

Totley Independent

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Winning exhibits at Totley Show on September 18th - more photos on page 3

Totley Show bounces back!

Totley Show was back on 18 September, after a year missed because of the Pandemic.

We were blessed with a lovely sunny day which brought out our residents and families to come and view the exhibits - so much so that the Show overran in order to accommodate everyone getting through to view all the wonderful entries. The standard was very high again.

We had an increase in the Children's Section again this year which is always encouraging. Thanks go to the two local schools for promoting the Show and particularly to Totley Primary School for the use of their premises.

We had some very generous raffle prizes given to us by a number of our local businesses and that increased the amount taken from that source. It is been brought to my attention that almost all the beauty prizes were won by men!

We were sorry to be unable to put on the entertainment or refreshments this year but hopefully they will be back next year. Despite this an enjoyable time was had by all.

A full report will appear in the next issue of *Totley independent* with details of all the winners.

Mick Warwick, Totley Show Chair

New Local Area Committee meets

September 16th saw the first public meeting of one of the new Local Area Committees (LAC) anywhere in the city, in Greystones Primary school. Councillors for the South West area (Dore and Totley, Ecclesall, Fulwood and Crookes and Crosspool) and around 60 members of the public met in the school hall.

A new setup for locality working was agreed by the council in March and this will lead, we hope, to greater local control and accountability of local services, better engagement and collaboration with community groups and more say for local people over how the council operates.

To what extent this will actually happen remains to be seen. So far, very little in the way of powers and budgets have been devolved to local area committees and this needs to change if they are to be successful. Members of the public at the meeting raised both questions of process - "how are we really getting a better say here?" - a good (continued p.8)

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Totley Library

Current Opening Hours

We have extended our opening hours on Wednesdays and are open from 2-5pm from 15th September. We are also open for browsing on Mondays 2pm - 5pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday between 10am -1pm. **We are continuing to encourage the use of masks and hand sanitising.** Three of our computers are available for use: sessions need to be booked in advance by telephoning the Library on 0114 236 3971 during opening hours. Toilet facilities have re-opened for library users.

We 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. So far, however, we have been pleased that we have not had to introduce a queuing system at any of our sessions. By and large our library users have respected our social distancing guidelines and the majority have worn face coverings and used the hand sanitisers.

Book Fines

Sheffield City Council have extended the exemption on council book fines until 31 December 2021. Totley Library are doing the same for Totley Loans (Orange Sticker books). Please note that this does not apply to overdue fines that were owed pre-pandemic (before March 2020 lockdown) and lost books will also incur charges.

New Book Purchases

In response to library user requests, we have added a substantial number of new large print and audiobooks to our collection. We have 21 new large print books - mainly fiction, crime and romance - and 32 new audiobooks. Why not visit and take a look?



We would love to hear more from library members on books to purchase. If you'd like to make a recommendation for a new book, we have now added a section on our website to submit suggestions - see <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/suggest-a-new-book/> for details.

Alternatively, if you prefer to purchase books, our sales 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.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge proved very popular and ran

from late July until early September. It brought family groups back into the Children's Library again. Children collected their stickers, a certificate and a free book of their choice after reading four books. We had many positive comments and happy children - and our Volunteers enjoyed it too.

Library Events

Health Walks resumed in late August and Baby Time and Children's Story Time restarted in the library from 13th September. There is no need to book for these events but we are still maintaining a restriction on numbers for social distancing reasons. More details can be found on our website www.totleycric.org.uk which is the easiest way to get information about upcoming events.

Community Events

Although all legal restrictions have been removed, the Trustees of Totley CRIC understand that many people coming to community events will be taking cautious steps towards "normality" and are keen to provide an environment that feels safe to groups using the Library. We have carried out a risk assessment to ensure a safe basic environment but groups hiring the Library will need to carry out their own risk assessment in relation to the conduct of their meetings. Consequently attendance at events has been limited to 30 on a trial basis and attendees are asked to wear face coverings. This will be reviewed following the outcome of trial events with a view to enabling community activities to restart as soon as possible.

Totley Library Volunteer And Trustee Vacancies

We are lucky that many experienced volunteers have now returned and with the addition of new volunteers we will be able to increase our opening hours in the future. If you are interested in becoming involved in the running of Totley Library, as a volunteer or trustee, we would welcome new faces. For trustees we are particularly looking for people who have experience in the management of events, working in a voluntary organisation and creation of policies and procedures. **A discussion at our recent AGM highlighted a need for a greater diversity of trustees in both age and ethnicity so we are particularly interested in hearing from people who could help us to achieve this.**

If anyone would like further information regarding the roles and responsibilities available please contact us at chair@totleycric.org.uk.

Latest Lottery Winners

In the July draw, the first-prize winner was Brenda Fryer and the second-prize winner was Amanda Hardwick. The first-prize winner in the August draw was Amanda Hardwick, and the second prize was won by Roger Lasko. Congratulations to all!

For up-to-date information on our activities please go to our website at www.totleycric.org.uk or our Facebook page.

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Update from Olivia Blake MP



Firstly I want to thank everyone who has been in touch with me over the summer about the horrific situation in Afghanistan. It is unbearably sad and distressing, especially for those that have friends and family unable to leave. My office and I have been working hard to support people, and I have raised my deep

concerns with the Government's response. I will continue to do everything I can to support those stuck in Afghanistan, as well as campaign to secure amnesty for all Afghans in the UK, ensure safe routes are provided for everyone fleeing war and violence, and step up my fight against the Anti-Refugee Bill. If you live in Hallam and have family members trying to leave Afghanistan please get in touch and my team and I will do everything we can to help.

I have also this summer launched a consultation for Hallam residents, following the shocking rise in abuse of front-line workers over the past year. I have heard story after story, including from people in Totley, who have experienced verbal and physical abuse from customers on a near daily basis. Since the start of the pandemic, more than half of customer-facing workers have experienced verbal or physical abuse while they do their job. I will be working hard to change the law so that everyone is protected in their place of work. At the time of writing, I am preparing to bring a motion to Parliament to make this abuse a criminal offence, so that all front-line staff are protected.

I joined the RSPB and the National Trust in the quest to tag a beautiful hen harrier chick. These are such a precious and magnificent species deserving of protection. If you would like to watch the video, you can do so on my website. I also took part in an event put on by Chris Packham, and spoke to Wild Justice about the need to licence grouse shooting and ban all peatland burning, to address the climate emergency and restore our precious peatland habitats, like those in the Peak District.

Following the declaration of a nature emergency by Nature Recovery Sheffield, and then by Sheffield City Council, I held a Nature Emergency Summit at the end of August. It was great to bring together key stakeholders in our city to discuss how Sheffield can tackle the nature emergency, and what actions we can take locally. Our city's expertise, unique landscape and the strength of feeling as highlighted by the nature emergency declaration means Sheffield has a huge opportunity to really lead the way on nature recovery. I am excited to help to push this work forward with the urgency needed. Nature Recovery Sheffield are asking everyone to join us by declaring a Nature Emergency for Sheffield. If you've not already, please sign up to the declaration on their website.

I have also been working with the Sheffield Star and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) on a campaign to erect a plaque in honour of my historic constituent, Ethel Haythornthwaite, who was a pioneering campaigner - playing a pivotal role in the formation of our very own Peak District National Park. If you are able, please consider donating to our campaign to erect a plaque in honour of her amazing work. You can do so on my website.

At the time of writing Parliament has just opened up again and I am back to being in Westminster four days a week. It has been great being back in the Chamber, holding the Government to account over their introduction of Voter ID and their inadequate plans for social care, and having more in-person meetings with campaign groups and Ministers!

This week, in my role as Shadow Minister for Nature I spoke at the RSPB's Parliamentary launch of their 2030 strategy for nature recovery. I also spoke at a CPRE event to welcome the launch of their new hedgerow research and talk about the

importance of hedgerows in storing carbon, protecting and restoring the UK's wildlife, and mitigating the effects of the Climate Emergency that we're already experiencing.

If you would like to hear from me more regularly, you can sign up to my monthly email update on my website: <https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/>

Olivia Blake - MP for Sheffield Hallam
olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Totley Brook Road, S17 3QS

We are really pleased to be fully open again, although we still advise caution. Services on Sunday mornings are at 10.30 and on Wednesdays at 11.30am.

We now have a Sunday evening service on zoom at 6.30 pm. See www.sheffieldurc.org.uk for details. It was good to be able to welcome our new minister, Rev. Barry Welch, in August. He will be part of the Sheffield team of ministers which includes Rev. Zaidie Orr and Rev. Simon Copley, along with our student minister, Dr Nicola Robinson.

We've welcomed back most of our regular users, including the Singing Teapot Choir on Tuesday mornings, the Rock Choir and the Hastings Road Art group on Thursday mornings and Social Club on Thursday afternoons.

Our Luncheon Club is also meeting and it is lovely to see some familiar faces and some new ones. New volunteers are always welcome. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

On Wednesday October 6th our Carers cafe will be back in the church coffee bar from 10 am. Until now we've been meeting on zoom or at Border View cafe. Anyone is very welcome to join us, with the person you care for or on your own or with a friend to get a break. There will always be someone to offer advice or guidance on any issues you might struggle with. Or just chat with people who understand what it's like to be a carer.

