

# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

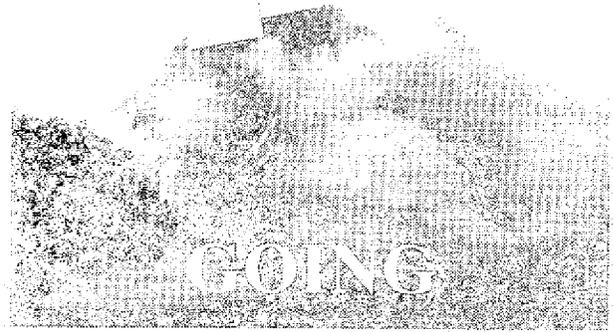
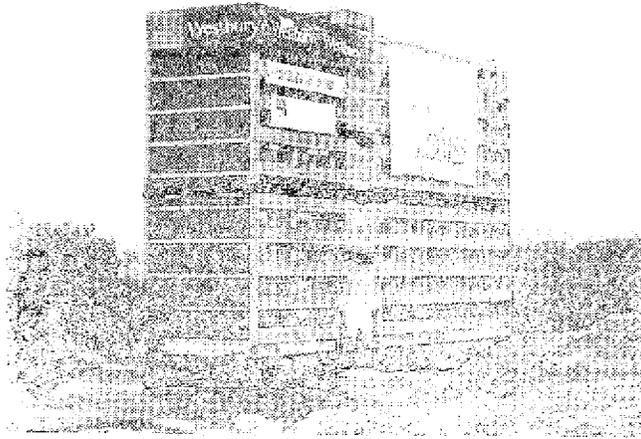
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SEPTEMBER 1999

No. 226

15p.

## TOTLEY COLLEGE



## GOOD BYE TO THE TOWER BLOCK

On Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> Of August at 10-30 we saw the last of the Totley College Tower Block.

### The demolition

THE Totley tower block will mark the 200th block to be demolished by leading experts Controlled Demolition Group Ltd from West Yorkshire.

The 11 -storey block was first visited by the company's structural engineers to discover how it had been constructed and what materials used. Load bearing walls were also identified. The procedure continued:

\* A 'soft strip' was completed whereby all loose items left in the building were removed. This included all sanitary equipment and even doors and frames.

\* Pre-weakening carried out. This involved breaking out parts of the main load bearing walls to pre-weaken them.

\* Hundreds of holes were drilled and fitted with explosives cemented into place.

\* The explosives were connected up through an intricate pattern of detonating cord which all lead back to one single line joining an external point away from the building. The explosives were positioned in such a way as to cause the building to fall in a pre-set direction.

\* A five-minute countdown began with a one-minute continuous warning siren. A minute before blow down a flare was set off to warn everyone of the ensuing explosion.

\* Once the explosion took place engineers revisited the site and checked it was safe. Once safe an all-clear siren was sounded and the exclusion zone lifted.

### Fact file:

• The explosion is termed a 'blow down' as the method used actually caused the building to crumble and fall in on itself, causing minimal impact on the local vicinity. There was a large volume of dust and the developers organised for window cleaning and car cleaning for residents closest to the site and most likely to be affected.

• 450 non-electric detonating charge was used and the building took 23kg of explosives to bring it down.

• Site clearance and demolition is the responsibility of TKL Earthworks Ltd with the project overseen by geotechnical consultants, Ground Risk Management (GRM).

### Future plans for the land

Once blown down, the land will be cleared and work will begin on the two new homes projects planned for this area. These are:

### Westbury

This is the first venture into Sheffield for the Nottingham-based region of Westbury whose nearest developments to date include Barlborough, Wingerworth and Bawtry near Doncaster.

It will be building 44 of its top four bedroom detached properties, 15 will have double garages. Westbury is looking to create individual homes in an attractive setting. It will be paying particular detail to the local environment and the frontages of all its properties will be finished in either natural or reconstituted stone.

"Westbury as a company is the sixth largest housebuilder in the country," explained Regional Managing Director Alan Dorn. "Our region is relatively new and after concentrating our work in the Nottinghamshire area initially we are now looking to expand northwards.

"We are very proud of the quality and affordability of our range of homes and are delighted to be offering these products to the people of South Yorkshire."

House prices are likely to start from £140,000 and will be

ready from early in the new year. For more details or to register interest, tel: (0115) 9764949.

### David Wilson Homes

This is also the first ever development in the Sheffield area for leading national housebuilder David Wilson Homes. Renowned for the quality of its homes, the company is proposing to build 38 four, five and six bed executive homes on the superb 7.5 acre site.

In addition, David Wilson Homes is going to convert Totley Hall - a Grade II listed building dating back to the 16th century - into luxury apartments. These are likely to cost in the region of £200,000.

This flagship development will prove very attractive to people already living in the area, offering easy commuter access to the city, as well as delightful views across Derbyshire and the Peak District.



Alan Cobb, Managing Director for David Wilson Homes (Northern), comments: "Totley Hall will be converted into four or five units, which will be available next year.

"These properties will be totally exclusive and offer purchasers spacious and luxurious apartments, which incorporate many of the original features and character of this 16th century hall.

"Construction on the 38 executive homes will start later this year and all the materials will be in keeping with the conservation area. Natural stone will be used and all the properties will be built to the highest standards."

For further information telephone David Wilson Homes on 0113 252 9900.

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*Bar menu as normal from Wednesday to Sunday nights & every lunchtime.*

## CHERRY TREE

The Cherrytree Trust provided our trip to Cornwall, out of their 'Special Projects' fund - and this was very much appreciated. Usually this pot of money would be used for Christmas or say the 'Cherrytree Challenge', but we think that you can't get more 'special' than a once in a lifetime experience.

We know that some of our neighbours may recall the last eclipse in 1927, visible from Yorkshire, as does at least one of our well-respected Committee members - Mrs Kate Biggin - though she must have only been a toddler. Anyway knowing that the next total eclipse visible from this area is on 22 July 2381, and that Cornwall will be touched again on 23 September 2090 - we are satisfied that for us young 'uns last week's eclipse will be the only one that we ever see.

Nick, Kaye, Tina and Phil took time out from their family and friends to get us there and back safely - and we are grateful for this. We expected to be stuck in traffic all the way there - 3 million people travelled by train in 1927 to Yorkshire so we felt sure that there would be plenty of people on the road. However, our faith in Nick and Phil paid off - they had been planning the journey for weeks, using the internet to work out a less popular route and view the CCTV pictures from Devon County Council's major highways and junctions.

We didn't see any sign of a hold up, and parked our 'Westfield' people carrier on an empty campsite at Harlyn Bay near Trevoze Head. The sky on the night before the eclipse was amazing. It was so clear, and tens of thousands of stars were visible - we were miles away from any street lights so were able to see shooting stars just by glancing skywards.

After a cracking breakfast in a cafe, we went to the beach. All of us stood together, and there were about a hundred other people around the bay. The atmosphere was overwhelming. The setting was beautiful and we were about to witness an electrifying event.

We realised that the glasses, we had, weren't needed because of the clouds - we began to feel that we'd be disappointed because the clouds seemed to get heavier and more overcast. Then we noticed that the sky itself was starting to dim, like someone turning the lights down. There was a frightening sort of silence as the gulls stopped shrieking, and nestled on the cliffs. In the distance, a floodlight came on outside a house standing alone. Cameras started to flash as people started 'taking pictures of the dark'. There was a build up of chatter, as everyone agreed that it really was happening. Then darker; fire-eaters on the beach, and music. In the distance, out at sea - a thin strip of light. Around us, to our amazement - total darkness.

Then the light was 'turned on' again, and through the clouds we could see the sun emerging from behind the moon. Everyone cheered and clapped. This was the most spectacular, mind-blowing event that any of us have witnessed.

The rest of the day was spent swimming, building sandcastles, playing rounders and flying our kite. Then we headed home via Tintagel Castle. The legend that surrounds this fantastic place, we thought was just a Disney story. The evidence that continues to be unearthed by archaeology students does seem to point to King Arthur having some base in reality. Whatever - we were so impressed by the beauty, condition and history of this place that we signed up for membership of English Heritage and hope to visit more sites throughout the year.

Some of the things that we did as 'firsts' went beyond the eclipse - this is the furthest that any of us have travelled, some of us have never been swimming in the sea, and not one of us has seen a shooting star before. We would not have been there if it had not been for Cherrytree and all the people that have donated to their funds

We all had a thoroughly enjoyable time - many, many thanks Katie, Karen, Alan and Craig on behalf of the group at Cherrytree

## GREEN OAK VIEW

On behalf of the residents and staff at Green Oak View, I would like to thank the Totley Residents Association committee for their very generous donation of £200 towards the re-decoration of the community day room; it is anticipated that work will be complete by September.

Thanks to all. Ann Cullen, Unit Manager.

