

# Totley Independent

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The entrance to Gillfield Wood pictured recently under a blanket of snow (Photo: Tom Reynolds)

## Beauchief Gardens and the Dam

Roger Hart writes: Vulcan Rotary Club is working to get the gardens back to their former glory. Volunteers are regularly being asked "what has happened to the water in the dam?" We had also wondered why there was little flow in the goit (a Yorkshire/Lancashire name for a man-made water channel designed to take water to a water-powered mill). The water, for the dam and the hamlet, with its water-powered hammers, is taken from the River Sheaf, which is on the other side of the railway. There is a weir (see photo on p.3), but the outlet is lost in the vegetation on the opposite bank. Water goes via a sluice (a controlling valve) into a culvert, under the railway, and then flows through the rear gardens of the houses and bungalow, into the gardens.

A fellow member, Tony Cousens, and I became sleuths of the sluice! Tracking down the persons responsible for it, was our challenge, and we can now give our findings, after

numerous persons contributed their knowledge to us. The sluice is maintained, and operated by a company, contracted by Sheffield City Council. The manager of that contract requests the opening and closing of the sluice according to the rainfall and the demands of the hamlet.

The dam is low for two reasons, one being the low flow in the goit, and the other being that it has another leak! The engineer responsible for solving the problem explained the complexities which have developed over what was thought to be a simple leak. A ramp has been undermined by the water flow, which could not have been seen before the drop in the water, and complying with legislation affecting a historic building, a river, and any waste which might result from their work, is complex.

Our research has led us to acquire maps, and tales from (*continued p.3*)

### UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

Apart from donating food, blankets and other essentials through local churches and other organisations, you can help by sending money to the Disasters Emergency Committee at any Post Office, or online at [DEC.org.uk](https://www.dec.org.uk)





# Totley Pharmacy

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## Beauchief Gardens and the Dam (from p.1)

different sources (one a postcard which shows the railway station, sent to Brooklyn USA, now in my possession). We confirmed that the gardens were originally part of the dam, as stated by Pauline Burnett in the history of Totley, but also that the goit didn't finish where it does now, but went about two thirds of the length of the dam, with a spit of land separating it from the dam, with a boat house on it.



Low water level in the dam (Photo: Roger Hart)

Our work in the Gardens will move rapidly ahead, courtesy of a donation of roses from the wife of one of our members, and a grant from the Council's Local Area committee, to buy a new bench, relocate one to the end of the path beyond the sundial, and, also, voluntary help from VolkerStory (contractors to Network Rail) to clear vegetation to enable us to plant the roses.



The weir on the Sheaf with sluice on opposite bank. Houses are on Abbeydale Road South, railway in between. (Photo: Roger Hart)

Tony Cousens is preparing a booklet on the history of the goit, dam and gardens, and results of our detective work, which will be available at the official opening of the rejuvenated gardens on June 9th this year, by Olivia Blake MP and Cllr. Colin Ross, who will be the Lord Mayor.

We have set up a group email to enable everyone who is or has been connected with our investigation, to keep everyone updated with the work to cure the leak, and, hopefully to have a full dam, with a better running goit, for the 9th June.

We thank everyone who has helped to resolve the mysteries and solve the problems of the goit and dam. It was not, after all, anything to do with the railway improvement works.

Roger Hart

## Totley Scout Group Committee

We're pleased to report that work has continued on the Scout hut over the past couple of months, with another internal wall being fully replaced and insulated, making the hut a much warmer place to be this winter. The new toilets have now had non-slip paint put onto the floors, making them even smarter. Next on the list is to replace the other internal wall and replace the front door. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our recent application to the City Council's ward pot for funds towards this work, and options for other grants that we can apply for are currently very limited. So we really need to get back to fundraising activities to help us get the money together to pay for any more building work.

As well as encouraging the young people in our Group to come up with their own ways of raising money (bake sales, sponsored silences and any other ideas they may have!), we're also going to be holding a Spring Fun Day at the hut on Sunday 21st May. This will take place in the afternoon and will be open to the whole community. So if you've been wanting to have a look at what things are like inside the hut after all the work we've had done so far, why not pop in and have a look around? There will be food and activities to enjoy - and Totley's Seven Hills Quintet will be providing live music, too. If any other local musicians are interested in coming along to play at the event too, please get in touch via [totley1stscouts@gmail.com](mailto:totley1stscouts@gmail.com)!

Further information about the fun day will be available on our recently updated website (<https://www.215thtotleyscouts.co.uk/>) and social media soon. Please look out for posters advertising this nearer the time - we'd love to see lots of you there!

If you'd like to do something to help us raise money in the meantime, our lottery is open to all, and there's £100 to be won every month. Just email us at [totleyscoutsdraw@gmail.com](mailto:totleyscoutsdraw@gmail.com) and we can set you up with a ticket in the draw. Tickets are £5 each.

And you can help us by using Easyfundraising when you shop online. Every time you shop online via [easyfundraising.com](http://easyfundraising.com) at one of the 7,400 participating retailers such as John Lewis, Amazon, and Booking.com, to name but a few, a donation will be made to our Group, without costing you a penny. Just download the app or go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and choose Totley 1st Scouts as the organisation you'd like to support.

Fran Arnold

## Surveying Summer Swifts

19th May, 7.30 - 9pm, United Reform Church, Totley Brook Road

What could be nicer on balmy Summer evenings than to watch out for these exciting birds?

Dore Village Society, with the support of the Totley Swift Group, wants to get Dore residents to look out for swifts and to locate and record nests in the eaves of houses.

This is a meeting to find out how to do it - in your garden, your street, or further afield. No prior experience necessary and we promise it won't be hard work!



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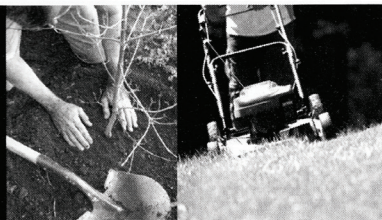
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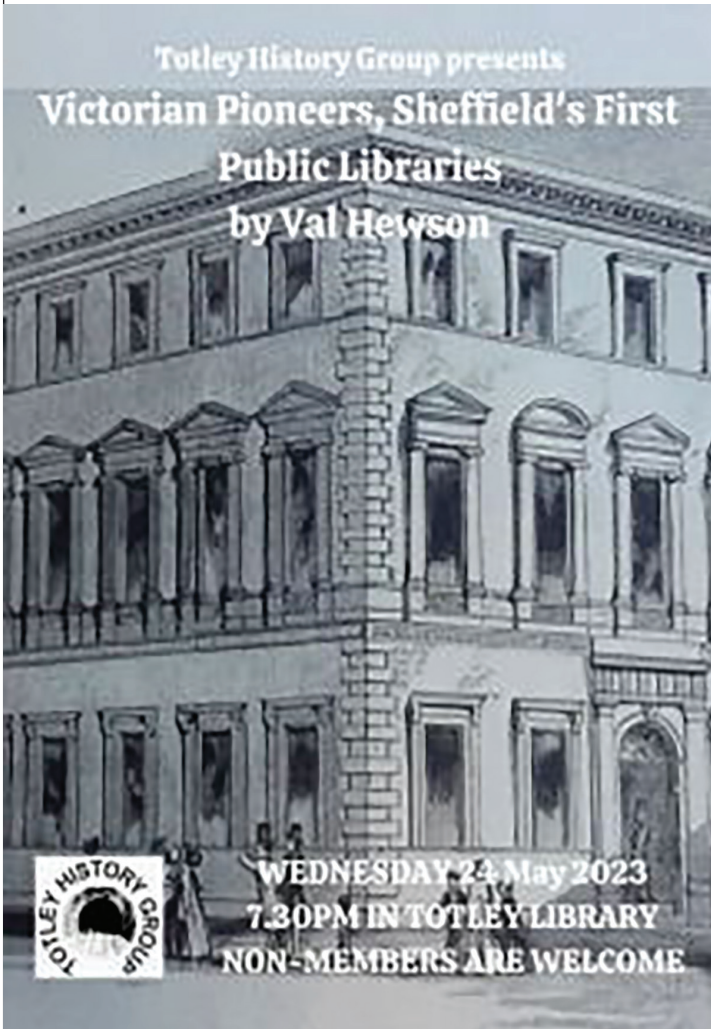


**Mystery photo!**



**MICKLEY COAL CO (DRONFIELD) LTD NR TOTLEY ORPHANAGE DRONFIELD**

According to the caption printed on the bottom of this photograph, it's of 'Mickley Coal Co (Dronfield) Nr Totley Orphanage Dronfield'. No-one seems to know anything about this company, including members of Totley History Group. If any reader has any information about the Mickley Coal Company or its workers or activities, we'd love to hear from you!



Totley History Group presents  
**Victorian Pioneers, Sheffield's First  
Public Libraries**  
by Val Hewson

# Totley Vintage Fair

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**10am - 4pm**

**St John's Church Hall**

**Abbeydale Road Sth**

**S17 3LE**

*This is the re-organised Fair following the cancellation of  
the event due to bad weather in March*

**Admission £1**

*Stalls cost £20. To book a stall please contact  
Christine Jenkins at  
[christine.jenkins1@sky.com](mailto:christine.jenkins1@sky.com)*

*For more information see [www.totley.org.uk](http://www.totley.org.uk)*



# What's on at Totley Library



At the time of writing we are in the throes of organising a Recruitment Fair at the end of March which will have taken place by the time this edition is available. This is planned as a social event to thank all our existing volunteers but also to encourage any new volunteers who might be interested in joining us. There will be a number of people who may have missed the event and we would like to let our community know the various areas that the library always needs extra help with. As well as help with the general running of the library we have teams that help with gardening, cinema, baking/hospitality, maintenance of the building, finances/accounts, governance/policies, training, IT, website, social media, marketing etc. If you have any of these skill sets you would be very welcome to come along to see what is involved with the various areas - the more the merrier as we seek to make the library a welcoming Community Hub.

Julie Kitlowski, Chair, Totley CRIC

## Current Opening Hours

Mondays 1pm - 7pm  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am - 5pm  
Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 1pm

## Totley Library Cinema

Our cinema programme at Totley Library is available for booking in person or by calling 0114 236 3971. Refreshments will be served at all these films. Raffle tickets: £3 per adult and £1.50 per child. Thursday matinee films are free for over-65s.

For details of films to be shown in February and March, please see posters in the library or visit our website at [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk)

## Plant Sale

Saturday 29 April 10-12.30pm

Do you have any spare plants? Or any plants in your garden that could be divided and donated?

If you can donate plants please contact Carys by email subject Plants at [totleycric@gmail.com](mailto:totleycric@gmail.com). Or leave a message with your details at the Library. Contact will be made nearer the event.

We are hugely grateful to local people for their ongoing support. The funds we raise help keep this volunteer-run library open.

## New Book Additions

We have a range of new books for loan. Here are just a few of our latest titles.



## Totley Library Community Art Space

We now have space for local artists to exhibit and sell their work in April and July 2023. For further information, please call in at Totley Library and take a look at the Art Space or email [carolynjallcroft@gmail.com](mailto:carolynjallcroft@gmail.com).

## Overdue books

There are no fines on items that are returned late. Library users are still encouraged to return or renew their library books on time. Lost and damaged items are charged at replacement value.

Please have a look at home for any overdue books and return to the library as soon as possible. This will help ensure all our library users are able to enjoy the newest titles.