Fundraising for Trachoma, a part of Sightsavers

Our final event for this charity will be a Christmas concert with Friends in Harmony on Sunday November 28th at 3 pm.

Elaine Ferguson
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Totley All Saints

Church of England Primary School

We're so pleased to have started our new school year 2021-22 and are very relieved that most restrictions have been lifted so we can get our lovely school back to "normal" although our youngest children have never actually experience that yet!

We no longer have to keep the children in "Bubbles" so we have returned to our normal starting times and the children can play together with other year groups at their break times- which they are really enjoying! We will still be encouraging extra hygiene measures such as regular hand washing and will be keeping the classrooms well ventilated.

We will have a sharp focus on our curriculum this year so there is even more excitement and enrichment to ensure each and every child realises their amazing potential, develops even greater confidence and has the highest ambitions for their futures. All of our usual lessons, activities, residentials, visits and visitors will be going ahead and there are already plans for Greek Days, Victorian days and Stone Age days!

It's all going to be happening this year at TASS!

In addition, we will be following guidance from the Healthy Schools Team (a branch of CAMHS) to support the mental health of the whole TASS family.



Two pictures taken in our new library!



What's new in school?

The refurbishment of our library is now finished and it is awesome (if we do say so ourselves!). We have also refurbished our Trim Trail- huge thanks to our PTA for funding that- and added some extra equipment to the playground to encourage children to be as active as possible.

Wildlife Action at TASS

We are lucky enough to have had a double Swift Nest Box donated for our school, which will add to the excitement in our Woodland Workshop. A representative from the Totley Show Committee and Peak Boxes will do the survey prior to fitting the box in October.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year with all of our amazing young people.

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

On the Beat



This year seems to be passing very fast! We're already into the darker nights and it feels like Autumn is well and truly in the air. Obviously with darker nights comes more opportunity for crime and I'd recommend having a look at all the home security advice issued over the last few issues. Simple steps can help to make your home a lot more secure and less attractive to burglars.

If you are worried about any aspect of your security as usual you can contact me on the details below and we'd be

happy to make an appointment to come and see if we can offer any help or advice. If you want to be kept informed about crime in your area and you're not yet signed up to SYP Alerts I can do this for you if you send me your house number, postcode and email address to my email below. Whilst local Facebook groups can be very useful they also sometimes exaggerate and inaccurately report incidents nearby!

We have recently completed the Snap Survey which we ran in all the wards areas over the months of July and August. Thank you for the responses from the Dore & Totley Ward, I believe we had the biggest response rate of all the 6 wards we cover. The three priorities which have been highlighted from this for the community are: House Burglary, Speeding Vehicles and Drug Dealing, in that order. We will work with these alongside our priorities as a Police Service and, where we can, share the results and activity on all our social media pages.

We have a co-ordinated approach to investigations of House Burglary and operate alongside a number of specialist teams in respect of these offences. We monitor them daily and develop information and intelligence to seek to prevent offences but also gather evidence to prosecute offenders. We welcome information and intelligence in respect of such offending and would like to remind our communities that if you want to give information anonymously then you can do this either on the Crime Stoppers Website www.crimestoppers-uk.org or via their telephone number 0800 555 111.

The teams are running Community Speed Watch operations in a number of areas which have been highlighted. They will work closely with the Safety Camera Partnership to co-ordinate enforcement in these areas and conduct regular high visibility operations to prevent this and also educate motorists. It's worth noting that the Police do not decide on the placing of speed cameras, fixed or otherwise. This work is carried out by the Safety Camera Partnership and Sheffield City Council but information we gain from the Speed Watch operations does feed into their decisions.

Drugs dealing and taking is a priority for the team, again we would welcome information and intelligence. *(continued. p.8)*

We are preparing and working a number of operations to seek to tackle this in our communities as we know the impact that this has.

Now that a number of the Covid restrictions have lifted we are returning to some of our community meetings and events and hope if you have any issues you feel able to approach the team or contact us via 101 or our dedicated email Sheffieldsouthwestnhp@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

You can also contact me as usual on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or my work mobile number 07787 881945. A gentle reminder that these details should not be used to report any incidents which require police attendance! These should be reported as normal through 101 if no crime is happening at the time of the call or 999 if there is an immediate risk to life or property.

Thanks for reading,

Adrian Tolson, PCSO 8136
Sheffield South West NHP

Calling Budding Gardeners!

Are you interested in joining a bunch of like-minded people and love nature?

Totley Library Gardening Group are looking for volunteers regardless of experience so make my daisy and take stalk of your life!

For more information please contact fionaksmith@gmail.com

Julie Gay



Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society

Hello everyone!

I am so happy to inform you that TOADS will at last be performing in November 2021. It's been a long 2 years!

As I have previously reported, TOADS have remained in close contact with each other, using our usual Tuesday evening rehearsal time for quizzes, play-readings, anecdote-telling, etc., via ZOOM. On two occasions we met as a group for an evening stroll around Millhouses Park (see photo) – so lovely to see everyone in the flesh, so to speak.



The play in November will be a thriller written by Leslie Sands – *Something to Hide* – and will be directed by my husband John. Rehearsals are well under way.

The dates of the play are Wednesday 24th November to Friday 26th November at 7.30pm, and Saturday 27th November at 2.30pm.

Tickets can be ordered from Jeff on 0114 235 1206, or from any Toads member – £6, or £5 for concessions. The venue is, as always, St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South.

Please come along and support us – your very own local Am Dram Society! It will be lovely to see you.

Don't forget, if you fancy having a go at acting, or helping backstage in any capacity, TOADS meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Guild Room at St John's Church Hall.

Best wishes to you all,

Anne Bettridge

New Local Area Committee meets (from p.1)

question to ask, and also local issues of concern from highways and road safety concerns to the Sheaf turning blue. How well will both types of question be answered? That is the test.

The South West LAC is expected to meet in public four times per year, once in each ward. This first meeting was an introduction and the work is due to begin in earnest with consideration of a local plan that will set policy priorities for the committee. A draft of this plan will be circulated in time for comments before it goes to the LAC. To receive this or to get more information, you can sign up to updates at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/south-west-local-area-committee> or google Sheffield South West area committee.

We want to stress however that the new working arrangements do not alter the basic function of your local Councillors. We are here to represent the residents of Totley, Bradway, Dore & Whirlow and help them with any concerns they have about our local area. You can contact us by email, by phone or at one of our regular surgeries.

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Friends Of Gillfield Wood

We are hoping to run the following four events this year, so please make a note in your diaries if you would like to join us. These events will be free to members and non-members.

Monday November 8th 'Hedgehogs - an illustrated talk' by Jo Wilkinson, will provide an insight into the lives of Hedgehogs and what you can do to help them. Please note this is a Zoom meeting, not a meeting in the library as originally planned. If you are not a member of the group but you would like to attend via Zoom, please email our secretary, Andy, on fogwsecretary@gmail.com



Photo credit: British Hedgehog Protection Society

Monday December 6th Our Christmas meeting! It will feature 'Swifts: an illustrated talk' by John Ellicock. Lester Hartmann of the now famous 'Peak Boxes' will be joining us with his specially-designed Swift nest boxes. This is a great opportunity to find out more about the Totley Swift Group which has been running for two seasons and is an integral part of Friends of Gillfield Wood.

At the moment this indoor meeting has been arranged to be in Totley Library at 7.30pm. This meeting is likely to be bookings only as we are limited to 30 attendees but we could be forced into making it a Zoom meeting so please check our website, www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com, nearer the time if you are interested.

Our two planned outdoor events are jointly run with Sorby Natural History Society:

Sunday October 10th Small Mammal Trapping with Val Clinging of Sorby Natural History Society. Any small mammals caught will be released after close-up identification. This will be a family event - children very welcome! Special traps containing food will be set the night before. We will meet at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane at 8.30am for this special annual event.

Saturday November 13th A walk in the wood looking for Fungi with Chris Kelly of Sorby Natural History Society. We will meet at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane at 10am. You can leave the event when you wish but if you would like to stay into the afternoon you may want to bring a packed lunch.

Suitable winter clothing is recommended for both events. Strong footwear is also recommended, due to the time of year and the fact that we are likely to be off the footpaths at times.

If you would like to become a member of FOGW please do not hesitate to contact Andy, our secretary.

Andy also organises our Practical Conservation Mornings. We work closely with a Council Ranger and carry out a wide variety of tasks in Gillfield Wood. The conservation work involves both light and heavy work and usually takes place once a month on a Sunday morning. No experience is necessary to take part. More information can be found on our website. If you are interested, please contact Andy.

Totley Swift Group

An integral part of Friends of Gillfield Wood, Totley Swift Group has just completed its second season.



Our Swifts have now departed to their winter quarters in Africa and we now await their return next May. But our work continues. By the end of October 2021, we hope to have at least 40 Swift nest boxes erected around the village. These are dual nest boxes that have two nest chambers, so effectively we are providing 80 new nest sites for prospecting Swifts next year and future years in an attempt to increase the breeding population of Swifts in Totley.