## GRAND JUMBLE SALE

at

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PROCEEDS TO GREEN OAK VIEW COMFORTS FUNDS

## TRAILBLAZERS INVITATION

"Trailblazers" are a group of children in School Year Groups 3 - 6 inclusive who meet every Wednesday during term time between 6-15 p.m. and 7-30 p.m. in All Saints Church Hall.

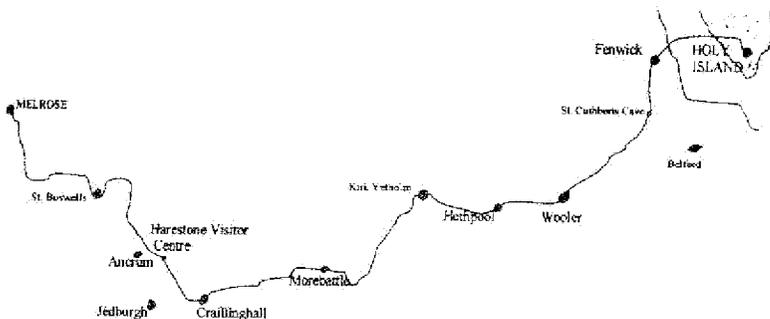
The sessions are designed to give the children opportunities for sharing and having fun together and for learning more of the relevance and importance of Christian teaching and values.

Meetings restart on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. September and new members will be most welcome.

Further details available from Ken Filleul Tel. 236 0872

## ST. CUTHBERT'S WAY by Dorothy Firth

Saturday morning 7.20 a.m., 7 ladies, who people might say are old enough to know better meet at Sheffield railway station to travel to Melrose in the Scottish Borders, with the intention, (after spending the night in the "Youth? Hostel"), of turning round and walking 63 miles back to Northumberland, which they will have just travelled through on the train. Well, it takes all sorts!



Many of you have probably never heard of St. Cuthbert or his "Way", though there is a Church dedicated to him near the Northern General Hospital. St. Cuthbert joined the brothers at Melrose Monastery in A.D. 650, aged about 16, studying and working with the brothers. He was a very able student and later he travelled widely in the border country spreading the Christian word and became known as the "fire of the north". Eventually he was appointed Bishop of Lindisfarne on Holy Island, Northumberland, where he ministered for many years and studied the wildlife. His favourite creatures were the eider ducks, which became known as Cuthbert's ducks and then shortened to "Cuddy ducks", an affectionate name by which they are still called today. He died on the Inner Farne Island, his place of retreat and was buried at Lindisfarne in 687.

The "Way" was the idea of Ron Shaw, who was working as Project Officer with the Till Valley Tourism Initiative, based at Wooller in Northumberland. He contacted Roger Smith, Walking Development Officer for the Scottish Borders, who agreed that a cross border walk linking places connected with St. Cuthbert would appeal to many people. Long distance walking is an increasingly popular pastime and brings with it opportunities for business and employment amongst the local people.

The two men then had to apply to various agencies for funding and obtain access to the land from various landowners. They used existing rights of way, bridle paths and the Roman road, Dere Street wherever possible. Such was the degree of acceptance of the whole project that it was designed and completed in 18 months, opening in July 1996.

The walk begins at Melrose Abbey. Melrose won the best "Tourism Town" in Scotland in 1992. We left Melrose by way of a long flight of wooden steps to join the path passing between the Eildon Hills, from the summit of which are fine views of the border country. Legend has it that King Arthur lies buried with in these hills, having died in a battle in the area. The route then drops down to Bowden following the course of the river Tweed on to St. Boswells, which name is taken from St. Boisil, Cuthbert's early mentor at Melrose. On the way a short detour can be made to Dryburgh Abbey, where Sir Walter Scott and Field Marshall Earl Haig of World War I fame are buried. The way continues along the river Tweed to Maxton where we turn across the fields to the A68 and then join Dere Street. Another detour leads to

Jedburgh, well worth a visit for its Abbey, refreshments or a welcome overnight stop.

Dere Street originally ran from York to the Forth near Edinburgh and was known as Agricola's Road after the Roman governor at that time A.D. 79-83. Historians assure us that Cuthbert would have used this route as it would be one of the few well made roads anywhere in the area. We leave Dere Street at Cringle Bank and head for Crailinghall, then across

Cessford Moor, passing the ruins of Cessford castle built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the scene of many battles between the Scots and the English, to arrive in Morebattle. Here there is opportunity for refreshment or to restock one's backpack for the climb over Wideopen Hill to Kirk Yetholm. "Wideopen" describes this hill perfectly. There are wonderful views all the way back to the Eildons, where we started our journey and ahead to the Cheviots, which we have yet to tackle.

This is the highest point on the "Way" at 368 metres (1207ft.) and approximately halfway. From here the path leads down to Kirk Yetholm, a pretty village with

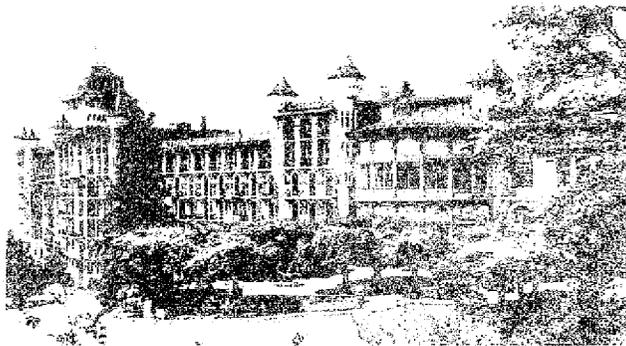
a welcoming Youth Hostel for a good night's rest before commencing the climb up and over the Cheviots into England.

We leave Kirk Yetholm by way of the first section of the Pennine Way, if you are heading south to Edale, but leave this route at the "Welcome to England", "Welcome to Scotland" sign post on the border, Dropping down to the secluded College valley. This valley is owned by the Sir James Knott Trust, a former Tyneside shipping magnate. Walkers are welcome, but only 12 cars per day are allowed a permit to pass Heithpool. From the picturesque "Arts and Crafts" cottages we cross the river Glen where in 627 A.D., 3,000 Northumbrians are said to have been baptised by St. Paulinus. The track then ascends between Yeavinger Bell, Northumberland's highest ancient hillfort and Easter Tor to bring us up on to Gains Law, through beautiful hill country and eventually down into Wooller. The final section of our walk, a distance of 17 1/2 miles, from Wooller to Lindisfarne had to be carefully planned so that we reached the causeway across to Holy Island before the tide came in. On the way we crossed Weetwood Bridge. The original of which was used by the English to cross the river Till on the way to the Battle of Flodden in 1513. Next we passed Doddington Moor where St. Cuthbert is supposed to have tended sheep as a boy and then on to St. Cuthbert's cave. The saint's body is said to have been taken here by the monks of Lindisfarne in A.D. 875, when they fled the island because of repeated Viking raids. He was eventually laid to rest in Durham Cathedral. We soon reached the brow of a hill and caught sight of our final destination out to sea. At this point it started to rain, the only rain we had on our walk. It spoiled the views of the sea, but it didn't dampen our spirits as we took our lives in our hands to cross the A.1 and then the East Coast main railway line to head down to the shore. The last miles across the causeway and Holy Island to reach Lindisfarne Priory were a bit of a plod, as there seemed to be water everywhere, pouring from the sky and all around us. Nevertheless we were all full of joyful smiles as we arrived at the Priory having achieved our goal.

This is a fascinating area of Britain and there is an official trail guide to St. Cuthbert's Way from where I gleaned most of my information. It is published by the Stationery Office and available from Foothills, Edgedale Road and presumably other bookstores.

## T.O.A.D.S. GO INTERNATIONAL

Well, here we are, back safe and sound from our trip to Switzerland where we gave a performance of our May play "Return Trip" at the request of the author, Hugh Steadman Williams. We flew to Geneva on Thursday 29th July, then took the train round the Lake to Montreux and then up a rack and pinion mountain train to Caux, 1000 metres above Lake Geneva.



The hotel "Mountain House", formerly the Caux-Palace Hotel, was taken over in 1946 to become a hotel, conference centre and theatre in 1946 after the place had been used as a refugee camp during the World War Two, and is a huge "palace" standing impressively halfway up the mountain when viewed from Montreux down below.

We were all made very welcome by everyone there - a real mixture of cultures, creeds and colour. The theatre itself was originally the Ballroom of the old hotel and retains the wonderful plasterwork and windows, suitably curtained for performances, and has had the floor built up to provide a rake for the seating - capacity 450. There in position on the stage was our Set, constructed by the volunteer theatre staff to our Jeff Bagnall's plans, the furniture in its rightful place, pictures ready for us to say which and where we wanted them, and - a big decision - what colour would we like them to paint the scenery!! The Stage was huge - a large cry from St. John's Church Hall - and there was a large scenery store and huge workshop to one side which made Jeff very envious!! We had two rehearsals on the Friday and one Saturday morning, and a team of translators sat in at two of them as they were going to do a simultaneous translation into five languages on the night - German, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. We did have Saturday afternoon off and went to the top of the mountain by the little train to Rochers de Naye and enjoyed the magnificent views and the beautiful wild flowers at 5700 feet.