You can make a book recommendation online at <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/suggest-a-new-book/> or email us at [book-purchasing@totleycric.org.uk](mailto:book-purchasing@totleycric.org.uk)

## Library Lottery Winners

First-prize winner in the January draw was Geraldine Slinn, and Violet Roberts won second prize. In the February draw, first prize was won by Claire Howard, and second prize by Patricia Buckley.



# Ask Your Pharmacist

## Sainsbury's pharmacy closure: your options

I'm writing this having trekked home through the unseasonal snow. I hope you all managed to get through the period without any injuries or mishaps. It's times like this that we realise the value of services being available locally. Judging by the number of people that came to the pharmacy for emergencies those two days, it seems to be even more important for healthcare services. While this kind of extreme weather doesn't come every year, I fear the next time we're snowed in, local healthcare services may well not be available, especially a pharmacy within walking distance.

Recently, Lloyds have announced they will be closing their pharmacy in the local Sainsbury's. Actually, Lloyds are closing all their pharmacies in Sainsbury's and other supermarkets are also following suit and closing their pharmacies. Strong rumours and most considered opinion suggest there will be no Lloyds pharmacies left in Britain long before the end of



*Lloyds Pharmacy at Sainsbury's, Archer Road*

2023 as their American owners seem simply to have had enough of trying to survive with the pitiful NHS funding. Desperate attempts by Boots' American owners to sell up and leave Britain show how dire the situation is with the NHS. Quite frankly any company who has to provide a joined-up strategy to shareholders, are packing their NHS bags and running for the hills. I will try to explain below why this situation has come about.

For decades England was served by a well-planned distribution of pharmacies so that all people, especially the vulnerable, elderly and poor, could access pharmacy services quickly close to their homes. This suited the need of the NHS and patients, but it did not suit or satisfy the greed of the large multi-national pharmacy chains and the supermarkets. A review was held into the distribution of pharmacies (led by a previous supermarket executive) and quelle surprise, the review installed loopholes which suited supermarket pharmacies. Avaricious and unnecessary exploitation of these loopholes led to a raft of pharmacies opening. These pharmacies rarely provided any extra services for patients and actually worsened patient care due to destabilising the previous pharmacy structure. The Department of Health (DoH) and NHS never increased pharmacy funding to reflect the increased number of pharmacies. This means the same cake has been split many more ways, unfortunately leaving every pharmacy hungry at the table. In fact, over the past few years, pharmacy has received a 30% pay cut in real terms. Even when mind-boggling amounts of money were thrown at the NHS during the pandemic, no extra money was provided to the pharmacy profession. A cynic would suggest

that this is simply because they are aware we will not strike and will soldier on regardless, like we did throughout the pandemic and the following years.

As well as pitiful remuneration for the services the pharmacy provides, the reimbursement for medicines supplied is quite frankly a laughable farce. The NHS quite openly and brazenly regularly pays pharmacies less for the medicines we supply than they cost us to buy, expecting us to dispense at a loss – try that tactic when negotiating with your plumber or electrician next time and let me know their reaction. It has got away with this tactic for years as pharmacists have managed to negotiate fantastic value for money for the NHS with its drugs budget. It now seems that they have finally killed the goose that lays the proverbial egg, with hundreds of medicines in short supply. I'm sure many of you have struggled over the last couple of years and have encountered difficulties in obtaining your medicines; particular nightmares being HRT treatments and during this winter antibiotics for strep a infections. These shortages have caused terrible stress for patients and parents, yet the NHS continues to pretend the problem does not exist.

These funding cuts are felt even more acutely as they come at a time when the NHS is asking pharmacy to pick up the slack from other healthcare providers and provide many more services. Pharmacists are happy to help the NHS and patients by providing these extra services but this is simply not possible without proper funding.

Within the current NHS funding model, the only way for a pharmacy to survive is to have sufficient patient numbers and volume. We are very fortunate to live in a community where that word actually means something. A major part of this is local independent business owners providing services and products to local residents, and likewise, those residents supporting local independent businesses. However, we are seeing a growing shift away from this support with people using internet options and citing convenience. In the pharmacy world this generally means an internet pharmacy posting a brown envelope through your letterbox.

The trade-off for this is an incomplete service with actual advice virtually non-existent and replaced by phones that are rarely answered. I do hope you value the pharmacy degree Jasmine and I have earned, and the experience gathered over many years of practice more than a 'Just Eat' delivery service. We are regularly contacted by patients who are desperate for us to bail them out when they have been let down by internet pharmacies and pharmacies who use central warehouses to prepare prescriptions, or simply cannot get advice from them. We always try to help patients in such circumstances but sometimes NHS regulations prevent us doing so; it's also difficult to advise if we do not have your full medical history. We have also seen a lot of problems recently due to postal strikes.

So, for a full pharmacy service you're better using your local pharmacy. In doing so you will also be supporting a long-term local community pharmacy network so that we are here for you when you need us for acute needs. The value of this network is shown by the 1.6million patient visits to community pharmacies daily. Pharmacies also relieve pressure on other parts of the NHS. With most supermarket pharmacies and many multiple pharmacies likely to close this year, now seems the best time to switch your prescriptions and support your local independent pharmacy. As well as a complete pharmacy service, we also offer convenience with our free delivery service and our 24/7 prescription collection machine.

To ask about these and other services we provide please pop in or send us an e-mail to [totlepharmacyrepeats@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:totlepharmacyrepeats@hotmail.co.uk)

All pharmacists, myself included, would also appreciate your support on a national level. Could you please support the Save our Pharmacies campaign by signing the petition? You will find it at

<https://saveourpharmacies.co.uk/help/>

*Tajinder Singh*



next one!! It is truly heart-warming when I see him come in on his own, and sit with his new friends... I love to see him laughing, chatting and singing along - it is like musical medicine"

Barrie is pictured here with guest Cynthia, and Kathy Markwick, Freelance Community Consultant, who launched Friendship Lunches in South Yorkshire 7 years ago and works tirelessly to deliver lunches to venues across the county.

## Friendship Lunches

The Friendship Lunches across the South West of Sheffield, facilitated by Age UK Sheffield and funded by People Keeping Well, are proving to be a huge success.

The Shepley Spitfire Friendship Lunch in S17 will celebrate its first birthday in March, and our other events are held at the following venues:

- The Ball, Crookes: 1st Tuesday of month, £7.50
- Crosspool Tavern, Crosspool: 2nd Monday of the month (except in April and May when these will be on 3rd April and 15th May due to the Bank Holidays), £9.99
- Shepley Spitfire, Totley: last Friday of the month, £12.00

Tickets include a two-course lunch and live entertainment. All events are 'dementia friendly' and offer invaluable respite for many families/carers. The only stipulation is that attendees live locally and are aged over 50.



Music from Ian King at the Shepley Spitfire

Thanks to Sheffield City Council's Loneliness and Isolation funding, new events have recently been launched at:

- the Shiny Sheff pub in Lodge Moor tel. 0114 303 0556
- the Robin Hood pub in Millhouses tel. 0114 236 9107
- the Greystones pub in S11 tel. 0114 266 5599.

These venues are now taking bookings for future events.

Tickets must be booked at all the events by contacting the venues directly. or alternatively, contact Kathy on 0772 952 8844 or by email to [kathymarkwick@gmail.com](mailto:kathymarkwick@gmail.com).

We are looking for new venues across the South West of the City so if your business would like to come on board, please do get in touch.

Below are examples of the fantastic feedback we received from our Friendship Lunch attendees and their families:

"These events have been life-changing for me and my friends. We have been locked up for almost 3 years due to Covid lockdown and we are now going out at every opportunity"

Julie brought her dad to one of our events and said "He absolutely loves it, it is fantastic. It is undoubtedly the highlight of the month for my dad and he cannot wait for the

All Welcome

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Places

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Tuesday 10-12pm

**Totley Rise Methodist Church**

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## Dronfield Handbell Ringers

The Dronfield Handbell Ringers need you!

Our thriving group needs new members – it's good fun and not as difficult as you might think. Why not come along one evening and give it a try?

Our team was formed almost 50 years ago, when an old set of handbells was discovered in the tower at Dronfield Parish Church. One of the tower bell ringers, Vic Cox, bought them, had them refurbished, and founded a small team. The team is still flourishing today and Vic is still our leader. Although we've kept the name, the team is now based in Sheffield. We rehearse at the Chantry Centre in Norton on Thursday evenings.

The bells, cast around 1900 by Shaw's of Bradford, have a beautiful mellow sound. The team rings in a style known as four-in-hand, whereby players normally hold two bells in each hand. Consequently we can play our full range of two and a half chromatic octaves of bells with seven or eight ringers.

We have a huge repertoire of over 500 pieces of music, ranging from Bach to Beethoven to the Beatles, with a lot of jazz and modern pieces to choose from. We have a number of medieval pieces, specially arranged for a Medieval Fair at The Barn in Dronfield, and a set of Victorian music for another fair there. We also have numerous carols for the festive season. Vic arranges all of our music for us and we enjoy new pieces of music arriving at our rehearsals from time to time.

The team gives a number of performances every year, mainly in the run-up to Christmas. In November and December last year we shared concerts with two excellent choirs; performed festive music in Flora's Temple in Chatsworth's Gardens; and entertained people buying Christmas trees at Longshaw. We also played for Dore Ladies' Group at their December meeting and managed to persuade quite a few of the ladies to 'have a go' themselves - which they really enjoyed. We play at weddings where there are no tower bells, ringing changes as the bride arrives at church and then as the bride and groom leave at the end of the ceremony, and if needed we play while the register is being signed.

The team belongs to the North East Region of The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB), and attends rallies both nationally and locally. Last April the National Rally (a weekend event) was held in Sheffield, and The Dronfield Handbell Ringers opened the Saturday evening concert, receiving rapturous applause! The region's Spring Rally is held in Grassington every May, and most of the team are looking forward to attending in a few weeks' time. It's a great day out!

We would love to recruit some new ringers. If you are interested in listening to us you can Google our performances at the National Rally in Sheffield, playing Passacaglia and Misty. And if you'd like to come along to a rehearsal and 'have a go' to see how you get on, please contact me on 07951 933786. You would need to read music, and have a sense of humour, but no other requirements are necessary.

Come along and 'have a go'!

Helen Foley

## Regular events and meetings at Totley Library

### Monday:

**French lessons for children** following the award winning course material from La Jolie Ronde. After-school classes are available for children in the children's library 3.40pm – Y5/Y6; 4.10pm – Y3/Y4; 4.40pm – Y1/Y2 5.30pm – Y4/Y5

Contact Joanna on 07854 148809 or email [speaquesheffield@gmail.com](mailto:speaquesheffield@gmail.com) to find out more about local availability for French language classes.

**Friends of Gillfield Wood**, occasional Mondays, 7.30pm onwards. Talks on local nature and conservation. See posters, the FoGW article in this issue, or [www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com](http://www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com)

**Councillor Surgery**, 2nd Monday of the month, 6–7pm

### Tuesday:

**Baby Time** 1.30-2.15pm (term times only). Come along to meet other parents/carers and babies. We sing simple songs, have fun and allow time to chat.

**Poetry Group**, first Tuesday in month, 7.00 – 9.00pm. *Please note that this group cannot accept new members at present.*

**Friends of Dore and Totley Station** Occasional Tuesdays, 7.30pm. See [www.FODATS.net](http://www.FODATS.net)

### Wednesday:

**Coffee Morning**, 10.30 – 12noon

**Story Time** for toddlers and pre-school children from 10am - 11.30am (except school holidays). Children can take part in weekly themed craft activities, sing songs and listen to a story. £1 donation per child greatly appreciated.