Nearly all the Swifts in Totley are nesting in gaps in brickwork that are found under gutters. We are not only wanting to protect these nest sites (by making house owners aware they have Swifts breeding in their property between May and August) but we are also erecting new purpose-built nest boxes in the same area on other properties, high up under gutters to attract these fascinating birds.

Unlike some bird species, Swifts do not make a mess down the outside of properties and the nest boxes do not need cleaning out each year. So, if you are interested in purchasing and having a nest box erected on your house, please write to swiftsoftotley@outlook.com.

Totley Swift Group has 50 members on its mailing list. There is no charge to be a member of the group so if you would like to be on the mailing list please write to swiftsoftotley@outlook.com. We run an active and informative Facebook page as well, should you be interested.

To help us purchase more nest boxes this year we have successfully secured a grant from 'Birds on the Brink'. Their reputation expands worldwide, so we are extremely pleased that not only did we get the grant but our group has been given excellent coverage on their website, www.birdsonthebrink.co.uk/blog. It's certainly worth a look.

Reference is made in the above blog to a connection we are making with the two Primary Schools in Totley. This is at an early stage, but we hope to erect a Swift nest box on each school as a start to involve both schools and the children in our Swift project. Both boxes will have been purchased from the monies granted to us by 'Birds on the Brink'.

More information about the Totley Swift Group can be found on the Friends of Gillfield Wood website.

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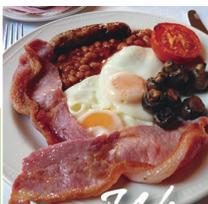
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Friends of Dore & Totley Station

What's changed in only two short months?

Outwardly down at the station very little, but those walking by may notice a second bench has appeared. Last year the first was kindly presented by Abbeydale Rotary Club, together with a planter. It was expected to be used by returning rail passengers while waiting for a taxi, or family pick up. By the time it was installed, however, rail passengers had all but disappeared.



No matter, it was well positioned for a different market: local residents out for a stroll, and others walking further, maybe doing part of the Sheffield Round Walk. Picnics were eaten while sitting on the bench. At the worst time when there were no cars in the car park, parents sat to watch their children gain confidence on new bikes riding up and down in all the empty space.

Fortunately rail passengers are returning and more are waiting to be picked up. The new bench is dedicated to former local resident Peter Fox, writer of many books about railways and co-founder of Platform 5 Publications. Very many train enthusiasts will have bought their volumes recording almost anything that moves on the railway. His "Grumpy Old Man" column in Today's Railways magazine might well highlight failings at our little station where he had taken on the role of station adopter. His intricate knowledge of railways and those who worked in them were helpful in the battle to get the stopping service to work through to Piccadilly instead of requiring a change at New Mills. He also lobbied for stops on the fast services. It's possible none of that would have happened without his connections.



Getting back to normal? The car park on 17th September

Services today

By the start of 2020 we had the best service we'd ever had – to Manchester! 44% of commuters were going there and only 22% to Sheffield, with a further 11% to Leeds. Monday to Thursday that would be over 400 people. 3 trains an hour at commuting peak times still go to and from Manchester, operated by Northern Railway, TransPennine Express (TPE) and East Midlands Railway (EMR). Two from EMR are currently suspended until December. The service into Sheffield is not so good, and coming out isn't even hourly. That's something we have to get addressed. We'll have to wait and see how passenger numbers recover over the next few months. Currently commuter numbers are little more than 30% of early 2020.

Commuters come back!

Leisure travellers - don't be afraid of crowded early trains. That's almost impossible on TPE and Northern services at present. No old Pacer trains either. Compare the following services to Manchester and choose the way to go. Prices may vary from day to day, these were for Monday 13th September.

7.14 by TPE: 50 minutes (6 coaches)- £10.90 Advance single
7.20 by Northern: 74 minutes -£6.30 Advance single
7.35 by EMR: 61 minutes - £23.20 Anytime Single (no Advances)

8.15 by TPE: 49 minutes (6 coaches) - £12.40 Advance single
8.39 by Northern: 62 minutes - £6.30 Advance single.

Commuters are staying away so that leaves plenty of room on most weekday trains before 9am. First class on TPE trains and a refreshment trolley in the front half of many. These trains can be very useful to make day trips, not least because there's an hourly fast service back in the evenings and the fast services make connections with west side trains at Stockport as well as Piccadilly.

Leisure use over the summer holidays may have been as high as in 2019, on fine days even higher. Many of our trains midweek were busy and on fine weekends some looked almost full. So far Hope Valley trains are coping with the numbers, assisted by Northern sending out 3 and 4 coach trains at weekends. How long the railway leisure boom will last will depend on the weather and how soon people can travel overseas!

At the time of writing EMR have a strike by RMT senior conductors and are not operating on the Sheffield – Liverpool section on Sundays. This adds pressure on the other two.

The Hope Valley Capacity Improvement Scheme

It really is coming. The natural environment is being resurveyed to ensure all appropriate plants and animals are protected. More detailed test borings are being made for the

Hope Valley Capacity Scheme

Dore & Totley

Purpose of the Project

The Hope Valley Capacity Scheme will enable greater train capacity, connectivity and reliability for passengers travelling between Manchester and Sheffield, by removing several bottlenecks along the Hope Valley line. The project is being carried out by the Volker Rail Story Joint Venture (VRSJV), on behalf of Network Rail.

Work at Dore and Totley

A second railway line will be constructed at Dore Station Junction and track will be extended between West View Lane and Dore South Junction. A second platform and a footbridge with lifts will also be built at Dore & Totley Station, while improvements will be made to signage on Heeley Loop. Most work will take place during normal working hours; however, when work requires possession of the tracks during the Summer 2022, some work will be at night and over weekends.

Project Duration Timeline			
Summer 2021	Autumn/Winter 2021	2022	Summer 2023
Survey Works	Site Establishment	Construction Works	Scheme Completion

*Exact dates will be confirmed in due course and communicated with local residents.



How to get in touch

If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please visit www.networkrail.co.uk/contact or telephone our 24-Hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.



Hope Valley Capacity Scheme

Dore & Totley

new footbridge lift towers. A preliminary work camp is in place on the railway triangle, but it will be greatly enlarged before the main work starts when maybe 40 spaces will be cordoned off in the car park. Undoubtedly some short term pain, but long term gains from late 2023 and early 2024. Watch this space, posters on the station, and on the FoDaTS Facebook page and website.

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.

Alternatively look for our website at www.fodats.net

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

Chris Morgan, Chairman



Transport 17

It was such a good feeling to celebrate Transport 17 (T17) starting to operate once more in the last article. Operations have gathered momentum since then with more lunch clubs opening up over September. We are also now taking more passengers (8 per bus) but our priority still remains to provide a safe and secure service for both our passengers and our volunteers with some covid procedures still in place. To add to this good news, there have been a number of developments for T17 over the past two months which we hope will result in a new era beginning, building on the foundations of Alan Jockel's vision of 1984.

News Updates

We are delighted to report that Fiona Smith has been appointed as T17's Operation's Manager taking up her new role on the 6th of September. Since she came on board to help us out in February she has proved invaluable at organising the service to date and brings with her considerable experience and understanding about the needs of a diverse range of client groups and is also well acquainted with the voluntary sector. In addition, Lynn Sanderson has been appointed as Administrative Assistant, to take over from Fiona, and will be joining the T17 Team shortly.

Joanna Woodward, a Community Development Officer with AGE UK Sheffield, has been co-opted to the Management Committee and has strengthened our links with People Keeping Well and its very active network of events and other external sources. Colin Muncie has also been co-opted to the management committee and will be acting Chairperson until our AGM next March when current and co-opted members of the management committee are (re)elected by the shareholders. Colin brings with him a wealth of experience in business finance and governance. Since his retirement he has immersed himself in voluntary community work. We are already feeling the benefit of his involvement. We offer them all a very warm welcome, wish them every success in their new roles and feel positive that T17 can go from strength to strength over the coming months.

As many of you know, Jenny Nuttall has been Secretary for the T17 Management Committee for several years. Amidst all the good news reported above, we are really sorry to tell you that Jenny has decided to step back from her T17 responsibilities for personal reasons. She has been involved with T17 since 2017, initially spending time in the office setting up computer records for some of our reporting systems before becoming Secretary. Her support and extensive knowledge of the organisation is well known and highly valued and she has been a mainstay in keeping T17 going over the last 18 months. We cannot thank her enough for the time she has given and our thoughts and best wishes go to her.

During the summer we met with our new landlord, Andrew Morton. He and his family were stopping over in Sheffield having left their home and work in Hong Kong. It was good to meet face to face and we were able to thank him personally for the support he has given us over the difficult COVID time. We are awaiting a new lease agreement with him and look forward to working with him in the future.

With all fingers crossed we have booked to hold the Christmas Fayre at the Cross Scythes on Saturday 20th November. Please pop the date in your diary and look out for and update and posters nearer the time. We will look forward to meeting new faces and old friends at what has traditionally been our most successful event.