The actual performance went extremely well and it took many curtain calls before the audience would let us retire from the stage - what a reception!! It was an experience none of us will ever forget and we are very grateful to Hugh Williams and the people at Mountain House for giving us the opportunity to perform in such a wonderful setting and to meet and mix with the kind and generous people who made our short stay so memorable.

We left Mountain House on the Sunday morning and went our various ways to make the most of our last day in Switzerland. Some spent the day in Montreux, others in Geneva, whilst I train-hopped and did Montreux and then Vevey, a wonderful little town on the Lakeside which just happened to be celebrating a Wine Makers Festival,

held every 25 years. By sheer chance I arrived three-quarters of an hour before the Big Parade and was fortunate enough to obtain a wonderful vantage point by the Lake where the parade was starting. It took one and a half hours to pass me - a riot of colour, beautiful costumes, bands, animals including huge cows, with cowbells and pyramids of flowers between their horns, and, amazingly, a flock of deep blue sheep!! What a memorable finish to a fantastic four days. It only remained for me to collect my luggage from the locker on Vevey station and board the silent and punctual train direct to Geneva Airport.

But that's another story (to be continued)!!

Kate Reynolds

### DIARY OF A "WOULD-be-PARAOLYMPIAN" BACK IN TRAINING.

Following my most recent operation, operation number 30, all told, this time to reconstruct my unstable shoulder, successfully I am glad to say I am back in the water, well at least temporarily. I have to have my other shoulder reconstructed in the later months of this year.

So with temporary parole from the hospitals I am training for the disable National Championships to be held in October this year, in Sheffield.

If I swim well then I shall pursue my Olympic dream and continue through to the Millennium and try out at the Olympic trials next Spring.

HOWEVER! if my shoulder doesn't hold out, then I shall have to have my operation and hope that I can still get fit in time between surgery and the trials, lots of "What ifs" But in any case whatever happens will be for the best and at least I'll have given it my best shot. So I'll keep you informed.

I am doing some coaching as well for the U21 England squad, I'm really enjoying that and its great to see these young disabled children giving their sport everything and striving for the top and that gold medal.

Amy made a Yorkshire final this year and Lucy passed her 3 star swimming award. David spent a weekend in Dundee with the police swimming team and didn't drink or stay out late, well if you believe that, the moon's made of blue cheese.

However despite their revelling they didn't come last and provided their A.C.C. and wife with some captivating entertainment and a good weekend was had by all.

I still have some bad days, but the swimming really helps mentally and physically and now that David's finished decorating the house, things in the Spencer house are looking pretty rosy.

Helen Spencer

### Abbeydale Hall.

Will not now be a restaurant after all. It is to be converted into luxury apartments with a residential refurbishment. The building was sold for more than £500,000. This news will be welcomed by local residents mainly because of car parking problems that it would have caused. I wonder now what will happen to the wild life gardens as they were to be looked after by the previous developers.

for us Congratulations Rony,

John Perkinson

## THE THIEVING MAGPIE by Alan Faulkner Taylor

One wonders how the magpie acquired the reputation of being a thief? Harking back to the days of Rossini would magpies have been seen in the streets of Paris when he composed his delightful piece of music "The Thieving Magpie"? But why a thief?

Jackdaws have this reputation because they are much more associated with Man - choosing disused house chimneys in which to build their nests. I well remember an occasion in the Fifties when I shared a hotel bedroom with a friend when we were attending a seminar in Hastings. He had forgotten to pick up his wedding ring from the window ledge before going down to breakfast. The ring had disappeared by the time he came to look for it! One of the jackdaws which were nesting on the chimneys would have been the culprit.

Jackdaws and magpies are attracted to small bright objects, which they will make off with to decorate the nest. Nobody knows why they do this. But other birds decorate their nests in much the same way: the bower bird male decorates his nest with brightly-coloured pebbles and flowers to attract a mate. Every time a buzzard returns to its nest it will carry a plant which it will carefully place on the side of the nest. Is this as decoration or just to increase the size of the nest as the young grow larger?

But returning to magpies, I got the idea of writing this article this morning while looking out of our kitchen window after we had finished eating breakfast. My wife had just put out crumbs for our resident blackbirds, robins, house sparrows, starlings and dunnocks. The first bird to land, then waddle across the lawn, was a carrion crow. He (or she?) was quickly joined by four magpies. Unseen by the crow, one magpie started to approach him from behind. My wife and I knew what the magpie was about to do. Sure enough, as it took its last step, it leaned forward and nipped the crow's tail! The crow ignored the insult - also the repeated tweek that came a few seconds later. After another few seconds the crow was joined by three other members of its clan, so we had four crows and four magpies scoffing the smaller birds' breakfast.

On several other occasions we have witnessed the cheek of magpies. Our resident squirrel will frequently scoff the birds' crumbs and we have seen a magpie slowly stalk up behind the squirrel and nip the end of its tail.

Earlier in the year, when magpies would have had nests containing either eggs or small chicks, my wife was crossing the railway bridge on Baslow Rd and she saw a large cat sitting on top of the fence. A magpie was walking slowly towards it from behind. Anticipating the action, my wife stopped and watched. Yes - you've guessed! When only a few inches from the cat, the magpie lunged forward and nipped its tail! The cat turned its head, spat, then leapt into the air and departed. Mission accomplished!

Magpies started to move into city suburbs some thirty to forty years ago, at the time when farmers started using pesticides. This meant fewer insects and in consequence fewer small birds. So the magpies moved into areas which contained their new prey species - house sparrows, starlings, blackbirds and robins - their eggs and young. Carrion crows started to move into our suburbs about twenty years later.

Now we see both species nesting in the centres of

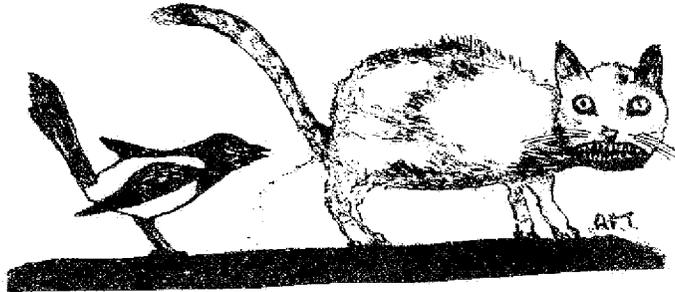
Sheffield.

Are magpies and crows a menace of our suburban bird life? The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds state that they have had little effect on the small-bird population. This I would dispute. On one day my wife and I witnessed an immature blackbird being killed by a magpie; we were too slow to save it.

Later during the same day my wife saw a carrion crow swoop down and make off with a young blackbird from the same brood.

Just before dropping this article into the editor the national newspapers had published the findings of a 4-year study by the Game Conservancy Trust. The nesting success of blackbirds more than doubled and song thrushes more than trebled, in a 830-acre farm in

Leicestershire in which the population of magpies, carrion crows and jays was controlled. I do my own little thing in trying to reduce the numbers of corvids in my garden. I built a Larsen trap, designed by a Swedish gamekeeper and approved by the Game Conservancy Trust and the RSPB. So far I have "seen off" two crows and five magpies.



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DIGET.

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## THE NIT NURSE

In the early twenties most girls had long hair; and there was always the danger of catching head-lice, which produced 'Nits'. The fashion for 'Bobs' and 'Eton crop' came in the late twenties. Nits clung to the hair and were only removed with the aid of a small-tooth comb. There was one girl in my class who came from a poor area of Totley, and, sitting behind her lice could be seen crawling up her neck, but, strange to say, she was so used to them that she was very seldom seen to 'Furk' (The name given to furtive scratching).

Not so with me, the thought of them made me 'Furk', but, if I lifted my hand once in the direction of my head my Mother would cry "What are you furking for?", and before you could say "Jack Robinson" out would come a large sheet of newspaper and the 'Nit-comb' and I was made to bend over and have every inch of my head carefully scraped to the scalp where the little blighters may be hidden. For many days after the routine was the same every dinnertime and before going to bed, until Mom was sure there were none lurking there. They say this is the origin of the saying 'Going through it with a fine-tooth comb'.

The 'Nit-nurse' came to school once a month to examine the heads of all the girls. If lice were found, a tablet of Sassafras soap was produced from her black bag and the offending head was scrubbed hard. After a good lathering the head was then covered tightly with an oilskin cap until it was 'Cooked', after which the cap was removed and the now de-loused head was washed again to remove the remains of the offending animals. A visit to the parents relieved the situation for a time, but little notice was really given by the worst offenders.

The school nurse visited once a term for any minor ailments not serious enough for a Doctor. If anything warranted investigation the child was usually referred to the Clinic at Dronfield. The Dentist visited twice a year, once to cover the intake, a second to check all school leavers.

I remember in my last year I had to attend the Clinic twice, once to have four teeth filled, when my Mother went with me; no great trauma and more like a day out. I still have two of those teeth, one with the original filling after seventy years; it must have been good stuff!