**Health Walks**, 10.30am, meet at Library. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email [stepoutsheffield@gmail.com](mailto:stepoutsheffield@gmail.com)

**Totley History Group**, usually last Wednesday of the month, 7.30. Talks on matters of historical interest. Check posters, the *Totley Independent Diary*, or [www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk)

**Yoga sessions** 7.00 – 8.30pm, Wednesdays (except the last Wednesday of the month). For more details call Ann Zielonka on 0114 2361585 or 07929 736966. Beginners welcome. You are advised to call Ann to check that the sessions are taking place.

### Thursday:

**Thursday Morning Natter** 10.30 - 11.30. Hot drinks and good company - for people aged 60 or over.

**Chair Aerobics with Kay** 12noon for 45-60 minutes. An Age UK and People Keeping Well weekly exercise class. £3 per week - no need to pre-book, just turn up.

**Reading Club 2** meets in the library on the third Thursday of each month between 1.30 and 3pm. If you are interested in coming along please email Dawn Rich, who runs the club, at [dawn@ilmd.biz](mailto:dawn@ilmd.biz)

### Saturday:

**Regular second-hand book sales.** Check CRIC website and the Diary page in this issue for upcoming sales: <http://www.totleycric.org.uk/>

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## 'Waste Not, Want Not' - 100 Years Ago!

These days there's plenty of advice around about how to cut the cost of living. A hundred years ago, depression meant that economy drives were popular. Some of the guidance given to employees in large companies back then is almost as good today. One profitable 1920s railway company with around 100,000 staff told their employees how consumable items were to be used. They were lectured about how much everything down to pencils, pins and pen-nibs cost. Staff had a lot to remember to avoid waste, improper use of company property and the wrath of the boss. Staff suggestion schemes with rewards for bright ideas encouraged more money-saving ideas. Men were asked to bring their used razor blades to work to add to the company's metal recycling efforts. Not many tricks were missed!

Drivers, fireman and others working with steam engines had to pay attention to maintenance, cleaning and oiling to get the best out of their charges. They could potentially waste a lot of the two million tons of coal the company used in a year. They were given plenty of advice about not wasting it, avoiding needless raking of fires, not putting too much coal on fires at once and running it down before the end of a journey. The same applied to careful use of lubricating oil, another expensive commodity. Tools were to be kept carefully and not be allowed to get wet. Staff such as guards and signalmen using red, green and yellow flags were told to keep them out of the rain as dampness was said to rot and discolour the fabric.



A cartoon from 'Punch' magazine 100 years ago

Similar advice was given to drivers of motor vehicles delivering the railway's goods. This included changing gear up or down according to the pulling of the engine. Fuel tanks had not to be overfilled. Oil and petrol cans had to be kept tightly closed to avoid leaks and waste. Engines had always to be switched off when the vehicle was stopped, even briefly. Longer stops required the petrol tap to be turned off to prevent any leaks. They seem to be obsessed with leaks.

Lights in buildings and light shades had to be kept clean. If you were cleaning a lightbulb or lampshade, you were told that the light should be switched on as the wire in the bulb when it was glowing was much less liable to break. When cold, the filaments in the bulb were brittle and more sensitive to a knock or jolt. Electric lights had not to be "left aglow a moment longer than needed". Lights were to be switched off before a room was vacated, even for only a short period. You also had to switch off any lights in an unoccupied part of a larger room. Bright moonlight might mean that some lights could be turned off at night. Lights could be switched off as soon as there was sufficient daylight. Fires in offices had not to be refuelled near closing time so that they ran out of fuel about the time heat would no longer be required. Gas fires had to be turned off at the meter to prevent any leakage.

Floor cloths shouldn't be allowed to remain wet and they should be wrung out after use and hung up to dry. Mops were well shaken after use and placed head uppermost to dry. The same applied to scrubbing brushes which were shaken and hung up to dry or placed on a shelf with the bristles downwards. Bars of soap had to be cut into pieces of a serviceable size and be allowed to dry after use to make the soap last longer.

In offices, blotting paper had to be cut into small sheets and folded. When one side has been sufficiently used it was turned over so the other side could be used. Erasers needed careful storage to protect them against dust and dirt. Typists were advised to secure their erasers to their machine using a short length of string. Typewriters were to be kept covered when not in use. Their ribbons had to be reversed after first use for 50% more life. Where large and small sizes of paper were provided, a small sheet should be used wherever possible.

Carbon paper for making copies had to be carefully stored flat. Inkwells were to be covered with a piece of cardboard or cork to protect the ink from dust and make it last longer. They should not be overfilled so that drops of ink would fall from any pen dipped into them. Pens had never to be left standing in ink, and pen points had to be wiped before being laid down to make them last much longer. For short communications, postcards should be always used in preference to a letter as the postage was cheaper. Telegrams weren't to be used if a written communication would do. Stationery had to be kept away from heat and dust to avoid it deteriorating. Pieces of string taken from small packages should be kept for further use. Knots should be untied to avoid wasteful cutting. Collections of string should be kept in a box for storage. Pins securing papers together should be removed and kept when the paper they were securing was no longer needed. All pins should be kept in containers so that they weren't lost and could be re-used. Pencils had to be sharpened carefully and a pencil holder should be used when the pencil had become too short to hold comfortably. When it was too short for the holder it could be exchanged.

Telephone calls had to be answered immediately. Inattention involves the waste of someone else's time and everyone had to remember that "time is money". If telephoning, always have your papers to hand to save searching time. It was drilled into people that courtesy and efficiency were a valuable asset which raised the company's reputation. Eyes and ears had to be kept open for possible new business.

If you get the message and apply it to what we use today, then there could be some savings. Now, my pins are in perfect order but I must check my box of string.

Mike Peart

## Short Health Walks in Southwest Sheffield



Below are details of our Short Health Walks. In each case meet at 10.20am in time to start walking at 10.30am.

Tuesdays: Christ Church Community Centre (back room) on Townhead Road, Dore S17 3GA  
Wednesdays: Outside Totley Library, Baslow Road, S17 4DT  
Thursdays: Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods (off Abbey Lane) S7 2QZ

We offer a choice of walks lasting from 30 minutes to an hour. They are a fantastic way to de-stress while enjoying fresh air, lovely scenery, and great company. There's also the opportunity to have a hot drink after the walk.

All walks are free and there's no need to book.

For more information about any of our free walks, please explore our website: [www.stepoutsheffield.co.uk](http://www.stepoutsheffield.co.uk) or call our help line on 07505 639524



## Gillfield Wood - A call for volunteers

Friends of Gillfield Wood continue to work closely with the Council, overseeing and managing our special piece of local woodland. The work the group undertakes is varied; there is always some light work as well as the more strenuous kinds of work. We are a mixed group, ladies and gents of different ages and abilities normally meeting once a month on a Sunday at 10am. We also have the occasional Saturday or mid-week session. Sessions last between two and three hours but members can come and go as they please.

If you are interested in taking part in this conservation work you will be made very welcome. All you need do is contact Andy Brewster, the group's secretary, by sending an email to [fogwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fogwsecretary@gmail.com) and he will add your name to his mailing list.



*A Practical Conservation group in February 2023 - FOGW Secretary Andy Brewster is third from left. Nell Dixon, Woodland Ranger, is fourth from left*

Nell Dixon is our dedicated Woodland Ranger. She provides all the necessary tools on the day and - just as important - she brings along the kit for making tea and coffee. Part-way through the morning it is always great to have a hot drink and biscuits while chatting in a woodland setting and admiring the work that has been done. Members of the public quite often stop and chat with us and it is always nice when they tell us how pleased they are that we are looking after their wood.

Recent work has seen the group removing invasive bramble in a glade the group created, where Wood Anemones and Bluebells once grew. Small saplings of Beech and Holly have also been establishing themselves on a south facing bank in the wood and if not checked they could so easily take over and prevent the Bluebells flourishing in that particular area. By taking out these shoots at the early stage the ground flora will benefit as it has done in this area since a tree thinning exercise was carried out a few years ago to allow the sunlight to filter through.

At the west end of the wood a large amount of dead wood has naturally fallen off trees so we have taken the opportunity to collect together some of this to create a number of brash piles with a view to providing shelter and homes for small mammals such as Bank Voles and Wood Mice. This has definitely proved successful in other parts of the wood and as you have probably read in previous articles, the local children love the small mammal trapping event we hold in the autumn each year, and so do the parents! The brash piles are also ideal for invertebrates; and fungi eventually grows on the rotting wood which in turn provides a food source for insects and small mammals.

We have a number of ongoing projects, and these include managing the meadow we cleared of invasive species a few years ago and subsequently scattered with wild flower seeds. This small meadow lies in front of the picnic tables at the west end of the wood and each year it needs cutting and raking to encourage new growth the following year. We also found one of the picnic tables at this site had become unstable so we were able to erect a new one in its place in memory of the late Derek Bateson, following a very kind donation from his family. Derek was an Honorary Member of our group and his wonderful photographs, taken in the wood and surrounding areas, can be found under Derek's Nature Notes that you will find

on our website [www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com](http://www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com). Do take a look.

Other ongoing projects concern the upkeep of two ponds, one at the west end of the wood, the other just beyond the metal gate at the end of Totley Hall Lane. These ponds have a natural feed of water that runs off the surrounding land, but as a result the ponds tend to silt up, so we have to manage this at certain times of the year as we do the encroaching pond weed. Common Newts have been seen in one of the ponds and Frogspawn was recorded again in February of this year, a really nice early surprise; hopefully it will survive the recent low temperatures and snow. The group came up with the idea of creating these ponds as we are very keen to see the bio-diversity of the area increase.

One piece of work that caused raised eyebrows and created questions from passers-by was our leaf blowing exercise last autumn. Two members of the group harnessed themselves into back-packs with blowers, just like Ghostbusters, and proceeded through the wood blowing leaves off the main path. This proved very successful in most areas covered. Although the fallen leaves are a real picture in the autumn they soon turn to mush and only add to the level of mud on the path which then becomes a real issue for many who walk or run through the wood. By undertaking this task at the right time, once a year, it helps keep the path clearer than if left. Obviously, there are sections of the main path that hold the water and as such become very muddy - something we constantly try to address for all concerned.



*Leaf blowing, February 2023*

Other work we have undertaken over recent years has been dry-stone walling, fencing, coppicing and the planting of certain tree species and hedgerow species. We also manage the rides to keep them open and wide, not only for the public but also to benefit the wildlife, once again allowing the light in so creatures such as bees and butterflies can thrive in the dappled sunlight. We also report damaged stiles, bridges, fences or trees that appear unsafe for the general public. This can sometimes involve liaising with landowners or Derbyshire County Council. And we carry out litter picking sessions and occasionally have to remove graffiti, so yes, we do try to keep the wood tidy in that respect.

Unfortunately, we know that over time, diseases will have an impact on certain stands of trees in our wood; this is happening in other woods across the Sheffield area. Species such as Ash and Larch are certainly being affected. We can only hope that this issue will be carefully managed and sympathetically replanted in our wood so this ancient woodland site will benefit in the long-term from any inevitable upheaval.

We are very fortunate that once a year we walk the length of the wood with the Council's Woodland Manager and the Woodland Ranger to discuss and agree a plan of action for the following year. It is very pleasing that this close working relationship that has been in place for over ten years, allows us to have an important say in how we see our - and your - Gillfield Wood being managed.

If you would like to help us and try your hand at some conservation work, please do get in touch.