This feels like such an exciting time for T17 as we move forward. Our networking links go from strength to strength as we build partnerships with individuals and organisations.

Hopefully Alan Jockel would be well satisfied with the way the organisation he founded is progressing.

New Volunteers Wanted

As our service continues to open up and existing volunteers move away or their personal situations change, the need for new volunteers is becoming more and more important.

Current volunteers tell us that they 'like driving and get a real kick out of seeing our passengers....getting together with their chums at the various coffee mornings and lunch clubs,' and that there is 'often lots of friendly banter with the passengers and fellow passenger assistant.' Many tell us that being a volunteer gives them 'great pleasure,' the 'appreciation shown by passengers makes you feel good knowing you've made a difference to their day,' and that they've 'made good friends at T17.' Volunteers appreciate that 'it only takes approximately 4hrs of my day and just to see the results of happiness in our passengers makes it all worthwhile,' and importantly, 'the hours are reasonably flexible so can fit in around holidays and social life.'



This is a great time to join T17 as a volunteer, as a new era unfolds. Full training is provided for those who would like to volunteer as a minibus driver or passenger assistant and clearly these are core roles within T17. However, there are many other roles and ways for individuals to volunteer with the organisation depending on the amount of time you feel able to offer and/or your experience and abilities. For example, are you skilled in DIY and repairs? Could you help with fundraising? Do you have IT and/or social media skills that could be put to good use helping us with the website/social media accounts? Or able to offer a couple of hours a week in the office?

If you feel you could give us some of your time to 'help us to help others', or would you like more information about volunteering opportunities, please contact us on 0114 2362962, e-mail us at admin@transport17.co.uk or visit www.transport17.co.uk We look forward to hearing from you.

Pen profiles of T17's new faces



Fiona Smith began her professional career working in the NHS as a Clinical Psychologist within a range of settings and seeing clients of different ages. However the majority of her Clinical Psychology career was spent working with older adults who presented with a range of mental health problems and/or dementia.

Since the age of 14, voluntary work has played a significant part in Fiona's life. Initially, being introduced to the voluntary sector through family members and by participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, she has been a volunteer at Totley Library since the Council closed the library and volunteers took over the running of it in 2014.

Fiona lives in Sheffield with her partner and two young children but was born, and grew up, in Cornwall and the county and its heritage remains important to her. She particularly enjoys spending time outdoors, and her interests include caring for and sustaining the environment and natural world around us, being part of a caring and supportive community, and spending time with friends.



Lynne Sanderson: "I grew up and have spent most of my life in South Sheffield. I have two grown up children and one grandson. I spent many years in the recruitment industry running my own company specialising in the engineering, aerospace, steel, oil and gas industries.

I enjoy walking my dog, gardening, spending time with family and friends and enjoy going to the cinema. (when they are open!). I am eagerly looking forward to

becoming a part of the Transport 17 team and doing my best to work helping others in the community."



Joanna Woodward joined the team at Age UK Sheffield in June 2017 as Community Development Officer to implement and develop the People Keeping Well network in the S17 area. In the last four years the partnership has grown exponentially and in April 2020 Age UK Sheffield were commissioned to further expand the People Keeping Well across the wider South West area. Joanna now manages partnerships across the South West having recruited over 30 local partners including GP practices, Pharmacies, Healthcare providers, Community Support Officers, charities, churches, local activity and Transport providers, Libraries and local publications.

The partners work together to increase activities and services and support existing provision to increase mental and physical well-being for every member of the community.

In addition to People Keeping Well, Joanna also manages a number of older people's campaigning groups such as the Sheffield 50+, the Age Friendly Sheffield Steering group and the Intergenerational Age Partnership, as part of Sheffield City Councils Equality Partnership network. Joanna grew up in S17 and lives in Dronfield with her husband and 3 year old son.



Having graduated from Manchester, **Colin Muncie** has had an extensive career in senior management in the steel industry in the UK and the United States.

Colin retired in 2009. He maintains his involvement in the voluntary sector and was formerly a Trustee at Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity. Colin was a Governor and Chair of the Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee at King Edward VII School, and a Governor at Stocksbridge High School and Poolsbrook and Barrow Hill Primary Schools in Derbyshire.

Until very recently, Colin was Vice-Chair of Governors at Norfolk Community Primary Academy.

Married with two adult children, his interests include football, motorsports, cycling, walking and politics, and he is a qualified grounds person. Colin's interest in grass roots football includes being an independent disciplinary panel member with the Sheffield FA and with FA National Serious Cases Panel, volunteering with three local non-League clubs (and one cricket club) and he is on the organising committee of an open age Disability Football League, the South Yorkshire Ability Counts League. Colin also volunteers with a local lunches club and at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Sandra Longley and Fiona Smith

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Despite the lack of summer we have managed some very pleasant days out walking in and around the Peak District. From Cromford along the canal to High Peak Junction and up the hill opposite; pretty much every path in Chatsworth and Longshaw including Padley Gorge up to White Edge and a round walk from Rowsley including a 600 foot climb. I am now knackered but at last some good news.

We are definitely beginning rehearsals for our next show, *The Pirates of Penzance*, on Wednesday 8th September at Millhouses Methodist Church Hall. This will be staged from



Wednesday 6th April to Saturday 9th April 2022 at the Merlin Theatre so watch this space for more details later. Above is the poster for the show, designed by society member Mark White. We will also be starting concert rehearsals soon so that we can hopefully lift everyone's spirits before Christmas.

A number of us attended a memorial service for Judy Savournin in late August. Judy who sadly died during the shutdown was one of our stalwarts and will be greatly missed but the service was a good one where both Jo, her daughter and John Jr. her son, sang wonderfully. Despite the sad occasion it was nice to meet up with many fellow performers and friends who we have not seen for over eighteen months. We will not know how many members will feel comfortable in restarting. We will only find out when we do begin but we have to start somewhere. The majority will have received at least one vaccination with us older ones having had two so hopefully if the worst was to happen and we did catch covid it should not be too problematical. Life is one long series of risks, we will just have to live with it.

I must say that it is nice to feel as if we are moving forward at last. If any of you are reading this (especially you younger men) and think you might enjoy singing and performing in a comic opera but have never done anything like it before you could not find a better one to begin with than *Pirates*, a real romp with a number of well known tunes. If you are not sure just poke your head in for a listen and see if it is to your taste. You will find us at Millhouses Methodist Church Hall every Wednesday starting at 7.30pm. You will be most welcome.

Keep your eyes open for more concert and show details and oh - don't forget to get your flu jab!

Keep safe and happy and here's hoping for a warm October.

Derek Habberjam

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Not Walking The Dog

- JACK** Why is it called 'Not Walking the Dog' this time?
- RONY** Because it's an upside-down quiz for the *Totley Independent* this time.
- JACK** What's an upside-down quiz when it's at home?
- RONY** It's when I give you the answers and you have to make up the questions.
- JACK** Eh?
- RONY** Well, for example if the answer is 'Jack', the question might be 'What carnivorous quadruped lives in our house?'
- JACK** Me.
- RONY** Good boy! But the question might also be 'What do you use to lift your car off the ground when you have a puncture?'
- JACK** Me again!
- RONY** Good both of us! So let's have a go before we forget what we are doing.
- 1) 17, 24, 45. 97. 218.
- JACK** Eh?
- RONY** It'll get clearer. Remember - we start with the answers.
- 2) There are two but only one has an apostrophe.
- 3) The 'Stores' were the old Co- Op and you had to have a number, and ours was 35448.
- 4) 'Bowls', not 'Bowels' like some kids off the prefabs said.
- 5) I can't remember. (Ask the Head Eater.)
- 6) Because it was built by two brothers called 'Laver' and we think they were connected to Bramall Lane.
- 7) Totingley
- 8) Because it closed years ago.
- 9) It's the Old Hay Brook
- 10) 'No. But thank you for asking.'
- 11) Because they are freemasons, so they can't tell anyone.
- 12) It should have three 'e's but people often mix it up when they are spelling it, with how we have to spell 'dependant'
- 13) 'Beware a blind man is driving this van.'
- 14) Miss Wild. (1882)
- 15) 'It would chuck as much wood
As a wood chuck could chuck wood
If a woodchuck could
Chuck wood.'
- 16) Because no one pays for the *Totley Independent* any more.
- 17) Because we are all living happy ever after in... S17

And here are the questions. But don't under any circumstances read them till you've read the answers (above).

- 1) What buses go up and down Totley?.
- 2) How many C of E churches are there in Totley, and how many apostrophes have they got between them?
- 3) What were 'The Stores', and why did you need your number?
- 4) What games used they to play at the top of Greenoak Park, by the red huts?
- 5) What can't you remember?
- 6) Why is it the 'Laverdene Estate'?
- 7) What was Totley called before Totley people learned to spell?
- 8) Why can't I buy you a pint at the Fleur?
- 9) Why is Totley Brook Road misnamed?
- 10) What did the Bishop of Derby say to the Tods across the tress?
- 11) Why don't we know the funny things men did (and maybe still do) in that funny building opposite Dore station?
- 12) How should you spell 'independent' in the *Totley Independent*?
- 13) What was written on the back of the Totley van that belonged to a man who sold curtains and blinds?
- 14) What was the most dangerous teacher ever at All Saints School?
- 15) How much wood
Could a wood chuck
If a wood chuck
Could a wood chuck
Chuck wood?
- 16) Why is the Quiz so hard this time?
- 17) How do we know this is the end of the upside down quiz?

