of other people. Provider H

#### Tuesday

10am Zumba Gold Online Exercise Class. Provider A

10.30am Singing Teapot Choir: fortnightly 2nd and last Tuesday of each month. Provider E

2pm Walking Football for Men &

Women, St George's Park Thorncliffe. Provider A

3-4.30pm Dore and Topley Rosemary Memory Café. Online chat, quizzes, live singers & more, for people living with Dementia & their carers. Provider D

5.45pm HiiT Online Exercise Class. Provider A

#### Wednesday

10am Strength & Balance Online Exercise Class (can be chair based). Provider A

10am Carers Café on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Provider G

11am Walking Football for Men & Women, St George's Park Graves. Provider A

2pm Walking Football for Men & Women, Concord Sports Centre. Provider A

6-8pm Community Journalism: No experience necessary- for people who want some pointers at sending out news releases, running social media pages etc. Provider H

8pm Women's Walking Football Goodwin Sports Centre. Provider A

#### Thursday

10am Gentle Circuits Online Exercise Class. Provider A

1.30pm Zumba Chair Online Exercise Class. Provider A

2pm Short Stories: On the 2nd Thursday of every month - Listen or bring your own story to share. Provider G

3pm Table Tennis Bradway Community Hall. Provider B

#### Friday

10am Mindfulness Online. Provider A

10am Carers Café and Quiz on the 2nd Friday of every month. Provider G

10.20 - 11.30am Connecting with Nature for Wellbeing. Delivered by a horticulturist. Provider F

11am Walking Football for Men & Women, Davy McKee Sports Ground. Provider A

7pm Table Tennis Bradway Community Hall. Provider B

#### List of Providers:

Provider A: CWS (Community Wellness Service). Classes delivered by specialist instructors. To book your place and receive links and instructions to join please contact CWS on or call 0114 553 7807

Provider B: Table Tennis organised by Jan Clist. Contact to book your place on 07787 954 842/ 0114 418 6463

Provider C: Note that this takes place on 1st and 3rd Monday of each month - Delivered by SMG Contact carers outreach project workers: Katie 07447391437, or Ellie on 07735316347, or email cope@mencap.org.uk

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

Provider D: Delivered by Josee, provided by Age UK Sheffield PKW - Contact josee.rollet@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 07852291830 for details to book.

Provider E: Provided by Age UK Sheffield PKW - contact Joanna.woodward@ageuksheffield.org.uk for details to attend

Provider F: Delivered by Caroline Cook Horticulturist. email info@gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk or phone Age UK 0114 250 2850. Visit gardeningwithcaroline.co.uk

Provider G: SCC (Sheffield Carers Centre). Email Jan jan@sheffieldcarers.org.uk

Provider H: Kathryn Reaney Email reaneywrites@gmail.com or call 07854 751932

## Leave it in the Ground!

Scientists know that fossil fuels should be left in the ground in order to achieve the global greenhouse gas emission targets necessary to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees. For the details of this argument, visit <https://ourworldindata.org/fossil-fuels>. In much simplified form, it is reckoned that available, known extractable still-in-the-ground fossil fuels would yield 750 billion tonnes of emissions. That's three times what can be allowed if the world is to stay below a 2 degree temperature rise by 2050 defined as the Paris Accord target. So, that accord requires two thirds of available resource to be left where it is - in the ground.

How much can a member of the general public influence this situation? Quite a lot: there is a very good example in the case of a proposed climate-wrecking coal plant in Australia, for the Indian Adani group. The project was launched in 2010 but cases brought by environmentalists and landowners held off the go-ahead until 2016, when the mining lease

was issued. The claim by Adani that the coal will in the main not be burned in Australia, is irrelevant. Once it's out of the ground, someone somewhere will burn it. At least 24 banks have either refused funding or introduced rules on finance which would put the project out-of-bounds. As a result of pressure from the public, many insurance companies have refused to insure the Adani mine. What will go ahead is a much reduced version of the original scheme.

Adani has cunningly rebranded its Australian mining business to "Bravus". The rebrand comes as the company readies to ship out its first coal next year (damaging part of the Barrier Reef) in the face of years of vocal opposition from climate change activists, whose catch cry "Stop Adani" became a marketing slogan emblazoned on T-shirts and earrings. Activist pressure has been hugely effective in shrinking, delaying and generally obstructing the project. Unfortunately, Adani has been shortlisted for substantial Australian government aid. Activists have questioned the wisdom of spending tax payer's money on a coal mine which would be among

the largest in the world at a time when the world is moving rapidly away from coal.