*Chris Measures*



## Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

### SHARE - Sheffield Health Action Research In Ethiopia

SHARE is the main charity which members of Dore and Totley URC will be supporting in 2023. The charity was founded by staff from the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust working alongside health professionals from the Tigray region of Ethiopia. We are aiming to provide educational materials for a school in the area.

### Coffee morning

Unfortunately due to the snow we had to cancel our Winter Warmer event, so to launch our appeal you are invited to join us for tea, coffee and delicious cakes on Saturday April 15th from 10am to 12 noon.

### Caring for our planet

Also on 15th April we will have an interactive exhibition which presents 12 possible measures for reducing the carbon footprint of the city and of ourselves. The exhibition will be on display from Wednesday April 12th until the end of the month. When the building is open for group meetings you are welcome to call in and have a look. We will be serving refreshments every Wednesday morning.

### Celebrating the church's birthday

On Pentecost Sunday, May 28th we will be having cafe style worship from 10.30am. If you haven't visited us before but would like to try a more relaxed style of worship please join us.

### Table top sale

On June 17th from 10am to 1pm we will be holding a table top sale, raising money for SHARE. Please call Margaret Barron on 231 1831 or Elaine Ferguson on 07929 720977 if you'd like to book a table at £10.

### Polling station refreshments

On May 4th when our church hall is a polling station we shall be serving refreshments, including bacon sandwiches, vegetarian sausage sandwiches and cakes, raising money for Christian Aid.

## Councillors' Update

It's been an incredibly busy time at the City Council with major discussions on the annual budget, Council Tax rates and the outcome of the street tree enquiry. At the time of writing the full implications of the latter are being reviewed and we hope that further announcements will follow shortly.

Given the current economic outlook, this year's budget discussions were particularly difficult. All three of us were involved in a detailed review of spending plans for the committees we sit on; Economic Development (Martin) Waste & Streetscene (Joe) and Education, Children & Families (Colin). In our view the new committee system coupled with the political situation of no overall control brought a long-overdue sense of reality to the debate. The unrealistic budgeting of recent years could not continue and we were both glad and relieved when agreement was reached on a balanced budget. We were particularly pleased that our proposal for greater delegation of some spending decisions to local areas was accepted by all parties.

Discussions are continuing with the Council Highways department about the recent accident and parking issues on Totley Rise. Options to install barriers to protect the frontage of shops and houses from similar events appear limited and modifying the parking layout would significantly reduce the number of spaces available. Once details have been confirmed we will be seeking the views of residents and business owners on Totley Rise.

On a lighter note Colin was very pleased to join a large group on a sunny spring day to plant hundreds of trees. It was great to see parents and children working together to plant the trees in Totley Hall and Green Oak Parks as part of the Community Tree Week. The children were very enthusiastic and in years to come they will be able appreciate their efforts as the new saplings mature. The tree species were chosen to support local wildlife and this should also benefit our community in the future.

And finally: Joe & Colin represented us at a vigil in the Winter

Gardens to commemorate the first anniversary of the latest Russian invasion of Ukraine. A significant number of refugees have been welcomed into the south west of Sheffield under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. Our thoughts are with them as they remain separated from loved ones back home.

Martin, Colin and Joe

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

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

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

## Update from Olivia Blake MP

To mark a year since the renewed invasion of Ukraine, I joined people across our city at a vigil. We heard from those who have been forced to flee and about loved ones who have tragically lost their lives. It is humbling to work with the Ukrainian community in Sheffield. I also observed a one-minute silence - to stand with Ukrainians and remember all those who have lost their lives during this brutal war.

During Eating Disorder Awareness Week I spoke during the debate in Parliament about the crisis facing our services. Eating Disorder services in Sheffield and across the country are at breaking point. Demand is still going up, cases are becoming more critical and resources aren't being provided. To truly address this crisis we need a root and branch reform of eating disorder provision.

As a result of over-stretched services, I have been hearing harrowing reports of children with Eating Disorders being restrained in general medical wards by untrained staff. After raising this with the Minister, she has agreed to look at the loopholes in current legislation. I will continue to press on this until the use of restraint on all mental health patients is properly monitored and recorded - whether they are in mental health wards or not. You can read more information about this campaign on my website.

I am also honoured to have won two awards this month, one from the RSPB for my work as a Hen Harrier Species Champion and another from the Climate Coalition as an MP constituency champion. I am proud to represent a constituency of people fighting for action on the climate and nature emergency and I will continue to champion these issues in Parliament.

I spoke during the Woodcock debate in support of a petition from Wild Justice, signed by many people in our city, to shorten the shooting season to help protect native populations of the Woodcock.

After a much-delayed process, the Government has finally published its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) improvement plan. There is much to digest in the plan, and I'll be paying close attention to the details, but there are some areas that are an initial cause for concern. For example, I am concerned that it will lead to a levelling down of standards. I asked the Minister what was being done to ensure mental health support is accessible to every child with SEND, and those with complex needs can access personalised support.

A parent in our constituency has suffered a serious head injury after a large piece of cladding flew off the school building, striking her on the head. After raising this issue in Parliament, the Schools Minister has agreed to meet with me to discuss what urgent support can be given to the school to carry out repairs. Ministers need to take urgent action to address this crisis before anyone else is harmed. I've also written to Gillian Keegan to demand urgent action to reverse cuts and ensure schools are safe, before anyone else is harmed.

I held a debate in Parliament on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The generosity of people providing a safe home to those fleeing war has been heartening to witness. But a year on it is vital that we learn the lessons from the scheme, for Ukrainians and all those fleeing war.

As always, if there is an issue you would like me to campaign on, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Or if you would like to hear more about what I have been getting up to, you can sign up to my monthly newsletter on my website.

*Olivia Blake - MP for Sheffield Hallam*

[olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk)



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## Totley Rise Methodist Church

In November, like several other organisations in the area, we began running a warm, **Welcoming Places coffee morning** for anybody in the community to drop in, chat and have free refreshments in a warm friendly place. In our case this is on Tuesday mornings in our church lounge. A month later, and the church's boiler took exception to this extra work, developing a terminal problem, which would require its complete replacement – a task which took more than a month, including Christmas. We were grateful that Dore Methodists welcomed us to joint Christmas and New Year services in their warm church.

Fortunately our church hall (the TRM Centre) has a separate boiler and so we were able to continue welcoming the community on Tuesday mornings – and now everything is back to normal. So on Tuesdays, feel free to drop in to the church between 10 am and noon for our Welcoming Places community coffee morning, and/or between noon and 3 pm for **Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter** - a busy and friendly group with a creative theme. Young and old, men and women are all welcome.

### Children's Activities at Totley Rise Methodist Church

**Pushchair Club**, 10.30am - noon, Thursdays in term time. Play, chat, singing, craft and refreshments. £1 voluntary contribution to cover costs

**Toddler Praise**, Every Sunday morning at 9am for refreshments and activity, and 9.30am for story and singing and fun.

**Junior Church for all Children**, Sunday mornings 10.30am until noon Craft, activities and games, all based on a bible story.

Children must be accompanied by an adult for all these activities.

For further information please email Rachel, our Children and Family Worker, at [racheltrm@yahoo.com](mailto:racheltrm@yahoo.com)

## Parent/Carer Support Group

A friendly Parent/Carer group meets for coffee and mutual support from 10am to noon on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Totley Rise Methodist Church. Please see the panel on this page for more details.

### Easter at Totley Rise Methodist Church

Our Easter services will begin on Good Friday, 7th April, with worship in our Quiet Garden beside the church at 2.30pm. Other local churches have been invited to join us.

A special 7am service will be held on Easter Sunday morning, on 9th April, and we will worship again that day at our regular time of 10.30am.

If you are interested in joining our agape meal on Maundy Thursday, or have any other questions, please email [enquiries@totleyrise.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@totleyrise.co.uk). Our regular weekly notices, with details of other activities can be found on our website at [www.totleyrise.co.uk](http://www.totleyrise.co.uk).

On Tuesday 11th April there will be Easter activities for children aged 5 to 11 (accompanied by an adult) at our regular Welcoming Places coffee morning. There will be a story, crafts and an Easter hunt in the garden, weather permitting, from 10.15 – 11.30 am.

## Totley Operatic And Dramatic Society (TOADS)

Hello Readers!

Doesn't time fly? It seems like only two minutes since I was telling you about our November play and now here we are in March with rehearsals well in progress for our May 2023 play.

Who remembers singing "Green Grow the Rushes, O" in school assembly? I can hear you now trying to remember the tune!

Our May play takes its title from the last line of each verse, "And Evermore Shall Be So". It's written by Norman Robbins and is a murder mystery peppered with a little humour to make you laugh. The play is about the events around a murder which took place four years before and it is interesting how the lyrics of the song seem to fit the circumstances so well. Is there something not quite right in the village? Old tensions and suspicions are brought to the fore, as not everyone wants to bring up the past.

The evening performances are Wednesday 17th May 7.30 pm to Friday 19th May 7.30 pm, and the final performance will be a matinee on Saturday 20th May at 2.30 pm.

Please call Jeff on 0114 235 1206 to reserve your ticket, email [tickets@toads-drama.co.uk](mailto:tickets@toads-drama.co.uk) or contact any Toads member.

We all look forward to seeing you in May at the play which will take place at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South.

*Deb Taylor*

## Parents Support Group



**We are a friendly Parent/Carer Support Group which meets once a month for a coffee morning at Totley Rise Methodist Church.**

**All of the parents who attend the group have a child or children with additional needs or are awaiting a diagnosis .**

**It is a safe space for you to come along and talk about the journey you are on , a journey which can be difficult.**

**Our parents have a wealth of knowledge ,understanding and experience between them. that helps support and navigate your way through a system that doesn't make it easy to obtain the help your child or children deserve.**

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Web site: South Pennine HPS (webador.co.uk)

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## Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

For the last edition, when writing about the forthcoming show I forgot to include the title, but thanks to the ever-vigilant editor he spotted my omission and included it. I thank him and am impressed that he knew what the show was from the description of the characters I gave! For those who missed the details of the show and as a reminder to the rest here is the full information!

The show is *HMS Pinafore* and will be performed at the Montgomery Theatre, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 2LG on Wednesday 26th April, Thursday 27th April and Friday 28th April 2023 at 7.30pm, and on Saturday 29th April at 2.30pm. Tickets (£16 and £8 ) are available by phone on 07565 805405 or via e-mail at [dore\\_bookings@mail.com](mailto:dore_bookings@mail.com) or via the web at <https://doregass.weebly.com/tickets.html> or even by post (please include a SAE) from Mr T Bates, 8 Canalside, Renishaw, S21 3UY. Please note that they cannot be purchased from the theatre.

You may recall that two or three years ago I said that I was finished taking part in the shows as my stamina is not what it once was and the knees won't let me prance about the stage any more. A fortnight ago, however, I was pressganged into taking a small cameo role, so after being on the Front of House team last year I'll be back on stage in this show. It is a very small part and I don't have to move about. As I wrote last time if you've not seen any of the G & S operettas it is a good one to cut your teeth on. Go on, give yourselves a treat. You will come away from the show with some of the music dancing in your brain.

There, that's remedied my memory lapse I hope, and so on with some more cheerful news. I thought you might like to see the picture below. It is of the latest arrival born to a club member - Philip Edward Bird, born on 17th January to Alice and Robert Bird. Alice (when active) is a member of both Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society and of T.O.A.D.S. so many of you will have seen her on stage giving commanding performances! We wish them well.