Rony Robinson

Holmesfield Church Walking Group

Baslow/Bubnell Walk



On Wednesday 6th October at 10am Robin Greetham will lead a walk starting from the Wheatsheaf pub in Baslow (post code DE45 1SR). We will walk along Bramley Lane until we get to Bramley Wood where we turn left and carry on this path until we get to School Lane; then back to Bubnell through the fields. Then 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.

If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246 412767.



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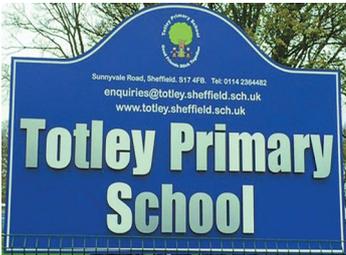
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Jim Illingworth

Dore

Sheffield S17

NO JOB TOO SMALL



New hope for the new school year!

The start of the new school year has been a joy, with children of different ages able to mix once more. We have all enjoyed listening to the various adventures the children have been up to over the summer break,

as restrictions have eased to allow travel and socialising with others to make a very welcome return for many. This more normal feel to life has certainly translated into school too and, although we are still taking extra care with hygiene, handwashing and ventilation, the removal of barriers at playtimes and the opportunities for older children to guide and support younger ones have already been fantastic to see along with the relaunch of activities such as face to face music lessons and extra-curricular clubs. We all hope that the reintroduction of trips, visits and community events over the course of the year will further add to the enriching experience of school which has been so much missed these past 18 months.

In other news, our school lunch experience has had an overhaul! When talking to the children, they told us that, although they loved the quality of school meals, they had to queue for too long to enjoy it! As a result of this, we have launched a new style of family dining, where children work together to set and tidy their own tables, whilst only ever queuing a table at a time. Over the summer break, the dining room environment has also had a makeover. As well as being redecorated, new posters and signs have been installed with a 'Hungry Caterpillar' theme. As well as cheering up the space, they also guide the children through our new lunchtime procedures. School staff will be joining the children for lunch on a regular basis to support them in striking up conversations with their friends and teaching good table manners. An additional hot food serving point coming soon will further speed up the flow of lunch service. Have a look at the photos below to see some of the improvements—we are really proud of them!

Ben Paxman, Head Teacher



A STAYCATION Quiz!

(or just a sing and eat your way around Britain!)

Our journey starts at Owl Bar, so look out for the A6187 and head towards Castleton, but just before we get there we HAVE to start singing, "Land of - - - - and glory" which should give you the first answer.

The SatNav takes us through Winnats Pass towards Manchester so get singing about a man whose odd style of painting made people stop and wonder. The song goes like this: "And he painted - - - - - men and - - - - - cats and dogs" then something about kids making sparks fly from their clogs. His name of course was - - - - - and the gallery which houses his great collection is in his home town of - - - - - .

OK. a quick cup of tea in - - - - - and one of those currant and sultana cakes that this place is famous for and that will put us on until we get to the west coast.

As soon as we hit - - - - - we see a field full of strawberries and follow Paul McCartney's long and winding road that leads to someone's door and Gerry and the Pacemakers are going to take us on a "Ferry across the - - - - - " Hope that hasn't made you sea-sick because you've got a long way to go south into another country so get your phrase book out! Yes, you're in - - - - - where you start singing loud and clear, "- - - - - of my - - - - -". All you men sing as loud as you can, perhaps join an all male voice choir when you return home. Ha.

Keep your foot down on the accelerator and your eyes open for a sign that says - - - - - where in 1968 Marty Wilde sang a song about "Taking a trip up to - - - - - hoping the weather is fine, and if can see a dog running free then you'll know he's mine." Remember that one? No? Well I do!

There's not a lot to do here so it's across the river Severn and back to England where we fancy listening to some slightly more modern bands. You'll need your wellies here in - - - - - because it's so muddy and Madness is singing "I've been driving in my car, it's not quite a - - - - - " (make of car.)

The M5 takes us past lots of orchards and as we're very thirsty we stop off in - - - - - for a cider. Not you, you're driving!

But hey, we are on holiday, so let's carry on all the way towards Lands End and here in - - - - - I've just seen a man with 7 wives!

Come on let's have a paddle in the sea.

Travelling east now, watching out for the Beast of B--- -- M--- we get to - - - - - with its magnificent medieval cathedral. I can hear you whistling along with The New Vaudeville Band who in 1968 recorded a song about the famous cathedral. It houses a round table dated 1250 -1280. Perhaps Sir Galahad sat round it.

Going to the coast now to - - - - - where some bluebirds are flying over some white cliffs. La la la la .Ah I hear you singing this one. We've had a rest now so off to the hectic capital where some Pearly Kings and Queens are singing "Maybe it's because I'm a - - - - - er " and onlookers line up on the street as they start dancing and singing, "Doing the - - - - - Walk." Want some jellied eels?

Enough frivolity. Let's fill up with petrol and bomb up the M1 passing - - - - - where oops! I've just seen a naked lady riding a horse! The next sign says - - - - - once famous for lace and of course the man himself - - - - - . Tarry awhile in the castle and you might see the big, bad sheriff.

Heading east we're going to buy some chocolate oranges to take back home while we're in - - - - - . Watch out for Dick Turpin, hide your valuables where he won't look!

Hoping you've packed your swimsuit and lilo because we're stopping off in - - - - - where there's talk of a fair selling herbs. Grab a stick of rock to (continued page 18)

suck on as we join the road up to Scotch Corner and start singing along with Roger Whitaker about leaving old - - - - town. Catch a glimpse of the ancient cathedral and the university. Okay, it's such a nice day we'll have a comfort break.

In our next town we can buy another stick of rock but this is soft and doesn't have the name of the town - - - - - going all the way through it. Home to the Fringe and the Tattoo.

Further north we find a lay-by or as it's known, a sighting spot where we get out our binoculars to look for the famous - - - - - Travel a few more miles and we jump in a boat and start singing about Bonnie Prince Charlie over the sea to - - - - . Stay in the boat as we're going to Paul McCartney's " - - - - of - - - - - oh mist coming in from the sea my desire is always to be there." Nice song, now let's try the islands' scallops and haggis, maybe.

Heading south, you take the high road and I'll take the low road and we'll meet on the bonnie, bonnie banks of - - - - - and through the Trossachs.

In this next town you may want to get some fish 'n' chips or try a battered Mars Bar. Oh, go on, chips in one hand and a whiskey in the other as we drunkenly sing. " I belong to - - - - - dear old - - - - - town".



Down the M6 we call at - - - - - for some mint cake, though not really cake is it? Down through Skipton on to - - - - - where we start singing again with a real Yorkshire accent about some "Ducks eatin' thee up, on - - - - - moor baht at."

See - you didn't really need that whiskey after all!

Let's just nip over to - - - - - for some of those little round, black liquorice sweets that remind us of the old days. Nearly home, let's go to - - - - - , famous for its huge lamb chops, we can have them tomorrow for lunch with roast potatoes and two veg, not forgetting our very own Yorkshire Pud.

Ah, home, put the kettle on.

Oh darn, we forgot to get some BAKEWELL TART!!!!!!!!!!!!

Answers:

Hope, Matchstick x 2, Lowry, Salford, Eccles, Liverpool, Mersey, Wales, Land, Fathers, Abergavenny x 2, Glastonbury, Jaguar, Taunton, St.Ives, Bodmin Moor, Winchester, Dover, London, Lambeth, Coventry, Nottingham, Robin Hood, York, Scarborough, Durham, Edinburgh, Loch Ness monster, Skye, Mull of Kintyre, Loch Lomond, Glasgow x 2, Kendal, Ikley x 2, Pontefract, Barnsley.

Lorna Marshall

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Vitamin D and why it matters

As we move into the Autumn months it's a good idea to start taking a daily dose of Vitamin D and to continue to take this supplement throughout the winter months. But what is Vitamin D and why is it so important for health?

What is vitamin D? Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin, which dissolves in fats and oils. There are two main forms of vitamin D, which are:

- Vitamin D3 (cholecalciferol) - found in some animal foods such as fatty fish and egg yolks
- Vitamin D2 (ergocalciferol) - found in some plants, mushrooms and yeasts

Vitamin D3 is nearly twice as effective as vitamin D2 at increasing blood levels of vitamin D.

Vitamin D and sunshine

Exposure to sun is the most effective way of getting vitamin D, which is produced through exposure of cholesterol in the skin to UVB rays from the sun. So, during the summer months there is usually



there is no need to take a supplement. However, whilst the body is able to store vitamin D, without access to sunshine it would be difficult to maintain vitamin D levels throughout the winter, so in the UK supplementation between October and March is advised.