The second visit was to have my tonsils out, and this time I went alone catching the Bus to Dore Station, then the train to Dronfield. I was a little apprehensive in case I had forgotten where the Clinic was, and my nerves were a trifle strained by the time I arrived there. Patients were kept at the Clinic only until they had recovered from the anaesthetic sufficiently to return home, and I worried in case I hadn't 'Come round' before I had to walk back to the station. I had a horrible feeling that I might act like a drunken man and be 'Run in' by a policeman.

I needn't have worried, everything went well, and I returned home in pain, wanting nothing to eat: with my mouth covered by a thick wool scarf to keep out the cold and prevent infection, and with a letter for my Mother with instructions about diet and after-care. They were very simple, only one day in bed to prevent haemorrhage, and lots of lemon jelly to soothe the pain, which just slipped down and presented no difficulty, although it did take quite an effort to swallow. Lemon jelly was the standard food for the first three or four days; I doubt whether any child who had said "Good-bye" to his/her tonsils ever liked lemon jelly again!

### Abbeydale Sports Club.

A telecommunications mast is to be erected by Mercury the 20 metre high structure, which they say will not be a health and safety risk, will replace a 15-metre high floodlight tower at the all weather hockey pitch.

### Dr Rony Robinson.

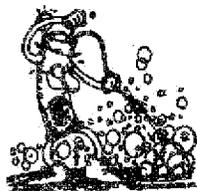
Local born broadcaster playwright and novelist Rony Robinson is to be awarded a honorary degree in November by Sheffield Hallam University. Rony well known for his morning show on BBC Radio Sheffield and also takes a great interest in the work of Totley Independent for which he has in the past wrote articles for us Congratulations Rony.

### COMMUNITY SKIP

Next community skip will be at Totley Library on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

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## FARMING SCENE

After the abysmal summers of the last 2 years, we have at last had a period of sustained dry hot weather. Not as good as the summers in the "Good Old Days", but certainly a very welcome improvement. All livestock farmers should now have plenty of good quality hay or silage in store ready for feeding next winter. The warm weather has encouraged rapid growth in this year's lambs, so much so, that most of ours have now been sold through Bakewell market. However, like both beef and pig farmers, sheep farmers are now operating at a loss, as prime lamb, cull ewe, and wool prices, are 40% down on 1997 values.

The biggest problem for the sheep this year, has been the flies. We have had 4 cases of 'flystrike', where flies have laid their eggs on the skin, which have then hatched, developed into maggots, and started to eat the sheep alive. To cure this we have to cut the wool off the affected area, scrape off all the maggots, and douse the whole area in disinfectant to kill any remaining larvae, and deter further fly attacks. Sometimes the flies just land on the sheep and bite holes in the skin to enable them to feed on the body juices. This annoys the sheep so much that they can literally make big wounds on their heads, shoulders, flanks etc, as they scratch themselves with the back feet to try to stop the biting pain. The only cure seems to be to shut the affected sheep in a cool, dark, fly free shed for 10-14 days to allow the wounds to heal. On occasion we have had to restrain the sheep by tying their back legs together loosely, so that they cannot scratch themselves.

Talking of flies, we haven't seen many wasps this year, have you? Maybe 2 poor summers have reduced their numbers.

The soft fruit season has been good for both growers and consumers. Our sales have been approx 30% up on the previous 2 years, mainly due to the better weather. We were occasionally a bit short of strawberries, due to increased demand, and reduced production, caused by the previous 2 wet years killing or reducing the vigour of our plants. Our new plantations are looking well and should produce heavy crops of LARGE strawberries next year. For those of you who like Hapil strawberries, there is good news, as we are going to plant a further 1½ acres of these this autumn, weather permitting.

If you have looked at our advert, you will have seen that potato prices have nosedived again. Better growing

conditions and heavy imports of early new potatoes, have led to an oversupplied market, hence low prices.

As usual, any money made in a good year like last year, will be lost on the sale of this years crop. As our land is marginal from a potato growing point of view, we have decided this years crop will be our last. We cannot compete with growers on much better soils, who can achieve yields of double ours, and therefore, at nearly half the cost per tonne. We shall be selling "Totley Taters" through to April next year, after which I suspect we will buy in from a Nottinghamshire farmer friend, to resell.

In Southern and Eastern counties the Oilseed Rape and winter barley harvests are completed, with the wheat harvest half completed. Wheat yields in particular have been exceptionally good, the best since 1976 on some farms. The cool, wet weather early on in the year has provided the moisture while the hot summer has enabled the crops to photosynthesis readily, and produce bold heavy grains. In the more Western and Northern areas, harvest has hardly started as I write this (17th August), mainly due to the wet weather of the last 10 days.

Given a run of 2-3 weeks of sunshine, all should soon be gathered in, ready for the growing cycle to start again. Come the 2nd week in September we should be planting the first of next years crops. What an exciting week we had last week. First the Eclipse, then Blowdown! The first blotted out the sun, the second opened to our view areas of Totley we have never seen in our 17 years here. Certainly it has improved the view over Totley to Mickley Lane and Woodthorpe Hall. As the buildings at the back of the farm are demolished, we can now see across to Little Wood and the Moors. Yes, it is noisy and dusty, with lorries and excavators, etc, busy at work, but also interesting as we watch one lot of buildings come down, ready for the next to be built. I am told building work on the Lowfield Site will start this month, so there will be another distraction to look at when I should be working!

Edwin Pocock

### AUTUMN FAIR

SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>. OCTOBER

2-00 p.m. till 4-00 p.m.

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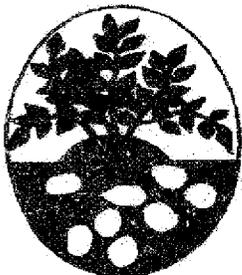
10lb. PACK @ 80 pence (Price @ 1/09/99)

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## GARDENING TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Well as usual we have had the variable weather conditions, heat wave when the greenhouse topped 120 F rain which fetched half the young apples off and hailstones which battered the hanging baskets, throw in the thunder and lightning and we have had a typical English summer, despite all that the garden is quite colourful, some of the produce will be ready for the show on the 4th September. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again with plenty of exhibits. September is always a busy month, in the garden when we prepare for the colder weather, protecting the tender plants and shrubs and moving the more vulnerable plants inside, taking last minute cuttings and planting over wintering seeds.

### FLOWERS

Keep up with dead heading all flowers unless you require seeds from them, deadheading encourages plants to produce more flowers, and will also give healthy plants for next year.

Prepare ground for new borders clearing summer plants as they fade making ready for Spring bedding.

Towards the end of the month lift and pot up geraniums and fuchsias etc and move them indoors.

Cuttings of roses can be taken now. Rambler roses nearly always do well from cuttings as do many of the old fashioned roses and modern floribundas, making rose plants this way means that suckers are an advantage instead of a nuisance. Later in the month plant out bulbs, corms and tubers in beds and borders to flower in spring, also spring bedding plants. I.e. wallflowers etc. Cuttings of lavender can be taken now they are quite easy to root in a sheltered place outdoors in shallow trenches in which sharp sand has been freely spread.

Cuttings of bedding geraniums should be taken now they will root readily in pots or boxes of soil in the garden frame.

Pot up bulbs for early flowering. Hyacinths, tulips, narcissi etc. Use bulbs which are specially prepared for early flowering, use bulb fibre if the pots are undrained, ordinary compost will do if the pots have drain holes. Place the bulbs of tulips and narcissi almost touching one another and barely covered with compost. Space smaller bulbs about 1" apart and cover with about 3/4" of compost, stand all the containers in the coolest place available below 9C(48F) for about eight to twelve weeks, inspect them now and again to make sure they do not dry out or get mildewed. Lift and divide overcrowded herbaceous plants.

Growth of rampant climbers such as some kinds of clematis (montana etc) wisteria and ampelopsis can be cut back now. If the plants are taking up too much room, or are looking untidy.

Violas are best renewed frequently, either from seed or cuttings, cuttings can be taken now and should be prepared from young non flowering shoots, insert them in sandy soil in a frame.

### VEGETABLES

Make sure all vegetables are well watered especially beans, marrows and courgettes.

Bend over one or two leaves over cauliflower curds to prevent damage by frost, pick off caterpillars or spray, note instructions about delaying eating after spraying.

Plant spring cabbage. Lift potatoes, dry off and store. Pull beet and carrots, start putting them in store. Divide and re plant thyme, chives and welsh onions. Turn down the tops of onions to encourage ripening.

Gather french and runner beans regularly, never leave pods to become old and stringy unless you want them for seeds. Sweetcorn should be gathered before the cob becomes too yellow, if they are left later they may become mealy

Leeks can be fed with a quick acting nitrogenous fertilizer such as nitrate of soda, or with a liquid feed.

Last chance to gather herbs for winter drying.