In February we gave a repeat performance of the concert we did in Bolsover last year to a very appreciative audience at Whittington Moor Methodist Church of some lesser known Sullivan numbers as well as a few more well known ones. We have been invited back to Bolsover for a concert next October when we will be singing more G & S pieces along with songs from other shows. This programme will also be performed in Dore at the Methodist church on July 1st and in Whittington Moor later in July. More about these in a later edition.

Meanwhile, enjoy spring and hopefully we'll see at least some of you at the show.

*Derek Habberjam*

## Rachel Turner gains Queen's Guide award

The highest accolade in Girlguiding – the Queen's Guide award – has been gained by a Totley resident and former Girl Guide at the Totley All Saints Unit.

Rachel Turner, 20, received her Queen's Guide silver brooch and certificate from County Commissioner Wendy Howard at a special event held on 16 January in Totley All Saints church hall. Her family, friends and local Girl Guides joined in the celebrations.



Rachel said: "The Queen's Guide award helped me develop my teamwork and leadership skills, and to challenge myself, both physically and mentally, to achieve more than I ever thought I was capable of."

Among the many activities undertaken by Rachel were a five-day adventure camp with Guides from other parts of the country; volunteering with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust to tackle invasive species (for example, Himalayan balsam); organising a residential weekend for Totley All Saints Guides; completing the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award; and researching the history of the Whiteley Woods Outdoor Activity Centre and contributing content for its website, including a trail and quiz activity.

"Rachel is an inspirational role model for Guiding", said Maureen Allum, Unit Leader of Totley All Saints Guides. "She is the first of our former Guides to receive this prestigious award in the 40 years that I have been associated with Totley All Saints."

The Queen's Guide award is open to senior members of the Guiding movement, aged 16 to 25, and must be completed within three years.

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## A Dark Episode

*Sally Goldsmith writes:* I thought my days of defending the area's street trees from big men with chainsaws were thankfully over. However, I found myself revisiting two of our local street trees in this week of snow. Under the trees, I added, as did many others around the city, to Totley's population of snow men and women with two rough and ready specimens in cap and scarf – one with dog treats for eyes, one with alder catkins for eyebrows and both with banana noses. They held placards saying RESIGN, referencing the newly published Independent Report into the street tree dispute in which its chair, ex Senior Civil Servant Sir Mark Lowcock, says:

"Our conclusion is that the Council's behaviour amounted to a serious and sustained failure of strategic leadership. Responsibility for that ultimately rests with the political leadership, in particular the relevant Cabinet member and the Council Leader: they were responsible for setting the direction and tone."

Councillor Terry Fox, who was Cabinet Leader for the Environment in the early days of the dispute, is the present overall Council Leader. The subsequent Cabinet Leader who presided over the worst days of the dispute, Bryan Lodge, is now Head of Finance. Both have so far refused to resign, though I hope they will have done so by the time you read this.

The battle over the city's street trees – and the proposed felling of 17,500 of them, seemed to rage on for years. Now the similarly lengthy independent report about the whole shebang – all 100,000 words of it – has found tellingly and resoundingly against the Council.

Evidence was taken from numerous people on all sides. The completed Report described the years of the dispute as "a dark episode in Sheffield."

Sir Mark and his team found that the Council's plans were awry from the outset, misunderstanding a commissioned survey of the city's street trees. The Report says that "adopting a flawed plan was a failure of strategic leadership."

Although those flaws were there from the beginning, he said that the emerging dispute with the public was not inevitable and that the Council "...ignored those who said the dispute needed a political solution. They did not get adequate advice from senior officers on that, partly because the political direction and mood within the Council was increasingly to prevail in the dispute not to find a compromise."

Everywhere the Council's communications are described as being "economical with the truth", "misleading," even finding that the Council was dishonest with the judge on two occasions in the High Court. Just as in parliament, no-one is really allowed to use the word "lie". But in Totley, for example, I was lied to about the state of a lovely alder tree on Aldam Way. I took my complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman, I won, and the Council were forced to apologise to me. But those lies were everywhere, nowhere more egregiously than in the Council's claim that there was never a target of felling 17,500 trees – half the street trees in Sheffield. The report found that this was, indeed, the target.

The Inquiry also found that a body set up by the Council to supposedly help the situation and look at decisions around individual trees, the Independent Tree Panel, "was misled over what could be done at Amey's cost under the contract as were the public and, later, the court...Setting up an independent panel, misleading it and then ignoring substantial numbers of its recommendations was destructive of public trust and confidence."

Many of you will remember that the Council oversaw the arrest of two women pensioners on Rustlings Road during a 4am raid on trees that the Independent Tree Panel had recommended could be saved. The women were woken by the police to move their cars but when instead they stood under the trees, they ended up spending eight hours in a police cell in their nighties. I remember the headline in the *Sun* saying "Grannies in Clink!" That event only escalated the protests. In response to numerous protests, the Council

took campaigners to court, threatened them with prison and with such substantial fines that people would have lost their homes.

As the dispute escalated, security personnel were brought in. I have never seen such extraordinary scenes on ordinary respectable suburban streets. Sometimes there were sixty men to see that one tree was felled. The Report says "The Inquiry's assessment is that what the campaigners saw as the Council's irrational, unreasonable, deceitful, dishonest, bullying and intimidating behaviour is what generated the determination, persistence, creativity and ingenuity that the campaigners displayed. The Council's behaviour, in other words, was the fuel that drove the protests."

Eventually the Council realised that the felling needed to stop and later a Street Tree Partnership was set up between the Council, Amey, Sheffield Trees Action Group, the Woodland Trust and the Wildlife Trust. A new Street Tree Strategy was put in place. Forty people, many of them ex-campaigners, are acting as voluntary street tree wardens.

But many hold considerable trauma from that time, as must some Council employees. Many trees went. Sir Mark says that "The dispute did significant harm. Thousands of healthy and much loved trees were lost. Many more could have been. Sheffield's reputation was damaged. Public trust and confidence in the Council was undermined. It has not been fully rebuilt."

There is a fear that the Council's culture may not have adapted sufficiently to prevent this sort of thing occurring again in other areas of their governance. Sir Mark says "Identifying a lesson is not the same as learning it. If the lessons are to be learned, they will need to be fully discussed by the Council and others, and then acted upon."

Sir Mark Locock's public statement and the full report can be found at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/independent-inquiry-into-street-trees-dispute>

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# Walking Blues

Cast

*BLUE a retired greyhound.*

*SALLY a young woman best not messed with.*

*RONY a hirsute man.*

*THE HEADEATER a man off the Grove.*

*THE TOTLEY an ancient & modern Anglican.*

*MS SCARF a music lover.*

*OLD LINFOOT another music lover.*

*A READER*

## Scene 1 Lemont Road

**RONY** You know in the mornings Blue, when I —  
**BLUE** The mornings are when Sally has to take me for my walk because you are still lying in bed pretending to be creative and original for your next article in the *Totley Independent*.

**RONY** Yes, but —  
**BLUE** —but in fact all you are doing is going all over your usual old stuff about Old Smellor and Old Ma Peacock and Mr Wally from the Rise and —

**RONY** Yes, but —  
**BLUE** We've no time for your buts. It's time for my article on page 19 of the *Totley Independent*!

## Scene 2 The White Line or Whites' Lane

**BLUE** I plan this time to take a more postmodern approach. I will question and unquestion the (un) reliability of my narrative(s). I will also ask —  
**RONY** But if —

**BLUE** — how far we writers can trust ourselves. So for example — suppose I am writing about being here on the White Line/Whites' Lane where the pedigree dogs have names like Hewson and Bon Aperitif, and are un-spayed and nasty with it —

## Scene 3 The Spitfire

**BLUE** I am going to remind my readers that The White Line was called White's Lane by older Totley people when they were younger. But that these days it isn't called anything. Unless younger readers can contradict me?

**RONY** I can't understand what you're saying.  
**BLUE** You don't need to. I've gone postmodern to impress these Librarians at the top of Lemont.

**LIBRARIANS** Schschschschshhhhhhhssssschschsch

**BLUE** Lend me your ears Rony! Let's have a little scratch and scramble. Good boy!

## Scene 4 Gilly Woods

**BLUE** Canis familiaris!

**RONY** Eh?

**BLUE** It's Dog Latin like you learned at King Edwards so you could impress the posh Dore girls from the High School on the 50 bus. If you'd ever dared speak to them, you'd have found that most of them wouldn't have minded. But —

**RONY** Minded what?

## Scene 5 The Library

**BLUE** Dear Reader, I am now going to make a little list of us Totley dogs for the *Totley Independent* (published continuously since 1066). And for Rony who never gets up in time to meet them taking their humans for early walks in Green Oak and Gilly:

Nelly, Colby, Milly, Charley, Reggie, Harold, Marley, Pippin, Winston, Todd, Bailey and Munchkin.

## Scene 6 Back Lane

**RONY** Greyhounds don't seem very popular in Totley?  
**BLUE** No. And that's somewhat surprising. We greyhounds are similar to the older residents of Totley themselves. We don't smell much, and only need two tiny walks a day and three or four wees in the middle of the night.

**RONY** But —

**BLUE** But, again like the other older residents of Totley, we sleep most of the time. And get nostalgic and weepy for things we can't remember. And we also wake up squealing and kicking our legs and shivering and wondering what day it was.

## Scene 7 The Shepley

*Enter a Reader*

**BLUE** I wonder, dear Reader, if you would like to hear some of my contradictions?

**READER** No thank-

**BLUE** 1. I'm a dog named Blue but I am not blue.  
2. I'm a greyhound, but I am not grey.  
3. I am Blue like an Owl but I am a Blade.  
4. I used to run at Owlerton But I'm not an Owl. Or an owl.

*Exit Reader*

## Scene 8 All Saints or All Saints' (even the teachers aren't sure how to spell themselves)

*Enter The Head Eater, Totley Vicar, Miss Scarf and Old Linfoot*

**HEAD EATER** We are coming to the dog-end of this article. But perhaps we could have three last questions to cheer up any reader who is still here? (Answers on my bottom).

**TOTLEY VICAR** 1. What do Vicars wear round their necks that a dog-like-Blue would not like?

**MISS SCARF** 2. Who is a dog-like-Blue's favourite composer?

**OLD LINFOOT** 3. And the poorest joke ever in the *Totley Independent* (which is not saying much). Can you name a hymn in Ancient and Modern that would suit a-dog-like-Blue?

*Exit The Head Eater, Totley Vicar, Miss Scarf and Old Linfoot*

## Scene 9 The Far End of Rowan Tree Dell

**RONY** Would you like me to recite my poem to show I love you Blue?

**BLUE** Wuff!

**RONY** The sky

Is blue

And

You

Are Blue

Too

**BLUE** Lovely. Now come on, I'll buy you a drink at the Fleur.

**RONY** Wuff!

**BLUE** And if they're not open, you can buy me one at the Cross?

**RONY** Wuff!

*End*

## Postscript

**HEADEATER** Soz, I forgot the answers to my quiz.

1. Dog collars.
2. Bach (or Offenbach.)
3. Oh Come All Ye Faithful.

## Rony Robinson and Blue



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## Totley Primary School

### Spotlight on science at TPS!

At Totley Primary, one of our goals is to give children the opportunity to master the substantive knowledge and disciplinary skills that they need to be successful, confident scientists.

Children 'Ask, Enquire and Communicate' in every lesson to discover or apply scientific knowledge, whilst the vocabulary of scientific skills and knowledge is taught to enable children to articulate their learning. We also enrich science through purposeful and exciting opportunities, such as workshops and visitors. Each learning journey also identifies a significant scientist who illustrates the development of scientific knowledge over time.