Why is Vitamin D important? Bone health - vitamin D regulates the amount of calcium and phosphate in the body, and these nutrients are important for the health of bones, teeth and muscles. A lack of vitamin D can cause rickets in children and also causes bone pain.

Immune health - Vitamin D is needed for the proper functioning of the immune system, the body's first line of defence against infection and disease. Research has shown lower levels of Vitamin D to be associated with greater susceptibility to infection, disease and immune-related disorders. Lower levels of Vitamin D are associated with an increased risk of respiratory diseases, including asthma and COPD as well as with viral and bacterial respiratory infections. A recent study found that patients admitted to hospital with COVID had better outcomes if they had adequate levels of vitamin D compared to others.

Other health benefits - adequate vitamin D has also been found to be beneficial in a number of other health conditions including reduced risk of cancer and easing symptoms of clinical depression.

Vitamin D and weight loss Vitamin D may also have benefit in weight loss and in decreasing body fat. In one study half of a group of women who were on a weight loss programme were also given supplementary vitamin D and on average lost 7lbs more than those not taking the supplement. A further study of 4600 women over four and a half years found that those taking a vitamin D supplement were less likely to gain weight than those not taking a supplement. In a study in men vitamin D was found to increase testosterone and higher levels of testosterone can reduce body fat and help with long term weight loss.

Vitamin D is an essential nutrient and has many health benefits. As most of our vitamin D comes from the sun those of us living in the northern hemisphere need to take a vitamin D supplement between October and March. As well as being important for bone and muscle health, vitamin D is critical for immune health, so it is extremely important to maintain healthy levels of vitamin D as we move towards Winter.

Isabel Hemmings and Sue Wharton
Nutritional Therapists
<https://www.cinnamondays.co.uk/>

Totley's Old News

It's fascinating to see how news from Totley made it into the newspapers of the 18th and early 19th centuries. In the days of King George III in 1783 it is said there were just 21 houses in Totley so we might assume that not a lot happened. However, the *Derby Mercury* reported a local tragedy in December 1789. Outside a public house at Totley Moor-Side, two local men agreed for a bet to shoot at a target. One of them, George Green from Whiteley Wood, charged one gun and propped it muzzle upwards against a table. He was in the process of charging the other gun when the first gun fell down and went off. Its contents hit the other unnamed young man who cried out, "Lord have mercy on me" and died soon thereafter. That news must have spread around the local grapevine.

A public notice in the *Sheffield Register* in 1792 announced that an application was going to be made to the next session of Parliament to make a turnpike road from "a Place called Highfield, in the Township of Ecclesall, in the Parish of Sheffield, in the West Riding of the County of York, to Totley, in the Parish of Dronfield, in the County of Derby; which said Road is intended to said Township of Ecclesall, in the Parish of Sheffield aforesaid, in the said County of York, the Liberty or Township of Beauchief, in the Parish of Norton in the said County of Derby, and the Hamlets or Townships of Dore and Totley, both in the said Parish of Dronfield in the said County of Derby." Interested parties were invited to meet at Mr Broomhead's house at the Bowling Green, Norton at 3pm on the 14th September. This seems to be the genesis of Abbeydale Road and Abbeydale Road South – with the lawyers dotting the i's and crossing the t's!

The lawyers were hard at work with their quills when another application from Parker & Brown, solicitors, intended to be made to Parliament, appeared in September 1821. This related to a Bill to make and maintain reservoirs and other necessary works to supply water to "the several mills on the rivers Porter, Sheaf, Rivelin, Loxley and Dun in the vicinity of the town of Sheffield, in the County of York". Reservoirs, basins and other works were intended to be made and would "pass in, to or through the several Townships of Upper Hallam, Nether Hallam, Ecclesall Bierlow, Stannington, Backfield, Brightside Bierlow, and Sheffield in the Parishes of Sheffield and Ecclesfield, in the said County of York, the Parish of Norton, in the County of Derby and the several Hamlets or Townships of Totley and Dore, in the Parish of Dronfield in the same County or some or one of them." 'Dun' is an alternative name for the River Don.



Like a lot of the county newspapers of the time, the activities of local hunts and their masters were described in detail. Sir George Sitwell, Second Baronet, and son of Sir Sitwell Sitwell, the developer of Renishaw, was born in Rawmarsh in 1797. Young George married the sister of an Archbishop at the age of 21, and later in their marriage they were lessees of Balmoral Castle before it became a royal residence. However, by 1824 Sir George was leading the pack of foxhounds which bore his name from Renishaw with meets around the area twice a week. One exceptional hunt from Renishaw which was reported found "Reynard" quickly and the chase passed through Norton, Beauchief, Totley, over the Baslow turnpike road near Owlbar, then to Dore Moor, over the turnpike road near Fox House and "Reynard" was finally caught at Burbage Rocks. The run had lasted five minutes short of two hours over a reported distance of at least 12 miles. The report noted that "this was one of the most difficult countries to cross in England". As Oscar Wilde's character Lord Illingworth later commented in the 1893 play *A Woman*

of No Importance, "The English country gentleman galloping after a fox – the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable".

What we now know as wildlife crime featured in 1824 when in early January a bittern was shot by a grinder called Broadhead between Millhouses and Totley. It was said to be in "perfect feather", until it was shot that is. The bird, 32 inches long, was described as having a black cap to its head,



Bittern

a ruffed pale-yellow neck, mottled brown body, green legs with a long beak and prominent yellow eyes. The bird was taken to a Mr Spooner of Pinstone Lane who may have intended to have this rarity stuffed as taxidermy was already popular and fashionable. These days, live examples of this rare and secretive type of heron can be seen at the RSPB Dearne Valley nature reserve at Old Moor near Wombwell. I say "seen" but it's more likely that the bird's low booming call would be the first and possibly only sign of its presence.

Transport news: a canal owner, Mr Bishop, announced in 1825 that he wished to join up to the existing county network of canals to reach the coal field in Barlow Woods. His proposed canal would also be able to carry corn from the growing counties of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire to areas where there were corn shortages and to the markets in Sheffield and Manchester. His plan would involve tunnelling from Froggatt Edge through to Smeacliffe Wood and then underneath Holmesfield Lidgate to end near Totley. It appears that this ambitious plan didn't come about, not least as working railways in Derbyshire were just five years away.

The headline might have read "No Births and One Death". The "London Courier" reported in 1828 that a house in Totley which had been continuously occupied for 119 years had not had a child born inside it for that entire time. So, we'er they puttin' summat in't watter? Was this a Southerner's comment on the fecundity of Totley people, or what? We shall never know. The house was described in the report as a "messuage" – a dwelling house with outbuildings and land. In the same year, Mr J Hutchinson, the Coroner for the Hundred of Scarsdale (one of Derbyshire's hundreds covering the north-east of the county) came to Totley to investigate the death of a Mr Hadfield of Sheffield who had travelled from Buxton in the Manchester to Sheffield mail coach. He had been in Buxton for his health, and two gentlemen in the coach gave evidence that two miles outside Totley Mr Hadfield had asked how many miles it was from Sheffield. He then put his head against the side of the coach and on arrival at Totley he was found to be dead. The verdict was "Died by the visitation of God".

A "Valuable Coal Works" was put up for sale by Mr Schofield in December 1828. This local working colliery, "in full work", said to have good quality coal, easy to be wrought, with 22 years' lease left to run, was put on the market but obviously didn't sell as it was re-advertised in summer 1829. It was the Mickley and Dronfield Woodhouse Colliery near the turnpike

road from Calver to Gleadless. The bed of coal was said to be four feet thick lying at a depth of 27 yards under 39 acres of land. All the buildings and equipment at two sites was being offered for sale - metal railway lines, gins, ropes, hooks, corves (wagons), puncheons (roof props), shovels and other implements. The star of the sale was a new "six horse power" steam engine and boiler with its associated apparatus.

A few years on in 1832 with King William IV now on the throne, another business opportunity arose locally when the tolls on the two turnpike roads at Owl Bar were to be let to the highest bidder. The auction was to take place at Mr William Hattersley's Peacock Inn at Owl Bar. The roads



An old image of the Peacock at Owl Bar

were those from Sheffield through Totley to Baslow and the other from Calver through Holmesfield, Bradway and Norton to Gleadless. On the last occasion the tolls were let, the auction price was £405 for the Bradfield and Beauchief Bars, the Bradway Gate and Side Gate. The Owl Bar and Side Gate sold for £485 (about £55,000 at today's values); the Cupola Bar was £154 and the Gleadless Bar was £87. The successful bidders would have to give sureties to the Trustees and pay their rent monthly. It's hard to know what traffic volumes were like back then, but we can probably assume that they were increasing.