Marrows can be kept for quite some time if stored in nets or tights in a cool frost-free place. If you have any left after the slugs have finished with them celery needs to be earthed up to give a nice blanching of the stems.

### FRUIT, TREES AND SHRUBS

Prepare ground ready for new planting in Autumn, cover fruiting strawberries with cloches. Set aside some storage space for apples and pears, ideally rest them on slatted shelves in a cool airy place. Spray gooseberry and currant bushes against mildew. Pick up any windfalls to prevent any infection. As soon as fruit is picked start winter pruning bush apples and pears, take cuttings of evergreen shrubs, select largish shoots (6 to 9") pulled off with a "heel" or cut closely beneath a joint, insert firmly 2" to 3" deep in sandy soil place in cold frame with the lights (glass) over shade from strong sunlight, keep well watered not sodden. Fix or renew grease bands on apples, pears and plums. Prune Loganberries simply cut out at the base all cane that have fruited and tie in the new shoots. Blackberries can be treated in the same way.

### GREENHOUSE AND INDCOR PLANTS

Gradually decrease watering all round and dry off tuberous begonias, gloxinium, hot water plants, cacti and clivia etc. Feed plants in flower such as African violets, begonia and chrysanthemums.

Nights now begin to get much colder therefore care must be taken with ventilation, all side vents should be closed until next season and top vents set to close earlier if they are automatic, if not you must watch the weather carefully.

Spraying and damping down should be discontinued gradually, there will soon be too much moisture in the air for most greenhouse plants.

Sow cyclamen to flower in 14 months time, towards the end of the month clear out any tomato plants, as space will be needed for storing tender plants brought in from outside.

Take cuttings of fuchsia, geraniums etc if you have a little heat.

Ferns need very little feeding and this is the time to do it, a very weak liquid manure should be used.

### LAWNS

Continue mowing, edging, raking etc, sweep any leaves away as soon as possible.

Sow newly prepared ground with good quality lawn seed, note the varieties available and choose one to suit the purpose.

Hope to see you at the Show.

Cheerio for now. TOM Busy Bee.



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## Totley Remembered

As part of the 75th Anniversary of its foundation in 1924, All Saints Church is hoping to put on an exhibition of Totley memorabilia during the weekend of 26th to 28th November 1999.

It is intended that the exhibition will cover the community of Totley as a whole during the period 1924 to 1999 and will not be confined to the history of the church alone.

We would very much welcome any relevant items of interest (old photographs, articles, programmes etc) that readers may have stored away, and which they would be willing to lend for this event.

Anyone interested is invited to contact the Head Teacher of Totley All Saints School, Mrs Yvonne Twelvetree (telephone 0114 2361934), who has kindly agreed to organise the exhibition, or any member of All Saints Church.

Friends of the Botanical Gardens Sheffield (FOBS)

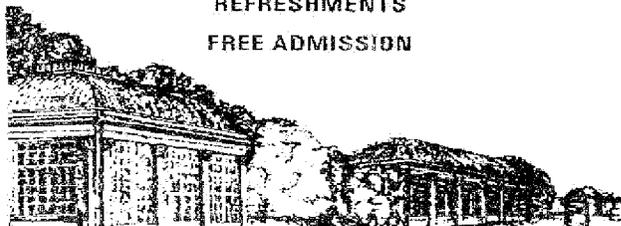
## PLANT SALE

**SUNDAY, 12 September**  
**2.00-4.00pm**

Demonstration Centre  
**SHEFFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
Thompson Road Entrance off Ecclesall Road

**HARDY PLANTS FOR AUTUMN PLANTING**  
**INFORMATION & SALES TABLE**

**REFRESHMENTS**  
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## What's on in the Peak District

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. to October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**MATLOCK BATH ILLUMINATIONS AND VENETIAN NIGHTS**

Derwent Gardens, Memorial Gardens, Lover's Walks and village illuminated. Decorated and illuminated boat parade. Children's entertainment. Family entertainment. From dusk each evening. Boats parade and entertainment provided, weekend evenings between 6.30 and 9.30 pm. Tel: Anita Proctor, Derbyshire Dales District Council, 01629 580580.

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>. **LONGSHAW SHEEPDOG TRIALS**

Longshaw Pastures near Fox House Inn on Grindleford to Sheffield road (B6521). Start 7.30 am, finish approximately 6pm. Tel: Mrs S Humphreys, 01433 651852

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. **HATHERSAGE SHOW**

Memorial Hall, Hathersage. Exhibition of flowers, vegetables, craft and children's section. Refreshments available. 3-6 pm. Tel: Cheryl Harman, 01433 651194

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. & 5<sup>th</sup>. **CHATSWORTH COUNTRY FAIR**

Two-day Country Fair spectacular for all the family including massed pipe and military bands, hot air balloons, free-fall parachuting and over 200 trade stands. Chatsworth Park, near Bakewell Approximately 8.30am-7pm each day. Tel: 01246 582204.

Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. - 11<sup>th</sup>. **CHESTERFIELD WELL DRESSING IN PROGRESS.**

Peacock Centre Courtyard, Low Pavement Admission free. 9.30am - 5 pm. Tel: 01246 345777/8.

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. & 12<sup>th</sup>. **15TH BUXTON COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Pavilion Gardens Octagon, Buxton. Saturday 6.45pm-12 midnight, Sunday 12.30pm - 11 pm.

Tel: Frank Hambleton, 01298 70194 r/0850 996534

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. - 18<sup>th</sup>. **CHESTERFIELD WELL DRESSINGS.**

Four wells on show in town centre.

Wells on show 10am-5 pm, Sunday 11am-4pm.

Tel: 01246 345777

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. **BRASS BAND'S ENTERTAINMENT CONTEST.** The Octagon, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton. Start 1pm

Tel: 01663 744907

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. - 6<sup>th</sup>. **Jan CASTLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Castleton village-illuminated Christmas trees. Lights on daily 4pm to midnight. Late night shopping up to Christmas Eve. Tel: Mrs V A Turner, 01433 620571

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. - 31<sup>st</sup>. **GREAT HUCKLOW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** Christmas trees throughout the village.

Tel: Mrs P Walton, 01298 871261

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## The Baby Faced Assassin

Totley, that bastion of sporting excellence, has done it again, producing one of the North of England's most promising athletic talents.

On the first weekend of May Emma Roper emerged as a young athlete of the future after winning the 1500m gold medal at the Yorkshire County Athletics Championships in Cleckheaton with a stunning 'kick' over the final 300m, which destroyed the rest of the field. This was Emma's championship debut in the under 17 age group, which meant that most of the opposition were a year older than Emma. After a nights sleep she was back again the next day to claim a bronze medal in the 800m event.

Emma, of Totley Grange Drive, began her athletic career just over two years ago and first showed her potential in February of 1998 when finishing third in the 800m at the United Kingdom Indoor Championships in Birmingham.

In May of 1998 Emma claimed her first major championship, winning the under 15 age group 800m at the Yorkshire Championships. Emma added the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Schools 800m championship to her increasing list of honours and in August gained her first county vest when representing Yorkshire at the Northern Inter-Counties match at the Dorothy Hyman Stadium at Cudworth.

Emma, a member of the Hallamshire Harriers Sheffield athletic club, is coached by Paul North in the very successful Athletes in Action group.

After a summer break, Emma entered the under 17 age group and saw this as a new challenge. This highly motivated young lady worked extremely hard throughout the winter and began the 1999 track season with a strong desire to move up to the 1500m event.

At Easter, with the assistance of a Sheffield City Council grant, Emma, along with members of her training group, spent two weeks in Spain warm weather training at the Malaga University. This intense training involved twice daily sessions of the highest quality and with mileage's around fifty per week.

Following her performances at the Yorkshire championships she will gain yet another county vest in August, in the meantime she has added the 1500m titles in the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Schools for good measure.

Emma, always displaying an outwardly polite and charming personality, hides a tough mental attitude, which gives her a competition edge over her opponents. She has received support from Chris Eccles; head of P.E. at King Egbert School, where she excels at Netball, Gymnastics, Hockey and Badminton but it is in the field of athletics that the people of Totley should look out for her in the future.

*The man who blows his own trumpet is usually a soloist*

## 1<sup>st</sup>. TOTLEY SCOUT LOTTERY

### JUNE

- 1<sup>st</sup>. PRIZE, No.8 THEATRE TICKETS  
Mrs.Wood, Totley Grange Drive  
2<sup>nd</sup>. PRIZE, No.64 £10 Voucher  
Mrs.Hossent, Sunnyvale Avenue

### JULY

- 1<sup>st</sup>. PRIZE, No. 19 CRYSTAL MANTEL CLOCK  
Miss Redmayne, Stocksgreen Drive  
2<sup>nd</sup>. PRIZE, No.16 £10 Voucher  
Mrs.Merrill, Green Oak Crescent

### AUGUST

- 1<sup>st</sup>. PRIZE, No.43 ICE CREAM MAKER  
Mrs.Davis, Totley Hall Lane  
2<sup>nd</sup>. PRIZE, No.31 £10 Voucher  
Mrs.Beeley, Green Oak Road

## Sheffield South West Primary Care Group

C/O Woodseats Medical Centre,  
4 Cobnar Road Sheffield S8 8QB

### An Introduction

In December 1997 the White Paper "The New NHS" the government outlined the plans for the end of the fundholding scheme and major changes in the way in which the NHS is run.