British Science Week provides us with an annual opportunity to shine the spotlight on science and do all that we can to bring the subject to life! This year, we worked alongside a fantastic external partner, Sparkling STEM, who ran a host of biology workshops in school to enhance our science curriculum.



Children of all ages experienced carefully tailored sessions which allowed them to get 'hands on' in their learning. Our Y1 children, for example, made close observations by carefully



using magnifying glasses, field lenses and microscopes to examine the microhabitats in pond water and moss. Our Y6 children, meanwhile, considered the adaptations of different animals, including a live corn snake!

There is currently a much-needed national and international drive to support more women and girls to take up STEM subjects and careers. With this in mind, we organised for our Y6 girls to take part in a physics workshop at St Anselm's School in Bakewell. Working in teams alongside St Anselm's students, they had the opportunity to learn about, design, make and race rocket powered cars. The fastest vehicle reached an impressive speed of 71 kph and reassured us that the future of automotive engineering is in safe hands!

*Ben Paxman, Head Teacher*



## Totley History Group

Our January meeting, featuring Catherine Warr's talk about the Civil War in 17th Century South Yorkshire, attracted a large audience as we had anticipated.

We heard how hamlets surrounding Sheffield were affected by the years of fighting between Parliamentarians and Royalists, with some changing sides as the war ground on for almost a decade.

February's talk by Anna de Lange showed us the work and dedication of the many volunteers who are preserving Portland Works. The enormity of the task they began 10 years ago is daunting, but the journey to the present day has revealed pieces of machinery and alterations to original structures. We were shown a number of items that perhaps slipped through floorboards, were behind blocked off walls or were hidden for some reason. Original photographs showed us how it looked at the height of production over 100 years ago. It now offers economically priced working space to artisans.

### Forthcoming Meetings

April 27th: A short AGM followed by a talk by Hilary Widdowson on 'Painted Fabrics'. Post WW1, employment and housing was established at Norton for men disabled by the war. Their products were of a very high standard and found a market with an elite clientele.

May 24th: Val Hewson, 'Victorian Pioneers: Sheffield's First Public Libraries'.

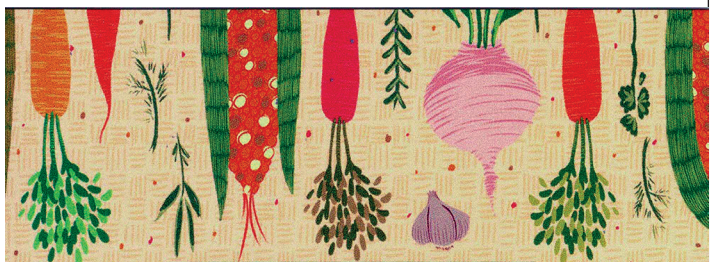
All meetings are held in Totley Library at 7.30pm on 4th Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise stated). Everyone welcome - Members £2 Non-members £3 [www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk)

## Traffic News

### Police speeding report for last 6 months

Over the last six months to March 2023, there have been 437 Notices of Intended Prosecution issued in the Bradway, Dore and Totley area. Of these, 142 offences (32%) were committed by drivers from the S17 post code area.

*Roger Hart*



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**Totley History Group presents**  
**Painted Fabrics**  
**by Hilary Widdowson**



**Hilary's talk will follow a short AGM**



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# Easter

At Totley Rise Methodist Church

**Easter Sunday**

**9th April**

**7am Garden Service**

**Rev Mike Jones**

**10.30am Easter Sunday Service**

**Rev Peter Edwards**

<https://www.totleyrise.co.uk/>



Since our last article in November 2022, we have been so busy!

## Celebrating Christmas

We enjoyed Christingle and Carol services at All Saints Church and also "The Christmas Experience" at All Saints Totley where the children enjoyed a time travelling trip around the Christmas story- with real sheep!! Thank you so much to Rev Tanner and his amazing team.

Our amazing PTA organized a fantastic Christmas Fayre, Panto (oh yes they did!), and Christmas Disco. They also arranged a visit from well-known children's book illustrator Korky Paul. For this exciting day, the children could dress up as a character from a book, one of Korky's or other characters if they preferred. Korky ran workshops for classes Y1 to Y6 where he showed the children some top illustrating tips and drew them their own class picture.

## Thinking of others

Our children are always keen to support charitable events and for Children in Need Day we had a great day. We raised money from dressing down (or up!), a Guess the Name of the Bear competition run by the school council and the sale of an amazing home drawn comic altogether raising a fantastic £250.95!

Y2 held a Fairtrade Bun Sale to raise awareness of Fairtrade and raise money which was donated to the Cathedral Archer Project which supports homeless and vulnerable people in Sheffield.

## Enjoying music

We have begun to hold termly Musical evenings which are proving to be a great success. Children from a range of ages and at all stages of their musical journey entertained an appreciative audience.

Our Young Voices Choir had an amazing and inspirational time at the massed school choirs event at The Sheffield Arena.

## Looking after our environment

Our Global Neighbours teamed up with Sheffield City Council's Community Forestry officers to plant trees in Totley Hall Park (pictured below) as part of a larger plan to improve the local area. They learned about the importance of trees and the correct way to plant them. Despite the cold and rain, they had a fantastic (muddy) time and managed to plant approximately 100 trees!



We also had some exciting news that we had been successfully nominated for a Platinum Jubilee Tree. As part of the celebration of Her Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's Green Canopy initiative was launched in May 2021. Its aim was to plant at least one million trees across UK in the ensuing 12 months. We were very pleased to receive a letter from the Lord Lieutenant telling us we had been successful and are really looking forward to having our Jubilee tree.

## Curriculum enrichment

We had a range of trips out and visitors to school. Y1 were 'out of this world' this week when they had a visitor who helped them learn about the Apollo moon landings and what you need to be an astronaut. Y2 enjoyed a very informative visit to the Islamic Centre in Sheffield. Y5 were invaded by Greeks (the Romans are coming next!)

World Book Day saw more chances to dress up; either as a book character or in pyjamas for a bedtime story and celebrate reading. Staff shared books they enjoyed with groups of children at the end of the day.



## Sporting excellence

We had a wonderful Sports Day at the EIS, a really aspirational venue for sport. There was lots of sporting excellence on show and we'd like to congratulate all of our winners. Equally amazing was how the children demonstrated our school values of compassion, justice, generosity and selflessness as they encouraged and supported each other to take part and do their best.

Cross country club has gone from strength to strength with more children taking part each week.

## Last but not least

To offer more support to our families we have now opened a Breakfast Club from 7.30 until 8.40am.

<p><i>Family</i> FUN</p> <p><b>Saturday 1 April</b> 3 pm - 5 pm</p> <p>Everyone welcome for crafts, bouncy castle, face painting, egg hunt and games</p>	<p><i>Palm</i> SUNDAY</p> <p><b>2 April 10 am</b></p> <p>Kick off holy week with an upbeat service complete with children's clubs and a community choir</p>
<p><i>Good</i> FRIDAY</p> <p><b>7 April</b></p> <p>10 am - All Age Outdoor service with puppets and songs</p> <p>1 pm - Reflective hour at the cross service</p>	<p><i>Easter</i> SUNDAY</p> <p><b>9 April</b></p> <p>6 am - Sunrise Service at Christ Church Dore</p> <p>10 am - All Age Celebration with communion</p>



# Friends of Dore & Totley Station

## Short term progress, longer term concerns

Work on the tracks, station and new loops is progressing well and is on target to be commissioned and operational by the end of March 2024. Whether services can use the new platforms before then will depend on their construction but even more critically the completion of new signalling for all the work. That will stretch from Bamford to Heeley and towards Unstone on the main line.

The River Sheaf bridge beside the Industrial Hamlet should have been installed in November. It went in before 6am on the night of 11/12th March.

The project has currently closed the car park in front of the West View Lane flats in order to undertake earthworks and soil nailing on the embankment next to the line. That work has been delayed, requiring the car parking restrictions alongside to be extended until 10th April. It's hoped this phase will be completed by late August/September and replacement planting of trees and bushes will soon follow.

Work over two April weekends is currently planned to be track work only at Dore & Totley. The team are installing new track below the West View flats over the Easter (7th - 10th April) weekend, and then part of the second line of track that will run from West View Lane up through Dore & Totley station over the weekend from 15th - 17th April. The car park will be closed for about 3 weeks to cover this period.

The work relating to the platform and footbridge is planned to start towards the end of April (preparatory works for the new platform) followed by piling (drilling work) for the footbridge lift shafts in mid-May. That will require car park closure from 4th- 21st April to cover the start of work on platform and footbridge.

At the time of writing the final designs for the entrance and the layout of the platforms is still to be confirmed. All being well that could be completed by October, after which the car park should be reopened completely.

The new signalling building on the triangle should be built by May.

## Environment

It was sad to see all the vegetation removed from the platform side of the car park. Plans for the platform and footbridge show a safe access area on the car park side that occupies almost all the space taken by those felled young trees. There'll be little room for more than bushes when the bridge is in place but we should get input to that.



The severely cut back large conifer beside the entrance (pictured left) has suffered further loss of branches laden down with snow. It is also proving a very attractive spot for pigeons to roost - just look at the evidence left on the pavement beneath! The benches have been moved out of the firing line. It seems very likely that the now lop-sided tree will have to go.

The area alongside the road and pedestrian entrance is due to be restored by the autumn.

Concern has been expressed about tarring of the parking area in the work site on the railway triangle. That is because it was becoming too muddy and will all have to be removed once the

contract is completed in March next year. The conditions of planning for the scheme insist that it should be restored as natural green space. It's owned by Sheffield City Council and managed by their Parks and Woodlands department who will insist that it is. Restoration of the triangle should start from April 2024 by which time the encampment should have gone.

## Services now

Sadly industrial relations issues obscure the view. It's possible that they could soon be resolved but as I write the RMT has declined to suspend strikes in March to take part in any further meetings with the operators - who won't hold more talks unless the action is suspended! Impasse! By the time you read this the latest round of RMT strikes will be over and maybe peace might have been restored on that front. ASLEF campaigns for drivers and has different, although similar, issues. That too remains deadlocked. Once these disputes and TPE's training issues are resolved we should see a much more reliable service from all three operators.



*Snow stops work!*

## Trees and trains

Did you know that 11% of Network Rail's land is forested according to Friends of the Earth? Whatever the percentage there are a very large number of trees growing alongside railway lines both on land owned by the railway and by other landowners with property very close to the tracks..

You notice this when travelling by train as clear views of the countryside are becoming increasingly restricted. In addition to the railway's own trees many landowners alongside the lines have planted belts of trees along the railway boundaries to restrict the view of trains or maybe to obtain grants for tree planting.

When most railways were built 100-200 years ago they carved through many open fields. It has taken time for nature to assert itself. In earlier years sparks from steam locomotives would set fire to lineside vegetation but in more recent times that hasn't been happening. Pictures held by FoDaTS illustrate the effect. Early postcards from about 1900 show virtually nothing but grass growing on the lineside or on the railway triangle. We've recently received a copy of an 8mm amateur cine film taken in the early 1960s as a steam train passes through the station. The embankments are bare. There is no sign of our massive conifer by the entrance.

When a railway is closed the trees very quickly recover the abandoned tracks. Aerial pictures will clearly show the route the railway took. Walkers who've followed footpaths built on old railway lines will attest to this. Those who travel on heritage railway special trains will tell how you need to keep old carriage windows shut or you'll be showered with battered leaves and twigs from trees growing beside less well frequented tracks. The rolling stock will be scratched for the same reason.