So, two things we can all do. Firstly, make sure your MP knows that you are watching what the government does now, under its climate responsibilities, particularly in this year when the UK is hosting the COP26 climate conference. Second, don't support banks which finance the exploration and extraction of fossil fuel resources. On this second point, here are some simple guidelines. As a generality, and based on the Ethical Consumer website's data, the banks scoring lowest on environmental issues are the familiar high street names - Lloyds, Santander, HSBC, Natwest, RBS etc. The best environmental scores go to Triodos, Nationwide and Cumberland Building Societies and the Co-operative Bank. Switching is easy!

*Penny Stott*

## Lorna's Garden

My garden is on show, see how the delphiniums grow. There's lupins proud and tall, dianthus, spiky, cute and small. Roses in full bloom today and cornflowers shouting 'Hip, hip, hooray.' Cupids lips, they're sweet and neat. Potentilla too, just a treat. My campanula is also saying 'hello' today. He's purply-blue, what a display! I call them moon-pennies, I know they're not, but a fantastic cluster I'm glad I've got. The passion flower climbing up the fence adores the sun, what love it sends. Snow-in-summer it's called and that seems right, as if from nowhere it's hardy and bright. Pinks, marigolds, geraniums all - are happy to say to the birds, 'Just call'. The daffodils and tulips have all died down. Crocuses, muscari, narcissus, snowdrops and hyacinths too but I don't frown. Knowing they're just resting to show once more their beautiful glory next spring outside my door. Alliums too, a spectacular view. I'm waiting for the agapanthus!



Red and pink geraniums, carnations and osteospermum, oh just look  
The clematis clinging to any hook.  
Erysimum, this one's called 'The Bride', a wonderful sight and japonica too is such a delight.  
Gentle kerria (jews mallow) with her fluffy yellow pom-poms  
Next to aquilegia and ferns with their curling fronds.  
I'm waiting for the bold display of lots of gladioli to make my day.  
There's still a lot to see, different colours of wallflowers so near to me.  
Sweetpeas do take their time, little pansies and snaps, still

a favourite of mine.

Through my window the hibiscus is growing well, he'll show some attitude, it's beginning to tell.

Next to the sedum there are petunias, a fuschia and a tall flamingo tree poses.

And dahlias and more roses.

In the top corner a honeysuckle creeps next to some raspberries the rudbeckia peeps.

Verbena grows up to six feet high, he's still reaching to the sky.

Pretty variegated ivy, common I know but just in the right place it seems to grow.

Wood sorrel's nice, Canterbury bells and London pride

I can depend on my budlia by my side.

And the poppies have been as big as dinner plates, magnificent and deep red,

Then a statuesque foxglove awaits.

Crocsmia and irises, there's a lily too, even little daisies spring into view.

A bleeding heart, pretty and sad

Now make way for this painter's palette (houttuynia) colourful and glad.

There's more. Weigella, spiraea, euphorbia to name a few, Hebe, hosta and lavender appear in my view.

And look, nigella with its feathery leaves, bobbing about in the gentle breeze.

This is my garden, come and see. Putting on a show for free.

*Lorna Marshall*



## Totley Guides

### 45/99 Sheffield Guides

As lockdown restrictions have been lifting and the evenings have become warmer and lighter, it has meant that our Guide group, the 45th/99th Totley Guides, has been able to get outside more often and make the most of meeting face to face. Hopefully, this will continue in September when groups resume meetings.

In the last term we have been doing many outdoor activities including fire lighting, cooking and games at Whiteley Woods Outdoor Activity Centre.

Prior to that, at our weekly zoom meetings, the girls have been completing badges such as Guiding History and Photography and we have been doing many games, quizzes and even baking.

Within Totley we have two Rainbow units, two Brownie units and two Guide units who all meet weekly to provide girls with a safe space to learn and develop their skills along with having fun with friends.