1831 and 1832 seem to have been bad years for crime. A man walking along the Totley road towards Sheffield called in at a public house and asked if anyone in there was going his way. Another man in the pub said, "Yes, we can go together". They set off, but the first man's attempts at getting the other to converse were met with single word replies. The second man dropped behind a bit, then said, "You need not fear - I shall not harm you". He then gave a signal and two men appeared from the bushes, each with a pistol which they pressed to the man's chest. He was told, "If you speak another word, you will be a dead man." Then, "opportunistly and providentially" as the report put it, a gentleman on horseback who was known to the victim rode up and the villains fled. Then in 1832, Lord Vernon was chairing the Derbyshire Midsummer Sessions when two boys, Samuel Dean and Edward Connelly, were brought before him. They were known thieves and on this occasion were charged with stealing lead from Mr George Bustard Greaves at Totley. The lead was marked and was confirmed by Mr Greaves' agent to be his property. They were both found guilty and were sentenced to seven years' transportation each.

There wasn't a lot in the sports pages of 1834, but one cricket match played in Chatsworth Park was reported. To the accompaniment of the Baslow Band, the match between the Baslow and Dore and Totley clubs ended in a win for Dore and Totley. Baslow's two innings totalled 100 and Dore and Totley's 104 with six wickets left to fall. This was no doubt a cause for celebration for Dore and Totley.

A month later, Totley farmer Mr William Green put on a celebration for himself and seven local men described as "village patriarchs" - the ages of the eight men came to 621 years, an average age of 77. It seems that a point about longevity was being made to abstainers as all the men had been "true lovers of the tap" and at the celebration "freely shook hands with their old friend John Barleycorn"! It was reported that the men "drank divinely" with quips, cracks, old tales and songs which frequently "set the table of a roar". After toasting their benefactor nine times, the men sang "Auld Lang Syne" and parted hoping for a similar celebration

a year on. However, they probably didn't fare as well as Mr George Wainwright of Dore who had died in 1821 at the great age of 107.

With the world's current preoccupation with vaccination against Covid, it's interesting to see that in 1840 it was happening here against smallpox which was causing suffering, disfigurement, blindness and death on a large scale. Practices similar to vaccination may have been going on in some form in China, India and Africa as far back as the 15th century. But in 1796 physician and scientist Edward Jenner (*right*), having noted milkmaids' apparent immunity to smallpox after contracting cowpox, scratched pus taken from a cowpox sufferer's blisters into the arm of a boy aged nine. The boy was then exposed to smallpox but didn't succumb to infection and the experiment was judged to be a success. In the 2½ years up to 1840, over 30,000 people in England and Wales had died of smallpox.



Hence under a relatively new Act of Parliament, the Ecclesall Bierlow Union was advertising in Norton, Dore, Totley and Beauchief to get the parents of all local children to have them vaccinated with cowpox at the age of six weeks. If there was smallpox present in the area then babies aged only a few days would also be vaccinated. A Medical Officer, in our case Mr Alexander Wright of Norton, was attending the Dore and Totley school houses once a month to give the vaccinations. The vaccinations were free and there were dire warnings about relying on "ignorant persons" to vaccinate, as charlatans were obvious operating in some areas. Interestingly, given the current debate about Covid "Vaccine Passports", a register of everyone vaccinated was kept and a certificate given to all those who had been completely and successfully vaccinated.

Old news, but interesting nonetheless.

Mike Peart

Totley History Group presents...

THROUGH KIRTON TUNNEL

A Railway Journey from Sheffield to Cleethorpes

Part 2. From Kirton Lindsey to Cleethorpes
by **STEPHEN GAY**

TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING, NUMBERS WILL BE RESTRICTED. IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND, PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY EMAILING US AT: secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2021
AT 7.30 PM IN TOTLEY LIBRARY
Non-members are welcome

Organic Wildlife Gardening

First, I must congratulate the Totley Swift Group for their work to establish swift boxes in the area, and also those home owners who are happy to have them fitted to their houses. I was not surprised to hear that swift numbers are significantly reduced. The reason given was the loss of insects both during their flight from Africa and here too.

Two years ago I had four swift boxes put up in a row, as they like to be close together, but so far no occupants. I did see a small flock fly past the end of my road heading for Dore, and am thinking of putting a sign pointing up my the road: 'DES RES FOR SWIFTS'.

I was also delighted to read about the proposed wildflower meadows in the church grounds on Totley Hall Lane. They should look wonderful in time and, while near the centre of the old village, they will also be near to Gillfield Wood which is a haven for wildlife itself and they will complement each other very well.



The beautiful meadow cranesbill (June on)

The television programme *Gardeners World* may be getting a little more environmentally-friendly as in a recent programme viewers were advised not to kill slugs as they can help to control aphids which can do so much damage. An important point and, hopefully, there will be further environmentally-friendly advice in the future.

In my garden, the plants in the patio border excelled themselves this year, with various species of bees visiting all day and in large numbers. The newly-introduced vipers bugloss with its tiny blue flowers was very popular, even with the larger bumble bees, along with the small scabious and marjoram. Hedge woundwort (a shade loving plant) had seeded alongside in a very sunny spot and was extremely popular. It had also seeded elsewhere, so I removed those seed heads. Enough is enough!

When I first started to garden in an organic and environmentally-friendly way, one of the plants I chose was betony. It is very good for bees. However, this year, it bloomed later than normal, probably affected by the weather, and the flowers were not their normal bright red/purple, nor did they last as long as usual. Hopefully, it will be better next year.

Coincidentally, there was an article about betony in the spring edition of *Plantlife*, where it is described as a 'class act' as it is very fussy about being in the best of habitats. The writer was conservation consultant, Andy Byfield. He had found it on the Berkshire Downs racehorse gallops! Not the safest place to be, but he survived to write the article. The Downs are chalk-based, whereas my garden soil is clay-based, but betony is happy on either as long as the soil is healthy. Andy was certain that while he had found a large number of betony plants in a 50 acre patch of grassland, along with other wild flowers, it was 'a rare fragment of intact plateau downland, of a grassland type now gone from our landscape.' The fact that it had survived was because of its use for racehorse training!

There were a few more butterflies here this year which is encouraging. They included the tiny but delightful orange tip butterflies, which had adapted to the new position of the garlic mustard (whose leaves support their caterpillars) in the border on the right of the garden. Others that came later

were the small and large whites, small tortoiseshells that like the nettles, and a gate keeper. However, gardens could be supporting a lot more if we planted more native flowers.

One of the pleasures of writing articles for local magazines is that when friends from my childhood and teenage years who have moved away from the area years ago, but still like to hear what is going on in the area in which they had lived, realise that they know me and get in touch. One friend, who now lives in Cornwall, is very kindly sending me helpful newspaper cuttings on invasive species.

This problem is serious. There are over a thousand different invasive plant species e.g. rhododendrons, buddleia, Himalayan balsam and Japanese rose, and animals include European rabbits, grey squirrels, Canadian crayfish and Muntjack deer. The government is intending to stop the import of all foreign plants and animals. It is clearly not good that they are here. They interrupt the balance of nature and, take up land that could be supporting native species. If you have such a plant, try and persuade yourself to remove it. There are so many native species which are very attractive and better for our wildlife. The prettiest flower arrangement I ever saw was years ago at Hope Show.....forget-me-nots in a thimble, which had got a red rosette!

I was delighted when blue tits nested in a bird box on a fence near the top of the garden but we did not see the fledglings emerge. Later the box was removed for cleaning and among the beautifully-constructed nest were the skeletons of five blue tits. The team from *Springwatch* reported that they are fed on the caterpillars of the winter moth, but the cold wet weather during May had delayed the opening of the buds on oak trees on which the caterpillars depend. Heavy rainfall, which was quite frequent, washed the caterpillars off the branches onto the ground where robins and blackbirds took advantage. Some recent research suggests that birds should be able to support themselves in gardens without the use of feeders, if we plant native species and provide water. It could be much better for all birds and also reduce our carbon footprint as many bird foods come from abroad. I am giving it a try for now - at least, we have far fewer magpies and pigeons!

Finally, a quote by E. B. White (author of *Charlotte's Web*): "I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving he can outwit nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her sincerity".

Marian Tiddy

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Images of Sheffield

4. Platform 5

Train stations are an entire world of different emotions for me, having never had to use them purely for the mundane daily travel. No matter what time of day I love looking out for the individual stories playing out on the platforms.

Maybe it'll be a solitary student looking pensive with bags full of clean washing, or it could be an affectionate couple squeezing every last moment out of each other before the last call for closing doors. I've watched the performance of groups of friends distinctly dressed for the night before, now suddenly feeling the cold and the size of their heels. Or will it be the would-be actor who treats the platform as their stage and a mobile phone as their microphone, shamelessly playing out some personal drama to a mildly interested captive audience?

For my part I stood on the platform waiting for a train to take me to my girlfriend. As the day turns to night I start to see station lights as little warming campfires punctuating the journey through the dark. As we pause at each one on the way someone finds solace and comfort in the light while others join us dwindling few heading back out into the darkness. Eventually it will be my turn to find warmth at my own little campfire, tired, excited and finally at ease....

Photo and text: Simon Deeks

News from All Saints Church

The lifting of Covid restrictions on July 19th meant that churches need no longer impose limits on the numbers attending services in churches and congregational singing could once again become part of the worship. Whilst all legal restrictions were lifted, the advice was that care should be taken to ensure the safety of all attending. At All Saints the PCC decided that some safety measures such as social distancing would remain in place for the time being. However it has meant that once again the congregation have been able to sing (wearing masks) and to join together in church for services and the children have been able to meet in their groups on a Sunday once again. Weddings and baptisms have been able to take place without restrictions and our associate priest Rev Ali Creasey has been very busy conducting weddings many of which had been postponed several times.