The population is to be split into primary care groups based around GP practices of approximately 100,000 people. The board of each group is to consist of up to 7 GP's, 2 nurses, 1 social services member, 1 lay member and 1 Health Authority non executive member. The job of these boards will be to commission health care for the population they serve either directly or by advising the Health Authority. Primary care groups officially come into being on 1<sup>st</sup>. April 1999.

Sheffield has been divided into four primary care groups based largely on a geographical basis, according to GP Practice. The South West Primary Care Group covers a population of 119,000 over the South West of the city. Exact details of which GP practices are covered by the South West Primary Care Group can be obtained by writing to the address above.

Our aim is to improve the health and health care of our resident population

We will do this through identification of need, tackling inequalities and commissioning quality services by working in partnership with our community.

We have on the basis of public health information available to us identified the prevention of stroke as an area in which we will concentrate this year from the National Health of the Nation priorities.

With regard to our local priorities we have identified health care of residents of nursing and residential homes. We have consulted both health care professionals and community groups in order to help us decide on this local priority.

## Abbeydale Golf Club.

With further reference to the photograph of the Abbeydale golf club pavilion in the May issue.

Ryecroft 1895-1897

It wasn't even Abbeydale it was Dore golf club founded on the 9th July 1895 with 9 holes at Ryecroft farm on Dore Road, The founding members were William.A.Milner J.P of Totley Hall, William Wilson of Beauchief Hall, Hanbury Thomas, Joseph Cooper, F.E.Cockayne, Jarvis W.Barber, J.H.Doncaster, and G.S.Slater club facilities for ladies and gents were in the farm house but not for long, less than two years later the farm changed hands and the club had to seek a new course.

Beauchief 1897-1924.

About 47 acres of land was chosen on the nearby Beauchief estate close to the Abbey and the Abbeydale Hotel and the railway station 9 holes were laid out between the Abbey Lane and Beauchief Drive. The earliest clubhouse is reputed to have been a disused railway shed, but soon a twin gabled tennis pavilion was erected in the vicinity of what is now the Beauchief Hotel rear car park, access was by steps down from Abbey Lane and across a footbridge.

The landowner was the Strelley Pegge-Burnell family of Nottingham. A five-year renewable lease was signed and the golf club changed its name to the Abbeydale Golf club.

The club joined the Yorkshire union of golf clubs in 1897 the clubhouse being in Yorkshire and the rest in Derbyshire, In April 1912 the course was extended to 18 holes.

It is understood the Sheffield Corporation leased the course from a Frank Crawshaw and bought the old clubhouse from Abbeydale Golf Club and it then became Beauchief municipal around 1924 when Abbeydale moved to the present site on Twentywell Lane.

John Perkinson

## 25<sup>th</sup>. ANNIVERSARY DORE and TOTLEY Luncheon Club

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dore and Totley Luncheon Club/Day Centre we are holding a coffee morning 10am - 12pm on Tuesday, 5th October at the U.R.C. Church Hall on Totley Brook Road with proceeds going to Transport 17. Do come and meet our visitors, see our stalls and enjoy that welcome cup of coffee and biscuits.

Forgive us for being so pleased at reaching this landmark but it is with grateful thanks to all our many generous volunteers over the years that this has been achieved.

A brief summary for anyone who knows nothing of this club. We cater for 16 housebound people every Tuesday between 10.30 am. and 2.45 pm. offering them morning coffee, a home cooked dinner and companionship, also doing a little shopping for them if needed. There are four teams to look after them once a month and a cooking team of two people who provide the meal. every five weeks. All expenses paid for. Transport 17 provide the transport.

We will be pleased to see any volunteers at this function, old or new, and should anyone like to volunteer to join us in this satisfying, worthwhile venture, please have a word with anyone on the stalls.

Mrs. B. Walkden,  
22 Old Hay Close,  
Dore, S17  
236 3595

Mrs. V. Filleul  
116, Green Oak Road  
Totley, S17 4FS  
236 0872

## TOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL TRAIL

Children at Totley Primary School have put the final touches to a creative school trail which highlights the importance of school grounds for education, recreation and for the environment. The Trail has been made possible with support from local companies, parents and most importantly the school children.

Arnold Lavers and Busy Bees DIY store in Totley provided the materials. The children, teachers and governors have worked together to identify the location of the posts and the designs of the markers from which rubbings can be taken.

"The Trail provides an opportunity to combine the skills required for orienteering or 'cunning running' with an environmental message. It also links with the National Curriculum in terms of helping children to understand location, maps and orientation. The uses that the Trail can be put to are many and varied," said Parent Governor Dave Aspinal. "We are fortunate to have such lovely school grounds and we want to share it with our children and other local primary schools, should they wish to use it" he added.

For further information contact either the Headteacher Martin Bierton on 0114 2364482

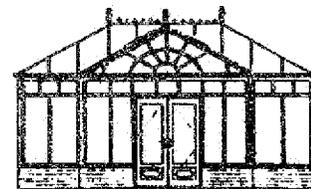
or Parent Governor Dave Aspinal on 01709 822020.

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Annual

## ART EXHIBITION

At Avenue Farm Old Hay Lane Dore Sheffield on Friday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September

**PREVIEW EVENING ON FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup>. TO BE  
OPENED BY JOE SCARBOROUGH**

Tickets £10.00 including Wine and Canapés

Tel: Roberta McCaw 0114 2362075

VIEWING ON 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER FROM 10.00AM  
TO 4.00 p.m. Admission £1.00

Artists exhibiting will be:

Geoff Kersey	Hazel Lale
Brian Smith	Sue Pontefract
Derek McQueen	Rosalind Foster
Rachel Gallagher	Melanie Elliott
Des Brophy	Lyn Littlewood
Tim Rose	Marianne Cox
Alex Armitage	Jeremy Redfern
Russ Sharrock	Anne Poole

There will be demonstrations by ANNE POOLE of Pinders  
on Friday evening and on Saturday at 11.00 am and 1.00 pm.

**MANY THANKS TO PINDERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
FOR THIS EVENT**

## THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION Sheffield Central Branch

The WEA is pleased to offer a wide range of Adult Education  
courses for its Autumn Programme which will be held at the  
Bannerdale Centre with enrolments as follows:

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1999**

2.00 p.m. Daytime Courses (Monday to Wednesday)

7.00 p.m. All Evening Courses

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 1999**

2.00 p.m. Daytime Courses (Thursday and Friday)

Further information can be obtained from the locally  
available WEA leaflet (libraries etc.) or by telephoning

**June Fisher on 0114 272 4983.**

## TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

**NEXT MEETING  
THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>. SEPTEMBER**

**11am. 4 GROVE ROAD, TOTLEY**

**MEETINGS DURING 1999  
WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH OUR  
PRESENT PRACTICE OF MEETING ON  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,  
ON CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN S17

As we live out the last few months of the second millennium  
there is a natural interest in what the world will offer us in the  
third. Speculation abounds about the shape of the future and  
terms like 'globalisation' leave us in no doubt that large multi-  
national companies will set the agenda for our lives. The  
trend towards a global village is driven by easy, instantaneous  
and cheap communication round the world through the  
internet, and therefore my neighbour is anyone who shares a  
common interest wherever they happen to live.

What has this to do with those of us living in an outer suburb  
of Sheffield? A great deal I think. Information about the  
Balkans Crisis reaches us faster than the news that the lady  
next door has suffered a heart attack. Living in a 'virtual'  
global village can cause us to forget that we live physically in  
a real community with real houses with real people.

Those of us with a Christian faith know that God is into  
community in a big way. He himself models community and  
lives in the community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and he  
makes us live and work with each other by ensuring that no  
one person has the skills and gifts to operate alone. Let us  
embrace the global community and learn to live in it in a  
new, exciting and dynamic way, but let us not forget S17 at  
the same time. When my wife and I moved to this area three  
years ago we were pleased to see how much effort people  
made to think and act on the local level. We must continue to  
do this in the face of pressures that will turn our attention  
away from those who live around us.

Tony Wilson

## Totley All Saints Pre-school

wishes to announce that it is moving to new premises in  
September, and will be having an

**Open Day**

**on Wednesday 8th September.**

We would welcome visitors of all ages, between the  
following times: **9am - 1.30pm & 3pm - 4pm**  
at the schoolhouse, Totley All Saints School, Hillfoot Road.