Girlguiding units across the city are always looking for more volunteers. There are many ways to get involved, either helping to run one of the units on a weekly basis or as an occasional helper, at a time that suits you. If you are interested please visit the Girlguiding website (<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>) or contact [moallum@hotmail.com](mailto:moallum@hotmail.com) for more information.

Whiteley Woods Outdoor Activity Centre has been used by Sheffield Guides for over 90 years and is holding a Heritage Open Day on 11th September 2021. Please go to the heritage open day website to find out more.

Hope you all have a great summer and stay safe and well.

*Rachel Turner, leader in training*



Totley History Group presents...

# THROUGH KIRTON TUNNEL

A Railway Journey from Sheffield to Cleethorpes

Part 1. From Sheffield to Kirton Lindsey

by **STEPHEN GAY**



**WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**AT 7.30 P.M. IN TOTLEY LIBRARY**

*Non-members are welcome*

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For Men and Women

**Free**



Take a stride in  
the right  
direction and  
try walking  
football today!

Locations:

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**ST GEORGES PARK THORNCLIFFE (PACK HORSE LANE)**  
• TUESDAYS 2PM

**ST. GEORGES PARK GRAVES (BOCHUM PARK WAY)**  
• WEDNESDAYS 11AM

**CONCORD SPORTS CENTRE (SHIREGREEN LANE)**  
• WEDNESDAYS 2PM

**DAVY MCKEE SPORTS GROUND (PRINCE OF WALES RD)**  
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**For more information and to**

**book, please contact:**

Info@communitywellnessservices.co.uk

Tel: 0114 5537 807



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## Transport 17

### The Wheels Are Turning!!

We are delighted to report that once again we are back in action. It is just first steps but it feels like massive progress given all the difficulties everyone has faced over the last 18 months or so.

The first of our clubs to start up is St John's on Abbeydale Road South. They have decided to hold coffee morning events with reduced numbers, half the members attending one week and the other half the following week. As you will see from the photograph below of that first trip everyone was happy at being able to return to something they love and get so much pleasure from.

We have been extremely lucky to have Fiona Smith working for us. She has managed the whole process of the start-up making it possible to get those wheels turning as soon as was possible. Working within the guidance of the Community Transport Association and Covid rules she has seen to it that we provide a safe and secure service for both our volunteers and our passengers with appropriate procedures. One of the main changes is that the seating capacity on the buses has been reduced by half and we have had to adopt a seating plan so we can maintain a Covid secure environment. Windows remain open to ventilate the bus and all individuals are asked to wear masks and sanitise hands. Our passenger assistants are still able to provide assistance to help passengers where necessary but do so in a Covid secure way.



Fiona also attended Voluntary Action Sheffield Zoom Meetings for the lunch club providers on our behalf, which provided an excellent opportunity to meet up with the providers, for us to be up to speed with current information, to be able to liaise with the clubs about the service we could offer to support

them, and for them to inform us of their specific requirements.

Prior to our starting up again all the buses had to go through their required safety checks which Mike Roberts has been in charge of. Many thanks to Mike along with Dennis Dacey and David Longley who have been ensuring that the famous blue buses were all ready for action.

The first journey was on 3rd June. Dennis Dacey, Stuart McDonald, Diane Ellis and Simon Gray were the volunteers who got the plans into action and all went smoothly. They were able to give us helpful feedback and procedures were amended as will be the case as we move out of lockdown and government/Community Transport Association guidance changes. St Marks at Broomhill began operating on 7th July and Dore Open Door hopes to be back in action later in July which is all good news. It also means that more and more of our volunteers will be back in action.

As well as getting us up and ready to start operating, Fiona Smith has also been very busy tackling some of the general administrative duties that have needed doing which the volunteers on the management committee haven't been able to cover. This has been a huge help to us and lifted a lot of pressure from the management committee enabling them to focus on the issues of the management of the organisation. Joanna Woodward from People Keeping Well has been co-opted onto the Management Committee, which has strengthened our relationship with the network. We have continued to attend the S17 meetings and we are poised to join the South West network which Joanna also heads. Alan Jockel saw the need for a community transport service way back in 1984 and that need still remains key in 2021, so Transport 17 should go from strength to strength.