It's now a very great and expensive problem for the railway. Scratched rolling stock is the least of their concerns. Delays caused by leaves on the line in the autumn are annoying, but when a build up of greasy leaf material gets between a steel wheel and a steel rail a train takes a lot longer distance to stop. Even with modern wheel slip technology slides can still happen and when they do a steel tyre can develop a flat spot and have to be replaced taking the train out of service. In extreme cases an accident can occur as happened near Salisbury in 2021 when a train slid over (*continued p.25*)



## Friends of Dore & Totley Station (from p.24)

200 metres before hitting another.

During the recent snowy period in March several trees and branches fell across the lines between Dore and New Mills stopping all trains for most of the day. One behind the Castle Inn in Bradway was prevented from falling down into the deep cutting by a group of local residents. Almost every year at least one train will hit a fallen tree. In most cases the



*Snow stops everything!*

main trunk falls outside the railway boundary but damage from large branches can still be severe. The driver may be severely injured if not killed. The train may derail with unknown potential for further casualties both on the train and by the lineside.

Yes, the chain saw massacres along the lineside can look bad, but nature will always fight back to recover its own. If we want to travel safely trees have to be cut back.

### Services in the future

Sheffield lost out on HS2 by vetoing a station at Meadowhall for one in the city centre giving those wanting to delay or cancel the entire project a boost. Today we must put our faith in electrification of the Midland Main Line to St Pancras hopefully by 2030. That may include adding a third track into Sheffield. Connection to HS2 might happen by 2040/50?

The Hope Valley scheme was designed to offer four, later only three, fast trains an hour between Sheffield and Manchester. That is what we'd been led to expect once the work is complete. It won't happen any time soon. The government's Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands published in November 2021 speaks of that aspiration saying "Network Rail's capacity analysis suggests that three NPR trains per hour between Manchester and Sheffield can be operated via the Hope Valley Line with trains continuing to Stockport through targeted investment, using the existing Network Rail station at Manchester Piccadilly. This would likely require the doubling of the Hazel Grove chord (to enable three trains to be evenly spaced, around every 20 minutes) and restoration of a third line between Dore and Sheffield, although more detailed analysis is needed to confirm this."

In other words we'll have to whistle until at least 2030? Currently we haven't got 2 reliable fairly fast services between the two cities. Over the next two years that has to be the priority, reliability plus capacity improved by more carriages every hour.

Post Covid, speed is not as vital as it was four years ago. Leisure users are more dominant, often happy to accept a slower journey for a lower fare. This theme to be continued but it might help us to get a half hourly service from Dore by extending an existing stopping service from New Mills to Sheffield.

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](http://www.fodats.net)

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

*Chris Morgan, Chairman*

## All Saints Church

Well, by the time you're reading this, I hope it feels a lot more Summery than as I write it, surrounded by the snow! On Ash Wednesday we looked at Psalm 111 at church; its a psalm full of praise to God for his works. It's actually a psalm that is quoted in part above the door at the Cavendish laboratory in Cambridge University, calling us to ponder the universe around us. At that service we thought about how each and every snowflake is unique - I didn't expect to see quite so many of them just a few days later! But those snowy days in March really were quite spectacular weren't they? The beauty of the snow on Blackmoor, the delighted squeals of children on sledges behind the Spitfire pub, the strange and comforting lightness, even in the middle of night with the light reflecting off the snow.

We have had a busy few months at church, and there's even more to come, especially with Easter right around the corner. Easter is always a special time for us, and this year is no exception. As you can see from the flyer on page 23, we have a whole host of exciting community events planned to celebrate. Kicking off with a family fun afternoon on the 1st of April and a special Palm Sunday service with community choir in the morning of the 2nd. We can't wait to see you there!

I'm thrilled to announce that after a long and arduous process with the Diocese, we can finally start work on our new memorial garden. This has been a project close to many hearts in our community, and we cannot wait to see it come to fruition. As soon as we have details of when we can use the new garden for burial of ashes, please do send us an email at [hello@AllSaintsTotley.church](mailto:hello@AllSaintsTotley.church) if you would like further details.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to a community fun day that we are planning alongside our fellow churches in the area. We believe that it's important to come together and strengthen our community bonds, and what better way to do that than with a day of fun and laughter? The event will take place at Totley Primary School on the 24th of June, and we cannot wait to see you all there.

As always, you are more than welcome to drop in any Sunday at 10 am. We hope to see you soon and wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

*Rev'd Ben Tanner, Vicar*

*M: 07912 890512*

*Email: [ben@allsaintstotley.church](mailto:ben@allsaintstotley.church)*

*[www.allsaintstotley.church](http://www.allsaintstotley.church)*



**Friends of  
Gillfield Wood**

## Friends of Gillfield Wood

### Diary for April and May 2023

**Monday 24 April**, 7.30pm, Totley Library. A short AGM will be followed by the very popular local writer and birder Pete Brown, who returns to give an illustrated talk on his birding life.

**Tuesday, 16 May**, 6pm. A Flora Walk with local expert Rebekah Newman. Meet at the end of Totley Hall. Please dress appropriately and note that there may be stiles on this walk.

### Practical Conservation Sessions (free events)

These are held monthly all year, either at weekends or midweek. Check the website for dates in April and May. Members can join the mailing list by contacting the Secretary at [fogwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fogwsecretary@gmail.com).

Sessions are open to anyone who would like to join in. Everyone needs to provide their own gloves along with suitable clothes and footwear.

Everything we do supplements the work carried out by the Council's woodlands team, meaning much more can be done to improve the wood for its flora, fauna and visitors alike. Typical activities are coppicing, fencing, walling, tree and undergrowth management, path repair, drain clearance and all sorts of miscellaneous jobs.

*Andy Brewster, FOGW Secretary, [fogwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fogwsecretary@gmail.com)*



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'we have come to consider you as a friend – thank you for all the work you have done in our garden; I have loads more work for you inside the house!' *Mr S. (Dore)*

'thanks for always giving us such a professional finish when you decorate for us.' *Mrs M. (Millhouses)*

'we love that you are local and we can be confident we'll always get what we ask for' *Mr & Mrs R. (Bradway)*

'your decorating work is spot on – so quick and efficient too! We rely on you now.' *Mrs A. (Dore)*

'thanks for decorating our flat throughout; your attention to detail; finishing and helpful attitude is great' *Mrs B. (Netheredge)*

'you've done a marvellous job decorating the outside of our house' *Mr & Mrs W (Dore)*



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## Transport 17

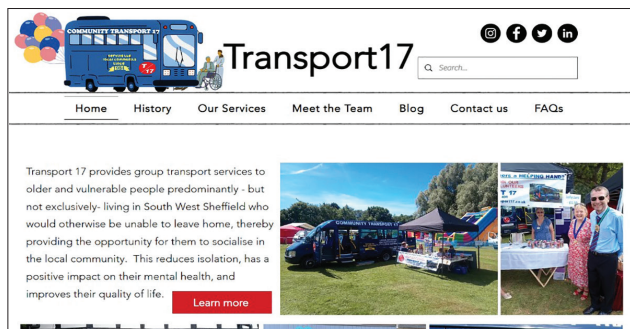
Firstly, we would like to thank all of those who have supported Transport 17 in the last few months, whether financially, by giving up your time to drive or assist

passengers on our buses, or just popping in to the office to say hello. We hugely value the ongoing support we receive from the local, and wider, community, enabling us to continue to provide a transport service to those older and vulnerable passengers who would otherwise not be able to get out. The passengers themselves regularly express their gratitude at being able to socialise within their communities and being able to join others to eat a meal. THANK YOU.

We would like to take the opportunity this month to introduce our new website and express our thanks to the person who has worked so hard to develop it. Our plan is to have the new website up, running and accessible by the end of March. You can find the website at [www.transport17.co.uk](http://www.transport17.co.uk)

Last summer, Transport 17 successfully applied to the 100 Hour Third Sector Placements - a scheme run by Sheffield Volunteering at the University of Sheffield. The placement scheme funds up to 13 students to undertake up to 100 hours of paid work with a local charitable and voluntary organisation during the summer months. The idea is that the student works on a short-term project that will benefit the work of the the organisation, delivering a positive impact within the organisation whilst gaining valuable experience of work within the third sector. Sheffield Volunteering co-ordinated the recruitment to the role (Transport 17 shortlisted and interviewed applicants), directly employed the student, and provided the job contract. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to access some help to re-write and develop our website, an essential job that had been on the backburner for a while as we just never seemed to have time to get round to it or, if I'm honest, the skills!

Noemi, now a second year Philosophy student at the University of Sheffield, brought a calm, assured approach to the task of revamping our website. She suggested design ideas and layout, whilst keeping in mind what is important to us as an organisation. Together, we hope we have made the website easier to navigate, with clear and concise information, made it easier to get in contact with Transport 17, and provided some ideas of ways that you might get involved.

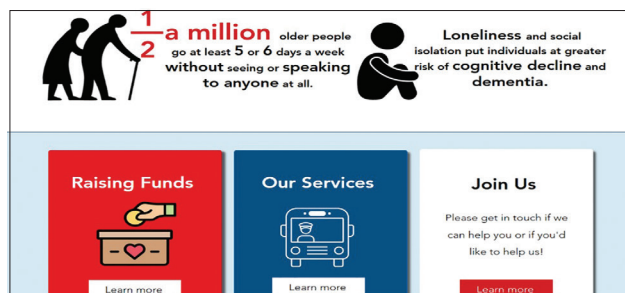


For example, at the top of each page is a clear menu (see above) and icons to click linking you directly to our social media pages. The top of the homepage has a brief summary of what our main purpose is with pictures illustrating the varied activities we have been involved in over the past few months.

The middle of the home page highlights how prevalent loneliness and isolation is within the older population, and the increased risk that has to our health and wellbeing. We have specifically kept the homepage fairly simple, using it as a place to direct the user to the relevant page depending what information they are after. As a result, we have chosen three categories (Raising Funds, Our Services, and Join Us) and designed three buttons that when clicked, take the user to a page with the relevant information.

For example, on the Our Services box, clicking on the 'Learn more' button takes you to a page that describes what we do (in our words and those of service users), which areas, lunch and social clubs we currently provide transport to, and how to contact us

should you require further information. We have taken advice from Age UK Sheffield regarding the layout, size and colour of the text throughout the website, but would welcome any feedback regarding how easy/difficult the website is to find your way around, to read, and/or to find the information you are looking for.



Noemi herself says 'I applied for the 100-hour placement last summer with the goal of developing my employability skills along with the intention to improve my English speaking and communication skills. Working in Transport 17 has been an overall good experience for me despite multiple challenges. I still remember the day I went out on a bus. I was sitting in the front; a passenger's assistant helped elderly people to get on the bus, I saw passengers smiling and chatting with each other. It was a moving moment to see elderly people being able to go out and socialise as young people. I'd never seen any community transportation anywhere and I hope to have this chance when I get old. I've understood how the mental health of elderly is impacted by staying at home isolated and that we need to give the same amount of attention to them as young people are given. When they got on the bus they suddenly became younger and the bus was surrounded by laughter and happiness. From that moment I understood how impactful my job is and I felt grateful for the experience I had and for being able to contribute my own part to make the charity more sustainable.'