As a parent user of the pre-school for the past four years, I  
would recommend that any parents in the area looking for a  
place for their child takes the opportunity to come and have a  
look

It is a cosy, non-profit making play group, which has  
provided everything I wanted for my two children in the way  
of opportunities for play, social development, and  
stimulation. They have both been very happy there. My  
opinion of the playgroup was shared by the OFSTED  
inspectors, who visited recently, gave a very complimentary  
report. The staff are friendly, warm, and clearly committed to  
providing the best possible service to the children in their  
care.

Somewhat inadequate premises have been a disadvantage, so  
I am delighted that the former school caretaker's house is  
being if converted for its use.

To reflect the change in circumstances, the name of the pre-  
school is also to be changed to **Little Saints Nursery.**

For further information, ring Heather: **01246 410373.**

V.Unstun

## SHEFFIELD BRANCH OF THE R.S.P.C.A.

The Manager of our recently extended Co-op Store and Totley Library have both kindly offered to collect tins and packets of cat and dog food all the year round for the animals at Spring Street Shelter rather than just for the Christmas Appeal. This is very welcome as the food bill for the centre is a considerable part of the expense of the Branch, and it is hoped many people will pop in the odd tin or two, it all helps. It is not always realised that the Sheffield Branch of the R.S.P.C.A. is an independent charity run by a committee of local volunteers. It is autonomous and although their rules are laid down by the National R.S.P.C.A. Sheffield is independent in managing its affairs and receives no funding from the National R.S.P.C.A. and must raise all their own income. No government grants are available, and the National Lottery does not consider animal charities.

The animal home at 83 Spring St, Sheffield 3 (off Corporation St) can take up to 80 dogs and 70 cats. These are unwanted/neglect/cruelty cases and not strays, who are waiting patiently for new good homes. The cost of running the Home is in excess of £600 per day just to cover food, vets bills, gas & electricity, rates etc., but not wages. The premises at Spring St. are very old and far from ideal both for animals and those working with them (Forget Rolf Harris and TV shows!) and the Committee want to gradually rebuild and improve conditions as and when there is the finance. Spaying and neutering, an important part in reducing the number of unwanted puppies and hordes of kittens, is now carried out at Spring St and all animals going to new homes have had this done - more costs.

A city the size of Sheffield really does need more money putting into its Home, via donations, legacies, fund-raising and support of the two charity shops, one on Ecclesall Rd opposite the Berkeley Precinct, the other at Crookes.

Old blankets, towels and flannelette sheets are useful for bedding, these can be left with

Mrs. D. Styles at 10 The Quadrant, Totley.

Volunteers can help in various ways, the phone number is 0114 2727542 at Spring Street.

## TRANSPORT 17

We will be having a stall at Totley Show on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September. This will be at Totley Rise Methodist Church. Bric-a-Brac, books and plants will be on offer. Please come and support Totley Resident's Association on this day. A lot of time and effort goes into organising this very pleasant event.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October there is a Coffee Morning at the United Reformed Church hall, Totley Brook Road. This is to celebrate 25 years of Dore and Totley Lunch Club. They have kindly said that the proceeds from this event will go to Transport 17. Our congratulations go to everyone past and present who have kept this lunch club going for so long. It is not just a question of cooking. Meals have to be planned, shopped for, presented and cleared. Transport and other help is organised by the members. It is a real labour of love and God bless them all.

We are very sad to have to stop the "Outward Bound" club after this year's events. This is because we do not have enough drivers. They are already working full out every week for our permanent clubs. It is too much to ask the same

people to work evenings and weekends. Many thanks to them all. Perhaps you know someone who would like to drive or escort for us. Please ring 2362962 if you do.  
Best Wishes, Margaret Barlow.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN TOTLEY

Do you have any spare time to give some help to local elderly people?

The sort of things we might ask you to do include:

- visiting someone who lives alone
- Occasional shopping
- Checking on someone following discharge from hospital
- Re-arranging furniture to allow easier mobility for a patient going home from hospital
- Accompanying someone to an appointment

We would love to hear from you

Please contact:

**Kath Horner, Sheffield Churches Council for  
Community Care, 8 Backfields, Sheffield.**

**Tel. 279 7929**

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MOSSLEE COTTAGE, 3 QUARRY RD., TOTLEY, SHEFFIELD S17 4DA

One day John Winter received a telephone summons from Mr. Manning. The partner's voice seemed to be a little apprehensive and John made his way downstairs in haste. The weather was terrible, humid and wet, with intermittent flashes of lightning and roars of thunder. John hoped fervently that this was not a portent of things to come.

He entered the partner's room on the first floor to find Mr. Manning in the presence of Mr. Archibald Twining. The partner's visitor, an elderly, slim, bald, bespectacled man was the owner and chairman of Sykes & Co.Ltd. cutlery manufacturers. John had recently completed their audit. The chairman stared with evident displeasure at the audit clerk as he entered. "John Mr. Twining has informed me of some unfortunate occurrences at his firm that have just come to light" Mr. Manning said in severe tones. John waited anxiously for further details, his face pale and drawn.

"Two bonuses of £1,000 gross each were paid to Mr. Stanley during the course of the last financial year. Mr. Twining informs me that these bonuses were never authorised by the Board of Directors. He has asked why these irregularities were not detected on the recent audit. What have you to say?" Mr. Manning continued in apprehensive vane. A flash of lightning lit up the room as the partner spoke, giving impetus to his words.

John's immediate thoughts were calamity! calamity! Robertson Hare's catchphrase crossed his mind as he prepared to answer. "I relied on the internal control. Salary cheques have to be signed by Mr. Milton as well as by Mr. Stanley" Mr. Milton was the managing director.

"Did you not enquire about authorisation of these bonuses?" asked the partner severely.

"No. I relied on the internal control," John admitted reluctantly and apologetically.

"It appears that the signatures of Mr. Milton were forged by Mr. Stanley," said Mr. Manning in sombre tones.

"No!" John cried in disbelief. "Surely not?"

"It may be hard to believe but such is the case. Is that not so Mr. Twining?" asked the partner.

"It is" replied the cutlery manufacturer categorically. "So skilfully done that the bank did not detect them. I should like to speak to Mr. Manning alone".

"That is all for the moment, John" remarked the partner. The clerk, uttering an abject apology, returned to his room full of misgiving.

John Winter's thoughts were dire as he awaited the outcome of the talks - the owner and the partner. On reflection and with hindsight he realised that he should have sought evidence of authorisation of the bonuses. No other bonuses had been paid in the financial year, which had been a poor one financially. That fact alone should have aroused his suspicions.

John got out the file of the cutlery firm and perused the accounts. The salaries charge in the trading account was higher than that for the previous year but not significantly so. Still, with hindsight, they did give a further clue to the fraud.

John found it hard to believe that Mr. Stanley, the well respected, long serving secretary, had either the cunning or the audacity to perpetrate such a fraud. John had always been impressed by the secretary's competence and grasp of the cutlery company's affairs. He had appreciated that the secretary had influence with Mr. Twining but this alone would not suggest fraud, rather the opposite. Mr. Stanley had reached a position of trust and there had been no reason to

suspect a breach of this.

John looked out of his second-storey office window to see Mr. Twining cross the square, get into his car and drive off. A further telephone summons by Mr. Manning followed almost immediately. John entered the partner's room. Mr. Manning, ashen faced and shaking visibly beckoned his employee to a seat.

After a long pause the partner spoke in terse, despondent tones. "Winter, I have just agreed the firm's resignation as auditors to Sykes & Co.Ltd." John Winter's face blanched and he gazed down at his shoelaces. "I had no alternative. Mr. Twining gave me the option of resignation or dismissal and I chose the lesser evil. This incident is one of those unfortunate happenings that occur even in the best regulated firms. There is no doubt that you should have asked for the directors' cooperation of the bonuses. That is a point that must now be specifically mentioned in the audit programmes for all clients - unfortunately too late in the case of Sykes & Co. - the horses having already bolted".

John Winter, face flushed, spoke quietly. "You are quite right Mr. Manning. I have no excuse for my carelessness

"This is a human failing, John. However, there are mitigating circumstances. What indeed would ever have suspected Mr Stanley of forgery? The very idea is preposterous", continued the partner in a somewhat more lenient tone. "Still, auditors must allow for human frailty and verify and vouch transactions with satisfactory evidence

"How did the fraudulent entries come to light?" asked John.

"You may as well know the whole sorry tale - although it must go no further - either to your colleagues or to anyone else", replied Mr. Manning in a hushed voice. "Mr. Stanley absconded two months ago, shortly after you completed the audit. That was Mrs. John James, wife of one of Mr. Stanley's colleagues, went to him. They have not yet been traced and are believed to be overseas. Mr Stanley's place as secretary has been taken by Ron Jardine. Ron reviewed the salary book and came across the bonus entries. His suspicions were immediately aroused. On enquiry Mr. Milton confirmed that the bonuses had not been authorised".

John Winter listened with incredulity as the sorry tale unfolded.