As the service gathers momentum our need to recruit volunteer drivers and passenger assistants becomes more pressing. Earlier this year a new volunteer, Fay Jones, joined our ranks as a passenger assistant and we would like to welcome her to our team. So the search is on. Perhaps the last article about our volunteers might have triggered a thought that this might be something you would enjoy. There are of course other ways in which you could volunteer to help us and we would be happy to chat to you about those opportunities too. As before, if you think you might like to help us out and would like more information or would like to register your interest please leave a message on 0114 236 2962, email [admin@transport17.co.uk](mailto:admin@transport17.co.uk) or visit [www.transport17.co.uk](http://www.transport17.co.uk) We would love to hear from you.

Fund-raising is another important aspect of our work and as with many organisations we haven't been able to hold any of our events. The gradual lifting of restrictions has seen more and more of our local organisations getting back into action and we are conscious we need to get going again. The Cross Scythes has already said they will be delighted to help us out which is fantastic news.

We've continued to receive generous donations from individuals along with over £250 from a collection box in the Cross Scythes. Our grateful thanks as always for all this help. We have also embarked on applying for grants to support the running of Transport 17. Rosie Fry, who was co-opted onto the Management Committee in 2019, has been busy putting together bids for these and we would like to thank her for her time and effort - it has been quite a learning curve. This needs to be a central part of our fund-raising activity. We are of course very lucky to be one of the Co-op Local Causes this year and are benefiting from your support through that. If you haven't done so already you can nominate us as your local cause.

As you read this article there will have been more changes and developments as we go forward. This will be easier for some to cope with than others but Transport 17 hopes it can play its role in supporting the community wherever it can so we all grow strong together.

*Sandra Longley, on behalf of the Management Committee*

# Friends of Dore and Totley Station

## One step forward - and two steps back

Two months ago I reported that restoration of a second platform was confirmed and that major work was scheduled to begin in April next year for completion by September 2023. We've now met the Network Rail Project Manager and senior members of both their team and that of Volker/Story the main contractors.

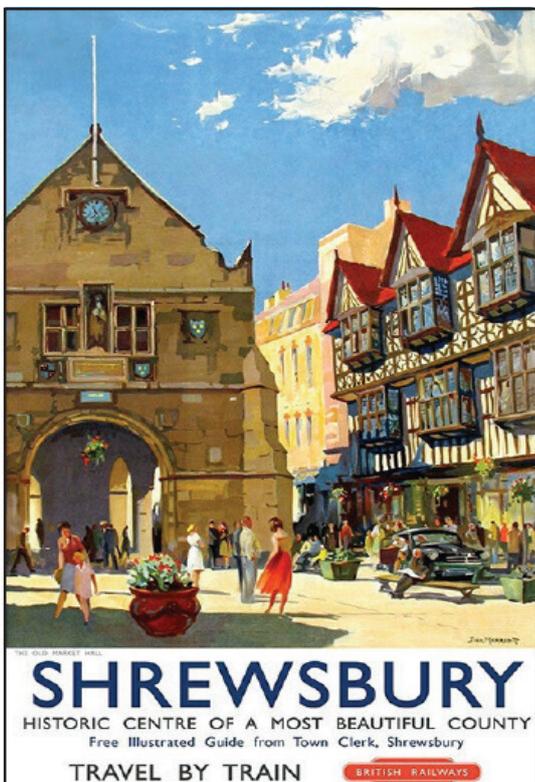
We're assured that the local community will be kept well informed of forthcoming activity and progress. By the time you read this test drillings should have happened between the tracks opposite the station and by the flats on Westview Lane. These are to confirm rock and ground conditions for the new platform and footbridge at the station and to protect the car park at Westview.

Only 16 places should have been taken in the station car park for this work. That shouldn't have been a problem because only a third of the capacity is currently being used by rail users. Once the main work starts more places will have to be given up.

Last time I optimistically said Covid seemed to be on the retreat. Maybe not - it's regrouped and coming back with different variants. Nevertheless we seem to be seeing fewer serious cases as more of us are vaccinated. Maybe we can start to think of more travel, although masks in confined spaces, like trains, will be advised for many months yet. That's one step back.

The second pace back is that East Midlands are short of trains and trained crews and they're suffering a Sunday strike of guards/senior conductors. Consequently many trains have been cancelled, had the route truncated or formed of two rather than four coaches. Currently it's wise to check their timetable carefully as it has been changed from the one announced in May. As far as we're concerned we've only lost the 8.28 to Norwich - the one I plugged for a day out in Ely last time! No matter, that trip can still be done by catching Northern's 8.24 to Sheffield and changing to the Norwich service from there.