We are very grateful to all who worked to keep services going online throughout the lockdown and to those who put the worship together and did the preaching and made sure it was on the website every Sunday morning. Whilst things might not yet be as they were pre-COVID it is good to be able to meet together once again. Let us hope and pray that this will continue.

Even though the church building was closed for some time it still needed to be looked after. Every week the building was checked and routine maintenance tasks were carried out. The fire alarm and emergency lighting was tested every week and the water systems flushed to avoid any build up of harmful bacteria. The church hall needed extensive electrical work and after this was completed the hall was redecorated. Before the hall reopened in September it was thoroughly cleaned and tidied and the floor polished and all the kitchen units and contents were washed and sanitised. Many of the groups who used the hall regularly are now starting up again. The church hall is now available for hire again and enquiries should be addressed to Beth Booth (totleyallsaintshall@gmail.com) or 0114 236 5512.

The PCC agreed some time ago to seek permission to extend the memorial garden in the grounds. This enclosed plot has been used for the burial of cremated remains since 1966 but there is no longer enough space to accept any more. Plans were drawn up to create another plot adjacent to the existing one and the PCC were hopeful that subject to all the planning and legal requirements this would be completed without too much delay. Unfortunately this has not been the case. Shortly after the decision was taken and the plans drawn up, we were in lockdown, and since then a series of delays due to lockdown and legal procedures (as well as the architect's maternity leave) have stalled the progress of this work. The planning department have been very helpful and we hope to hear from them in early autumn. Once we have this, work

still can't begin until the diocese approves the work and the registrar grants permission, and once this is done the Bishop will be able to consecrate the land and the work can proceed. The PCC are extremely disappointed by these delays particularly because they know that families are waiting for the work to be done. However we must abide by the rules and it would be unwise to start work without approval. Please be assured that the PCC sees this work as a priority and will endeavour to complete it as soon as possible.

Since Paul Oakley retired in 2015, All Saints has not had a 'resident vicar'. Rev Katie Tupling, who was at Christ Church Dore, became Priest in Charge at Totley when Paul retired. Rev Ali Creasey was her curate. When Katie left in January 2019, Ali Creasey became Associate Priest at All Saints. Ali is a self-supporting minister, which means that she is employed full time in a secular role and her ministry to the church is unpaid. Ali's role at All Saints is to be responsible for the 10am Sunday service. Ali works incredibly hard for All Saints but it is impossible for her to do the work of a paid incumbent whilst being employed full time in a very demanding role.

Over the past 18 months, the churchwardens, Ali and the PCC have been exploring the idea of a Church Graft with the Diocese and the leadership at Christ Church Endcliffe. A church graft involves a group of people who move, with a leader, to join an existing church to give them a boost and join with them in their ministry and outreach, creating a church family which draws on the strengths of both churches. Both Church Councils have voted in favour of the proposal and we have now received the green light from the Diocese to move forward. The plan is that Rev. Ben Tanner will come to lead the graft and be Oversight Minister with overall responsibility for All Saints when his curacy finishes next year. We pray for everyone involved as we plan for this new and exciting development which we hope will be a great blessing to the Totley community.

The Natter Group has started meeting again. This is a group where you can come and simply have a cuppa and a chat. It is held every Thursday morning from 10.30am in the Library. It is open to anyone aged 60+ years.

Members of our church family pray regularly for our community here in Totley and this will not change. However, if you would like prayer for a specific situation or person, we are happy to do this on your behalf. You can e mail Prayer requests to 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



Totley History Group

As we go to press, public meetings have resumed at Totley Library on a trial basis but for the time being attendances will be limited to 30 people to allow for a degree of social distancing.

Our October meeting, on Wednesday 27th October, will be the second part of Stephen Gay's 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. This part of the journey is from Kirton Lindsey Station to Cleethorpes via Brigg and Grimsby, with a side trip up the scenic North Lincolnshire branch line to Barton-on-Humber.

If you wish to attend the meeting could you please register your interest by sending an email to: secretary@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk.

For updates on all our activities please visit www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk.

Norman Rolfe

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People Keeping Well

We run a wide variety of activities, courses and groups across the South West of Sheffield enabling people to get out and about, find new hobbies, stay active and have fun. This is part of the Sheffield People Keeping Well programme.

The South West Sheffield PKW Partnership area covers the following areas: Dore, Totley, Bradway, Endcliffe, Fulwood, Ranmoor, Greystones, Nether Edge, Bents Green, Brincliffe, Ecclesall, Whirlow, Abbeydale. 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

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

10-12 Fulwood Memory Café at Fulwood Scout Hut. Chat, quizzes, live singers & more, for people living with Dementia & their carers. Provider D

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

12-2pm Hammer & Pincers Friendship Lunch: Ticket (£7.50) includes a 2 course meal & entertainment. Ringinglow Road (S11 7PW), on 26 Oct, 30 Nov, 14 Dec, 21 Dec. Contact Provider I

2-4pm: Dore & Totley Rosemary Memory Café at Dore Methodist Church. 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

2-4pm Bents Green Memory Cafe. Chat, quizzes, live singers and more, for people living with Dementia & their carers. Provider D

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 Eliza, provided by Age UK Sheffield PKW - Contact Eliza.Groark@ageuksheffield.org.uk or 07384 833594 for details to book.

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

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

Provider I: Book via Hammer & Pincers on 0114 2620759. For queries contact Kathy Markwick (Email kathymarkwick@gmail.com or call 0772 952 8844).

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Green Oak Park

There's a rumour going round that not everyone in Topley has actually been to Green Oak Park. If true, those who haven't done so don't know what they're missing, even though it's easily approached by short pathways from Green Oak Avenue and Lemont Road.



To start with, the park is surrounded by a magnificent variety of trees bordering a large playing field harbouring a selection of wild flowers despite its greenery being regularly cut. It also contains a small pond, with an almost hidden stream running through. As for wildlife, during the day there are 'regulars' of rooks, magpies, seagulls, blackbirds and other species who occasionally visit. And, when night falls, the foxes and small mammals emerge, although grey squirrels are usually out and about before it gets dark.

Humans who frequent the park range from the very young in pushchairs to the long-since retired. Children with bikes are often present, along with dogs being walked and allowed a run on the open green. Entertainment is also provided by people's best friends repeatedly chasing balls thrown by their owners.

Playground equipment and a basketball court are readily available, sometimes used by parents as well as by the offspring they bring along. As autumn approaches, there are blackberries galore growing in the hedges for early pickers to bring home for dessert or for making jam.



Adults of all ages greet each others, whether or not they have met before. The atmosphere is relaxed despite the range of ongoing activities. Scooters also abound and the walkways are suitable for wheelchair users. During the summer break, there are supervised activities for primary school pupils. Sometimes, picnics are evident, with a table provided, as well as benches for tired legs or those who prefer to take everything in while sitting down. Amongst the 'regulars' appear to be loners who appreciate what is going on around them despite being on their own.

Compared to Millhouses Park, Green Oak is far less used, but it has fewer facilities in terms of play equipment, sporting

grounds, attractive flower displays or even a cafe, not to mention toilets! So, it's not surprising that it is seldom crowded or sometimes only a few present despite the weather being just right.

As with any public grounds, it is subject to misuse and vandalism by way of rubbish, such as paper food wrappings, bottles and cans of all sorts left about. Moreover, when entering the park from the Green Oak Avenue side, to the left are a dozen, small mature fruit trees, several of which have been deliberately damaged by large branches being broken, pulled off and then left on the ground, as has happened with some larger trees. If this wasn't bad enough, paths have been strewn with small sharp pieces of glass shattered from bottles thrown down with force, thereby endangering children (and some adults) who walk about in bare feet, along with injuring pet dogs with their exposed paws. The basketball court is similarly affected.

On the Lemont Road side, near the two empty brick buildings, there are concrete steps leading down to a path, with its steps having been so damaged as to increase the likelihood of falls, especially for those with impaired vision or difficulties in walking. As to the bench at the top of the steps, I noticed that it had been completely covered, on both its seating area and backrest, with smears of food from what appeared to be the remnants of a take-away meal!

Fortunately, Green Oak Park can still provide pleasure and the delights of nature for those who wish to go there and enjoy themselves in the all encompassing 'Green' it has to offer. Not only has it been a haven for many who have been over-confined during the worst stages of the pandemic, but is now an important outdoor 'standby' in the event of a future invasion from a yet unknown distant cousin of Covid 19.

If you've never been yet or haven't enjoyed being in Green Oak Park lately, mark it down in your calendar. It is well worth a walk through or whatever takes your fancy. We're very fortunate to have it so close at hand and a good habit to acquire where regular visiting is concerned, and at no cost whatsoever!

Arthur Kaufman

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THE BODYSNATCHERS OF YORKSHIRE

by Rod Amos



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