Mr. Manning continued "John Winter - I can't deny that this whole affair is a setback. Sykes & Co. have been clients since last century - in fact from the start of our firm. I don't wish to be too severe on you - you are young and without much experience. I am well aware of your commitment to your job. This is the first instance I can recall of a serious mistake on your part. Let it be the last. Profit from the experience and try not to be taken in by novel circumstances. Keep your wits about you and be eternally vigilant. That is all. You may go" John responded with a torrent of words. "Thank you Mr. Manning sir. I do appreciate your forbearance. I will do my utmost to prevent any similar calamity in future

John returned to his office ashamed and angry at having allowed the fraud to escape his attention. These feelings were somewhat assuaged by gratitude at the temperate nature of Mr. Manning's rebuke. The partner had borne the full assault of Mr. Twining's ire and had shielded his junior employee from the worst consequences of the disaster.

It took the audit clerk some time to overcome his feelings of incompetence. Several weeks elapsed before the incident faded to the back of his mind and he regained his self respect.

## Light Brigade 'Locals'

Brian Edwards seeks further information on David Stanley who he links with Balaclava House, Queen Victoria Road. To Brian's assertion I can add nothing but records do show that **Private** David Stanley (a Nottingham man) rode with the **17th Lancers in the Charge** (and was wounded). He was apparently a mason prior to enlistment in the Army on 10 July 1849. He purchased his discharge from the Army on 12 August 1856 for the sum of £20.

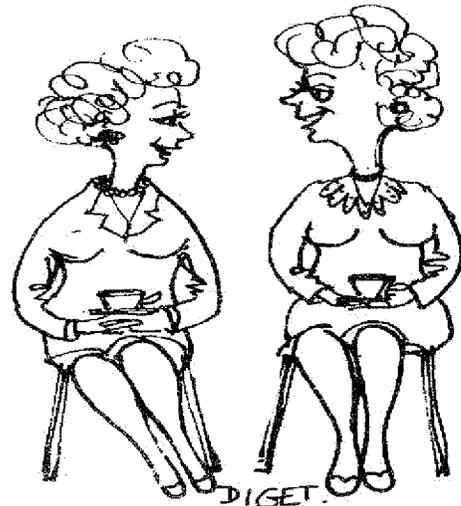
Incidentally, if indeed, Stanley lived locally, he was not the sole participant in that historic event to have links with Sheffield. At least one other, Sergeant Francis Dickinson (curiously also of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Lancers - whose usual recruiting area was Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire) lived at 20 Tillotson Road, Heeley in the 1890's.

I believe also that the uniform jacket of Sergeant Major George Loy Smith, 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars was (and may still be) in the care of Kelham Island Industrial Museum.

For those interested some 658 men participated in the Charge and 287 became casualties.

Interesting displays of military items and medals relating to the Charge may be seen in museums at Cannon Hall, Barnsley and Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire.

S.E. Acaster  
Society for army historical Research  
Military Society



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## SOUTH WEST AREA SITTING SERVICE

### BEING A VOLUNTEER

"That's the sort of good news I like to hear on a Monday morning," said the enthusiastic voice at the end of the phone. This was in response to my leaving a tentative message on the South West Area Sitting Service answer phone the previous Friday. "We'll have someone round to see you as soon as possible to fill you in with the details." I had rung after seeing a poster advertising for volunteers in my local Community Centre. By the end of the week I had been recruited as a volunteer subject to my two references being approved. What a whole new world this opened up for me! For almost 23 years I had been a teacher of children with special needs and had given little thought to the needs of the growing population of elderly, dependent people and especially their carers.

It seemed such a simple thing to do to go and sit with someone for a couple of hours who may sleep for the duration or chat endlessly about their past life. I'd heard of Alzheimer's of course and Parkinson's Disease but had no first hand experience of either. For my first "sit" I was asked to go to a gentleman who suffered from both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's to allow his wife to attend a meeting at her local church. For a considerable length of time before he succumbed to sleep the gentleman took me on a trip around the world with stories of his days as a sailor in the Merchant Navy. When he awoke, however, he seemed agitated because he thought there should be several tennis balls under the sofa and he couldn't find them! He calmed down when I told him that they had all been collected and put in a safe place. At another client's home I was in the company of an infirm lady and treasured budgie. "He'll sit on your hand if you let him" she ventured when I'd shown a polite interest in our feathered friend, so I held out my hand encouragingly. The little poppet hopped onto my finger, ran up my arm and promptly bit my ear! "naughty boy" said his concerned owner. Not exactly my words as I non-too gently returned him to his cage.

There are numerous amusing anecdotes to relate alongside some of the very sombre ones particularly of those people who are so very ill. What has amazed me is the devotion of all the carers to their loved one, many of whom have only the all too brief couple of hours respite offered by the Sitting Service's volunteers. It is difficult to comprehend the stresses of caring for a, sometimes difficult, dependent adult 24 hours a day, 7 days a week often with little or no help. As one gentleman said to my colleague, "she was a good wife and mother for over forty years, now it's my privilege to care for her".

I became so interested and involved with the service that when a job opportunity arose I leapt at the chance and was

fortunate to be accepted as the Volunteer Recruitment Worker whilst still doing some voluntary work in my own time. It is not an easy job asking people to give a couple of hours of their time, especially when the work is unpaid but to receive the grateful thanks of the carers and to see the stress and worry disappear for a couple of hours at least, is well worth it. As the population of older people increases, the resources provided by the Government are more and more stretched, so therefore we need to be aware that we can help and be effective even if it is only giving up 2-3 hours of our time to help those less fortunate than ourselves and who knows perhaps one day you or I may be calling on the South West Area Sitting Service's band of volunteers.

For further information on the Service please ring Gill or Janet on 250 8194 If you wish to become a volunteer please ring Joan on 250 8194

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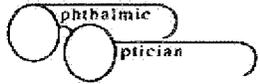
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**MONDAYS.**

**COFFEE MORNING**, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am. To noon

**TUESDAYS.**

**COFFEE MORNING**, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon.

**CRAFT GROUP**, Totley Library, 2pm.

**LADIES EXERCISE TO MUSIC**, All levels, United Reformed Church, 12-30 to 2-00pm. Tel. 2359298

**WEDNESDAYS.**

**COFFEE IN THE LIBRARY**, 10am. to 11-30am.

**MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING**, All Saints Church Hall, 8-00pm. To 10-30pm

**AMERICAN LINE DANCING**, United Reformed Church, 8-00pm. to 9-30pm. Tel. 2359298

**THURSDAYS.**

**OPEN DOOR**, United Reformed Church, 10 am to noon.

**PUSHCHAIR CLUB**, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1-30pm. To 3-00pm. Tel. 236 3157 for further

information.

**AMERICAN LINE DANCING**, United Reformed Church, 1-00pm. to 2.45pm. Tel. 2359298

**SATURDAYS.**

**MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING**, All Saints Church Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup>. & 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturdays 7-30pm. To 10-00pm

## SEPTEMBER

**WED. 1<sup>st</sup>. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom 2-00pm. Informal meeting members only.

**Wed. 8<sup>th</sup>. LITTLE SAINTS OPEN DAY**. (Formerly All Saints Pre School) 9-00a.m. to 1-30p.m. and 3-00p.m. to 4-00p.m. Full details inside.

**WED. 8<sup>th</sup>. WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP**. "From Slum to Sunshine", by Marjorie Dunne, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 8-00 p.m.

**SUN. 12<sup>th</sup>. PLANT SALE**, Sheffield Botanical Gardens 2-00p.m. to 4-00p.m. Full details inside.

**TUES. 15<sup>th</sup>. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom 2-30pm Devotional, Rev. J.R.Thompson

**SAT. 16<sup>th</sup>. COFFEE MORNING**. Proceeds for Christian Aid, 10a.m. to 12 noon, Dore Methodist Church. Also Bring & Buy & sale of Traidecraft.

**SAT. 18<sup>th</sup>. JUMBLE SALE**. Dore & Totley U.R.C. Church Hall, Clothes, Bric-a-Brac, Toys, Household items, Books, Tapes, Records etc.

Admission 20p at 11-00a.m. - 12-30p.m. £2 at 10-00a.m.

**TUES. 21<sup>st</sup>. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**, "A year as the Town Mayor" Mrs. J. Henshaw, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am

**WED. 22<sup>nd</sup>. WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP**. "Humorous Aspects of Banking", by Ric Brown, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 8-00 p.m.

**SAT. 25<sup>th</sup>. GRAND JUMBLE SALE**. Green Oak View, 2-00p.m. to 4p.m. full details inside

**SAT. 25<sup>th</sup>. CAR BOOT SALE**, Mercia Car Park, King Egbert School, Furniss Ave. Dore. 9a.m. to 12noon. £5 per car, Telephone 236 7942 for details

**SAT. 25<sup>th</sup>. DORE MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT**. 7-00p.m., Woudseats Methodist Church. For tickets telephone 236 4367.

**TUES. 29<sup>th</sup>. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom 2-30pm "Working with young people at Hanover" Portia Wilson

## THE INDEPENDENT FOR OCTOBER

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999.

Copy date for this issue will be Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>. SEPTEMBER 1999.

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