So let's see Britain by train, but take care



Hope Valley Saturday and Sunday morning trains are now becoming busy. Still more room than on the old Pacers but well filled. There's an anomaly in the ticket pricing structure which contributes to that. A single ticket on an East Midlands train between Sheffield and Manchester could cost about 4 times as much as the Northern service, although that will take

an extra 20 minutes. A TransPennine service may also be 3 times the price. The cost-conscious are quite happy to take a little longer - and maybe buy a bottle of wine with the saving!

If you want an all but empty train make use of the early TransPennine services to Manchester at 5.15, 6.15, 7.14 or 8.15. Commuters that used to crowd on have not returned. If anyone you know used them please encourage them to come back or we may lose those services or the number of carriages may be reduced to three. Some already have been but still have lots of room

At the risk of putting a jinx on another train, a nice day out is to Shrewsbury. Take the 8.15 for Piccadilly, then the Transport for Wales Carmarthen train to Shrewsbury arriving at 10.39. The wide River Severn, a castle, home of Charles Darwin, Shrewsbury public school, a Cathedral, lovely gardens, boat trips, lots of tea shops, cafes, restaurants, pubs and old hotels. You could stay a night and see surrounding countryside by using local buses. Return on hourly trains, maybe at 16.56 and change at Stockport to be back in Dore for 19.03.

Incidentally, it's quite quick and easy to get to Meadowhall by train. Our stopping trains into Sheffield give many connecting opportunities, including the TransPennine service.

Finally, it's good to see more using our station. Word has got round in Manchester that to get to Chatsworth and Bakewell come to Dore and Totley for the 218 bus. You may see it stopped to pick up outside the station for quite a long time. The driver is probably explaining to a dozen young Chinese students that the half hourly bus alternates, Bakewell-Chatsworth and Chatsworth-Bakewell and that if they show their bus ticket they'll get £1 off the Chatsworth entrance charge. Then each pays with our funny money.

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's a very active group and is updated frequently with topical information and comments.

If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary; njbarnes@outlook.com

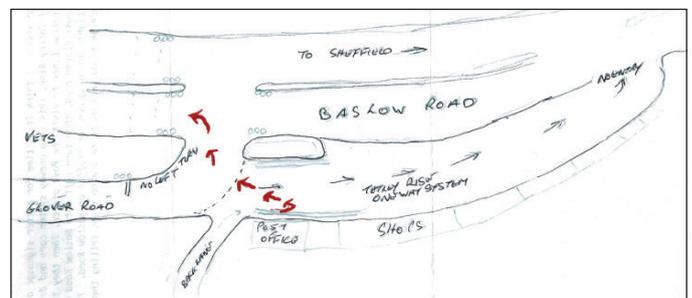
There's lots of information on our website at; [www.fodats.net](http://www.fodats.net)

Chris Morgan, Chairman

## Letter to the Editor

### Better Signage needed on Totley Rise?

After several near misses, I think it is time for better signage at the post office end of Totley Rise. This is a one-way system, but cars and delivery vans park on the yellow lines to visit the post office, then they turn around and exit across Glover Road, and then turn left onto Baslow Road - even when the traffic lights are on green for Baslow Road traffic. They think that they are OK to do this as there are no signs telling them not to!



Vehicles making the above manoeuvre commit four traffic offences in as many seconds: (i) parking on double yellow lines (ii) turning round on the one-way system and exiting the wrong way, (iii) crossing Glover Road and ignoring traffic lights controlling the junction, and (iv) turning left onto Baslow Road at a 'No Left Turn' sign. I suspect that they are not local as local residents would know better.

A Totley resident

As we approach the end of the school year, we can reflect on what an unusual year it's been for us all. Even after we returned to school, we had individual children who had to isolate at home because of contact with someone who'd had a positive Covid 19 test. We supported them as well as was possible with work sent home and children able to "Zoom" into the class lessons.