### Other News

#### Volunteer Drivers Desperately Needed!

Transport 17 is desperately seeking new volunteer minibus drivers. The recent retirement and unexpected ill health of some of our regular drivers has sadly meant that we have been unable to provide transport to some of the local lunch and social clubs during January this year. The journeys in February will also be affected. This has led to the cancellation of some journeys which sadly impacts hugely on our passengers, many of whom only have this one opportunity each week to get out of the house and socialise within the local community. If you think you might be able to help out and/or are interested in finding out more about volunteering with us, please contact us on 0114 236 2962, or by email at [admin@transport17.co.uk](mailto:admin@transport17.co.uk)

Fiona Smith

## Wizz Kids Pre-School Totley

### Voluntary Management Committee Members Needed

Do you have skills in General Management, Finance, Human Resources or Education and would like to make a difference to a small local charity?

Do you have some time to spare to use your skills to help out, improve your skills and supplement your CV with voluntary work?

Wizz Kids Pre-School cares for babies and children up until they start Primary School at age 5. It delivers a child-centred experience in accordance with the Early Years Framework and is currently rated as 'Good' by OFSTED.

We're looking for new Management Committee members to start in September this year. The Committee meets every six weeks for two hours to help support and guide the governance and management of the charity. Members may also be asked to contribute extra time to help develop the Charity where your particular skills are needed.

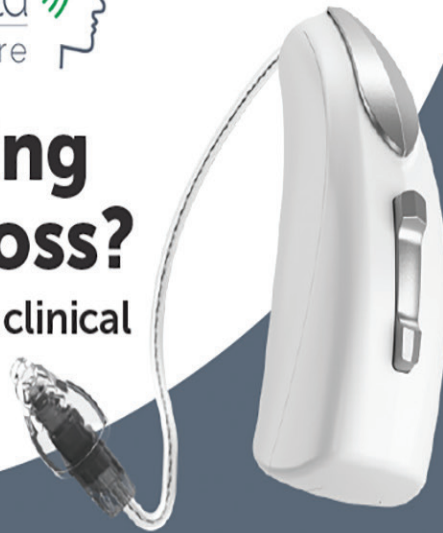
If you are interested in exploring what this opportunity can offer to you and what you can offer to the charity, please contact the Chair of the Management Committee at [amy@totleywizzkids.co.uk](mailto:amy@totleywizzkids.co.uk) to arrange an informal chat.

Clare Wiggett



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Activity	Venue	Primary Contact (Group leader)
Coffee and exercise classes (Strength/Circuits/Seated)	Bradway Community Hall Dore and Totley United Reformed Church / Totley Library (CRIC)	Community Wellness Service – 0114 553 7807
Sporting Chatter / Sporting Chatter films	Dore and Totley United Reformed Church	Phillip Staton – 07788 620313
Singing Teapot Choir	Dore and Totley United Reformed Church	Yo Tozer Loft - -07925 634420
Welcoming warm space (board games, refreshments and biscuits)	Dore Methodist Church Hall	10.30 to 15.30 every Wednesday- No booking requirement - just drop in
Dore and Totley Rosemary memory café (Dementia targeted)	Dore Methodist Church Hall	Elsie @AUKS - 0114 250 2850
Cosy Creatives	Online with trained art therapist	AUKS - 0114 250 2850
Well With Nature	Cross Scythes Pub, Totley	Caroline Cook – 07583 551705
Forest Bathing	Graves Park	Caroline Cook - 07583 551705
Woodwork Wellbeing	Bradway Community Hall	Steven Fridlington – <a href="mailto:woodworkwellbeing@outlook.com">woodworkwellbeing@outlook.com</a> 07900 344361
Ecclesall Forum (social group)	Cherry Tree Pub, Carterknowle	Paul May – <a href="mailto:paulmay@blueyonder.co.uk">paulmay@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
Dance to Health Sheffield	St Augustine’s church, Endcliffe	<a href="mailto:NesreenShah@ae-sop.org">NesreenShah@ae-sop.org</a> 01993 870159
Community Journalism and Memoir Writing	Online activity with qualified writer and journalist	Kathryn Reaney - <a href="mailto:reaneywrites@gmail.com">reaneywrites@gmail.com</a> 07854 751932
Table Tennis	Bradway Community Hall	Jan – 07787 954842/0114 4186463
S11 Carers Walk	Various	Sheffield Carers Centre -0114 278 8942
Natter Coffee Morning	Totley CRIC	Totley All Saints Church -0114 236 7627
Coffee on the corner social drop-in	Coffee on the Corner – Totley	Coffee on the Corner- 07941 780772
South West Friendship Lunches (dinner, Entertainment)	Shepley Spitfire pub, Totley	0114 236 0298
	Robin Hood Pub, Millhouses	0114 236 9107
	Crosspool Tavern Pub, Crosspool	0114 266 2113
	The Ball Inn, Crookes	0114 266 1211
	The Shiny Chef , Fullwood	0114 3030 556
Fulwood Memory Café (Dementia targeted)	Fulwood Scout Hut	Elsie@AUKS - 0114 2502850
S17 Carers Café	Border View Farm	Sheffield Carers Centre – 0114 278 8942



## TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

- MONDAYS** **AGE UK FITNESS** Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 1.30-2.30 pm. Contact Jo Woodward 250 2850  
**GUIDES**, All Saints Church Hall, 6.45pm-9pm  
**SLIMMING WORLD** Totley Rise Methodist Church, 5pm and 7pm. Call Sarah on 07577 070797
- TUESDAYS** **PILATES** The Old School, Dore, 9.30-10.30am. Phone Sally Kilner 07917 762502  
**TOTLEY OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY (TOADS)** meets 7.30pm to 10pm, in the Guild Room, St John's Church, Abbeydale Road South. For more information call 0114 2351206  
**BABY TIME** Totley Library, Tuesday 1.30-2.15pm (term-times only). Come along to meet other parents/carers and babies. We sing simple songs, have fun and allow time to chat  
**SHEFFIELD MARQUETRY GROUP** 10am-12noon, St Oswald's Church Crypt, Bannerdale Rd. Small friendly group - beginners welcome. For information phone Graeme 07947 127909 or Pat 0114 2819915  
**KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT & CHATTER** Totley Rise Methodist Church, 12 noon-3.00pm  
**JAZZ IN THE AFTERNOON** 1.30-3.30pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom. A weekly afternoon of all forms of recorded jazz, plus discussion. Tea, coffee and biscuits available  
**YOGA CLASS** 1.15 - 2.45pm at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church. Contact Rachel (qualified level 4 BWY teacher) 07708 996984 or yogaq@hotmail.co.uk  
**WELCOMING PLACES COFFEE MORNING** open to all, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10: am to 12 noon
- WEDNESDAYS** **PILATES CLASSES** Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 9.00-10.00am and 10.15-11.15am. Contact Caroline tel: 0781 722 0324, email Carolinenorth1@me.com, www.pilatescarolinenorth.co.uk  
**CARERS' CAFE MONTHLY** Dore & Totley United Reformed Church 10-11.30 am. Contact Jan Outram 0114 278 942  
**COFFEE IN THE LIBRARY** 10.30am-12.30pm. Come and have a coffee and a chat  
**STORY TIME** for toddlers and pre-school children at Totley Library from 10am - 11.30am (except school holidays). Children can take part in weekly themed craft activities, sing songs and listen to a story. £1 donation per child greatly appreciated  
**TODDLER GROUP** 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Liz Hayden 07969 826464  
**HEALTH WALKS** 10.30am, meet at Totley Library. Contact Step Out Sheffield on 07505 639524 or email stepoutsheffield@gmail.com  
**YOGA CLASS** 6.30 - 8pm at St Johns Church Hall Totley. Contact Rachel (qualified level 4 BWY teacher) 07708 996984 or yogaq@hotmail.co.uk
- THURSDAYS** **RHYTHM TIME** Baby, toddler & pre-schooler music sessions 9.00-11.30 Details Email: beth.w@rhythmtime.org Phone/WhatsApp: 07748 589468 To book: <https://rhythmtime.net/find-a-class>  
**ROCKCHOIR** United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd, 11.30-1pm. See [www.rockchoir.com](http://www.rockchoir.com) or call 01252 714276  
**CHAIR AEROBICS** Totley Library, 12-12.45pm with Laura. An Age UK and People Keeping Well weekly exercise class. £4 per week, no need to pre-book, just turn up.  
**SOCIAL CLUB** Dore and Totley URC fortnightly 2.30-4.30 pm Contact Alison Holden for information 236 0441  
**PUSHCHAIR CLUB** Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10.30-12noon. Tel. 07912 352543 for details  
**PILATES CLASS** run by qualified Pilates Instructor/Physiotherapist for all abilities and ages. 1.30-2.30pm, 5.15-6.15pm and 6.15-7.15pm at the United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road. Call Emer on 07792 422909
- FRIDAYS** **PILATES** The Old School, Dore, 9.30-10.30am and 10.45-11.45am. Phone Sally Kilner 07917 762502

## APRIL

**WED 12th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB** 10am in Room 1, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Melvyn Cook on "Wonders of Vietnam". Guests are always welcome - we are always looking for new members.

**MON 24th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD Annual General Meeting** and Pete Brown returns to give an illustrated talk on his birding life. 7.30, Totley Library.

**SUN 2nd, 16th & 30th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES 1pm - 5pm** - Abbeydale Road South. £2 per ride per person. Car park closes 5pm. See [www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com](http://www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com)

**WED 26th. THURS 27th & FRI 28th at 7.30, and SAT 29th at 2.30: DORE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY** presents "HMS Pinafore". Montgomery Theatre, Surrey Street. For details of tickets see this issue, p.17. Note that tickets cannot be bought from the theatre.

**SAT 29th TOTLEY LITTER PICKING MORNING** 10-11am. Equipment provided. This activity is done at participants' own risk. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet Baslow Rd, outside Totley Library. All welcome.

**WED 26th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP**, Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Hilary Widdowson, "Painted Fabrics". 7.30pm, Totley Library. Non-members welcome.

## MAY

**SUN 14th and 28th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES 1pm - 5pm** - Abbeydale Road South. £2 per ride per person. Car park closes 5pm. See [www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com](http://www.sheffieldmodelengineers.com)

**WED 10th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB**, 10am, Room 1, Totley Rise Methodist Church. Talk by Anne Marples on "Wells and water supply". Guests are always welcome - we are always looking for new members.

**TUES 16th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD** Flora Walk with local expert Rebekah Newman. 6.00pm. Meet at the end of Totley Hall Lane.

**WED 17th. THURS 18th & FRI 19th at 7.30pm, and SAT 20th at 2.30pm TOTLEY OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY (TOADS)** present "And Evermore Shall Be So" written by Norman Robbins - a murder mystery with a little humour! St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Call Jeff on 0114 235 1206 to reserve your ticket, or email [tickets@toads-drama.co.uk](mailto:tickets@toads-drama.co.uk) or contact any TOADS member.

**WED 24th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP**, Val Hewson, "Victorian Pioneers: Sheffield's First Public Libraries". 7.30pm, Totley Library. Non-members welcome.

**SAT 27th TOTLEY LITTER PICKING MORNING** 10-11am. Equipment provided. This activity is done at participants' own risk. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet Baslow Rd, outside Totley Library. All welcome.

If your organisation wants to publicise its events, or if you know about any local event, such as community markets or concerts, which you'd like to let people know about, please send details to Totley Independent (copy dates are on the back page or on our website at [www.totleyindependent.co.uk](http://www.totleyindependent.co.uk)) and we'll do our best to include the information on this Diary page!



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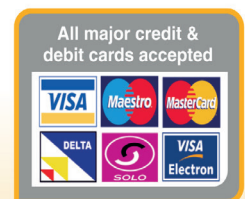
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