As soon as some of the restrictions were lifted, we began working hard to enrich the children's learning:

- Y2 have been to the Butterfly House;
- Y3 to the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet;
- Y4 to the Jorvik Centre;
- Y5 on a Geography field trip to the local river and an exciting adventure day at The Oakes Centre
- Last but not least Y6 have been on their adventure day to Thornbridge Outdoors and also to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park!

We sincerely hope that next year will be more 'normal' and our children will be able to enjoy more trips, including residential visits, and we can have more visitors into school.

Thanks to a link from one of our parents, we also got involved with the 'Think like an engineer' programme developed by Maker{Futures} at The University of Sheffield and funded by The Royal Academy of Engineering. Real engineers from a range of engineering backgrounds developed ten class projects for use in school and our school is one of twenty-five primary schools from the region that took part.

The aims of the programme are:

- to introduce schools to Maker education with a STEM and DT focus.
- to provide schools with engaging maker-based projects that can provide enrichment opportunities during COVID-19 restrictions.
- to provide a connection between schools and local engineers to help children better understand what engineers do.
- to support engineers with public engagement and outreach. Each project was inspired by engineers from different areas of engineering.

### Our local Environment

TASS took part in the Great Big School Clean which is attempting to complete a colossal million miles of litter-picking... that's to the moon and back, twice! All participating schools were asked to simply record the number of litter-pickers taking part and the hours and minutes they plan to spend litter-picking.

Y2 did a litter pick in the school grounds and a group of Y4 children went out to help clear up some of the local area.

### Wave of Hope

The Wave of Hope is a message to our Prime Minister and the world's governments in the G7 to tell them that we want them to take action and work together for a just and green recovery – one that provides vaccines and healthcare for all, fights poverty and injustice, and helps end the climate and nature crises.



### Wildlife Action at TASS

Thanks to a successful Learning through Landscapes Local Schools Nature Grant worth £500!! We received two cameras, a whole class den building kit and a book of teaching ideas! The cameras were set up in the Woodland Workshop and the first night a hedgehog was seen snuffling about!

So, all in all, despite the difficult times, our amazing young people have embraced the opportunities on offer and have, as always, impressed everyone with their character, enthusiasm and care for others.

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

*Karole Sargent and Trudi Brown, Proud Headteachers*

## Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

I would really like to have something cheery to report but with the delta variant now bowling along June 19th has become July 19th and heaven knows what after that. I guess most of us have had at least one jab and hopefully, except for the young, two. That said, do any of you fully understand the rules and the logic behind them? Does anyone even in the Cabinet? Over 40,000 football followers in one venue, admittedly outdoors but jumping around each other and hugging everyone in sight with few, if any masks to be seen. In a theatre, however, with social distancing, masks, covid checks and everyone facing forward, effectively away from others, all have the effect of pushing capacity down to about 30% which is unsustainable of course. We, along with the other groups, have no chance as singing indoors is still not allowed and you certainly cannot sing while



wearing a mask. My glasses steam up even when I'm not exerting myself and taking a deep breath involves getting a mouth full of material. What is also concerning is that many of the older, and shall we say tentative, mixers may not wish to get together yet, but we have to bite the bullet at some point or nothing will ever happen again. I am still hopeful that by September we will be able to gather and rehearse a programme of music for Christmas and start the show rehearsals. Roll on *The Pirates of Penzance* in April next year at The Merlin Theatre.

On a brighter note, we can now hug (with limitations) - something I have missed - and I hope that you are making the most of your leisure time. Ann and I seem to be doing a lot of walking. At least it helps to keep us fit. We surprised ourselves over this last two weeks as we did a walk from Longshaw up to White Edge Lodge down to Grindleford and back up Padley Gorge to Longshaw, a distance of over 5 miles and over 700 feet of climb. Then last weekend we walked from Burbage over Higger Tor and Carl Walk to Toad's Mouth and back, another 5 miler with a 600 foot climb. My knees suffered a little and I don't think we'll do many more strenuous ones like that, We are getting too old to keep proving ourselves (well that goes for me at least). I think we'll stick to the gentler Longshaw trails for a while.

Keep safe, relax as much as you can, look after yourselves and your friends and let's hope things gradually improve soon.

*Derek Habberjam*

## Organic Wildlife Gardening

There was so much rain until June and, for a number of reasons, any gardening was more or less out of the question, but all the plants here have benefitted from it. Last year many plants had seeded wherever they had been blown, and, as happened a few years ago, the white deadnettles had spread everywhere. They are an early and very popular bee food. It was not long before the whole garden was completely green and had a lovely fresh spring feeling.

The greater celandine had seeded among various patches of herb robert and they looked lovely together. One patch had extended back between the surface roots of an alder tree stump making a very natural and quite delightful picture. The red and white hawthorn blossom was spectacular this year, resulting in a very pleasant and relaxing atmosphere.

There were more species of birds than previous years. Wrens, robins, goldfinches, bullfinches, chaffinches, greenfinches, house sparrows, dunnocks, blue-, coal-, and great-tits, and starlings. A family of excited young starlings were brought along to feed on meal worms sprinkled on the lawn. At first the female had to feed them herself, but they soon got the idea.



*Up the garden path!*

Gradually, more young birds arrived and learned to use the seed feeders, but some magpies appeared one day and caused panic. One was attacking a female blackbird among dense plants. I thought her life was over. I know that one should leave nature alone, but I could not resist going to her aid. While the bird-song this spring has given me so much pleasure, I would love a song thrush to be around again - it has such a beautiful song.

According to the British Trust for Ornithology, many blue tit fledglings have not survived because of the cold weather and lack of caterpillars for the adults to feed them on, and cuckoos are already on their way back to Africa! Well - can you blame them!

The bee numbers built up quite quickly, and I was really surprised at the number. About 99% of the plants in the

garden are native, and the bees seem to know where they can source the most nutritious food!

Anyone visiting the garden who knows that I grow natives would be surprised to see a small shrub with quite large and mainly red flowers that bloom in the spring. It is a Pieris and certainly not native. It was given to me by a very dear friend who died about twenty years ago and I haven't the heart to remove it.

Of course, other insects are just as important as bees and have also been attracted to the garden. Many species are extinct and there is no doubt that human activity is responsible for that with the use of pesticides on farmland and in gardens. If you find aphids on your plants, leave them, as they are food for their predators, eg ladybirds, which are not as prolific as they used to be for the same reason.

One morning, we noticed a red insect on a bird food cage. It was about an inch long. On checking the Collins Guide to British insects, it appeared to be either a Cardinal Beetle (*Pyrochroa coccinea*) with a black head, or a similar one (*P. serraticornis*) with a red head.



The Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust quickly came to the rescue when we emailed a photograph. It was the latter, which has tended to live in the south of England in the past. Climate change again?

This local charity and the one in Derbyshire have recently given lectures about insects on Zoom for members. They were given by highly qualified people and members could ask questions. Many species of insects are already extinct. However, there are still thousands of species and scientists believe there may be many more to be discovered. We do need to look after them.

Like many animals, some insects depend on trees one way or another. In previous articles, I have mentioned various trees and the wildlife they support.

Aspen is one such tree which supports many insects including two species of gall midges and aspen hoverflies which feed on micro-organisms in dead aspen wood. These are food for birds and ladybirds. Deadwood cavities provide nest sites for birds such as woodpeckers and they are also the preferred species for beavers that are native and now re-introduced to Britain.

Field maple attracts aphids and their predators, including many species of ladybird, hoverflies and birds. Moths such as the mocha feed on the leaves, and the flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and birds, while small mammals eat the fruits. It grows in woodland, scrub, hedgerows, in parks and gardens, and on chalk lowlands and clay habitats. It is compact in structure and, notably, resistant to air pollution which is a very good thing.

The Government and many wildlife charities and environmentalists are asking everyone to plant a tree. I do have room for another tree at the top of the garden and had decided on an ash tree. There is a beautiful ash tree in another garden nearby. It is magnificent: very old and, thankfully, not affected by Ash Dieback.

With the plants in my garden 'taking off' in a somewhat disorderly manner this spring, it was a while before I noticed a woody stem emerging through some leafy wild garlic shoots in the bed at the top of the garden. Eventually, as it grew taller, I took a lower shoot off in order to check exactly what it was and to my delight it is an ash tree and clearly an offspring of the fine specimen nearby. Positioned very close to the place where I would have planted one, it is growing taller by the day which is wonderful, and long may it live.

We need to cherish all our native plants, they do so much for wildlife, for wildlife lovers, and all the others too!

*Marian Tiddy*

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