

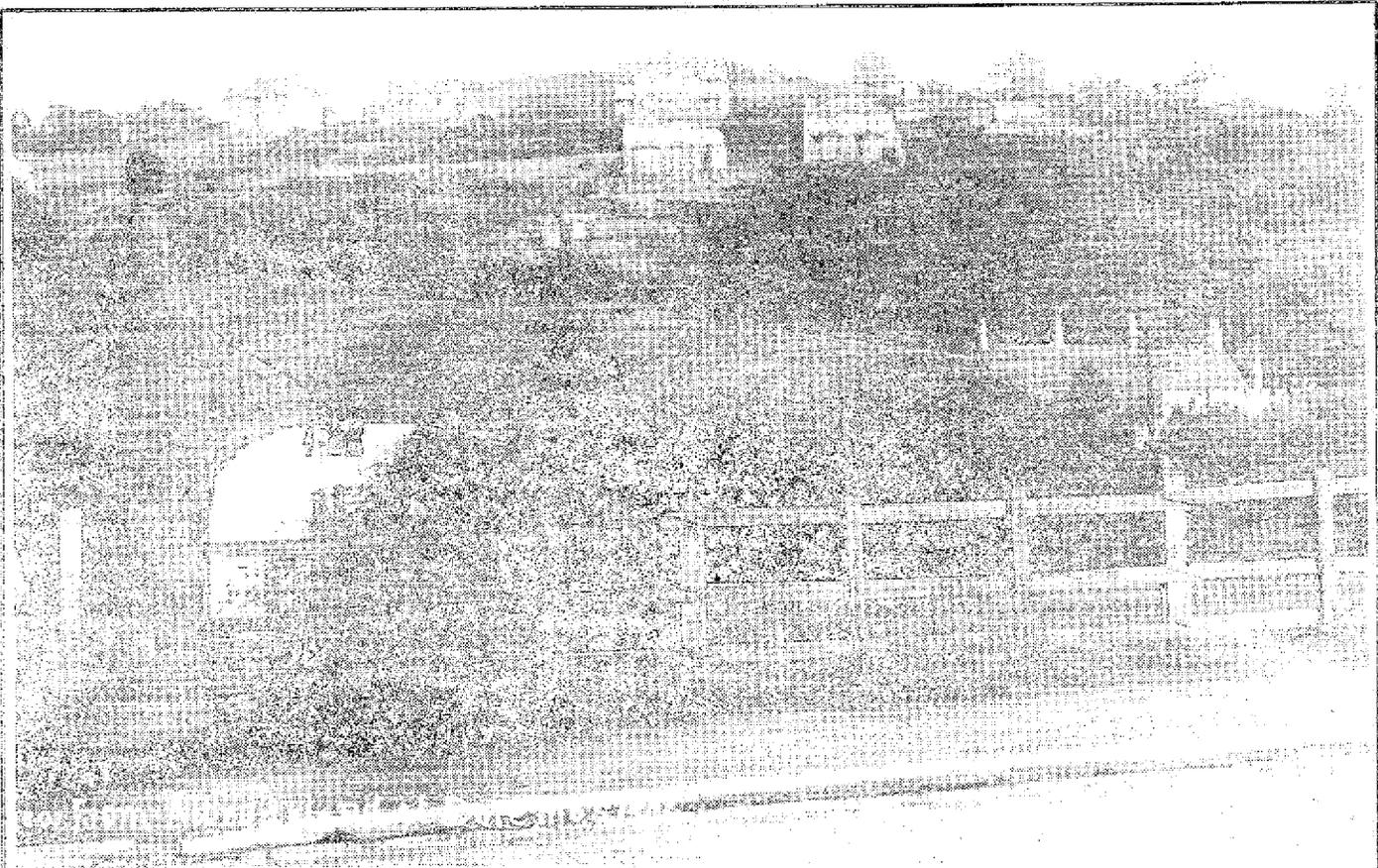
# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY THE TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1977

APRIL 2000

No. 232

15p.



Can you date the above picture, when was the cottage pulled down etc.? We would be grateful if any reader can furnish us with any further information about the above.

## T.R.A. UPDATE

I hope that you have all had a walk in Green Oak Park recently and seen the wonderful spring flower display. It really was worth getting wet planting them just to see the great results. The buildings look so much better too without the graffiti.

Talks are going on at the moment about the use of the redundant tennis courts for maybe basketball. Peter Jones, Assistant General Operations Manager, Parks, Woodlands and Countryside will be at the A.G.M to discuss setting up a Parkscene Group. This is basically a group interested in the park who are willing to bring any matters needing attention to the notice of the management.

Please turn up for the A.G.M on Monday 17th April, in Totley Library, at 7.30pm. This is your association and without people willing to be involved it will not continue to exist.

Also at the meeting will be our new South West Area Co-ordinator Chris Dale, Councillor Keith Hill and Councillor Colin Ross.

On Monday 10th of April, at 7.30pm at Totley County School there will be a South West Area Panel Open Meeting with Mike Foster, Highways Design Engineer, from Sheffield City Council, to discuss the Totley Hall Lane/ Baslow Road/ Hillfoot Road junction. Do come along and join in the discussion.

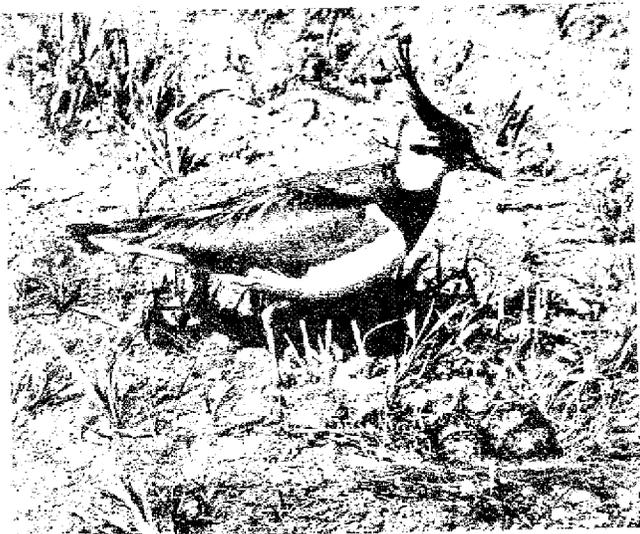
### BIG NEWS!

The Totley Rise service road one way scheme has been passed by committee and is at present going through the legal system. We hope that we will soon be done with the dangerous practise, by those who ignore the signs, of exiting the service road at the top/Glover Road junction.

**DON'T FORGET - 17th APRIL, 7.30pm, TOTLEY LIBRARY, TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

# WHAT ARE WE DOING TO OUR BIRDS?

By Alan Faulkner Taylor



We have been told that the reason for the decline in numbers of many of our British birds is the change in farming techniques.

The inference is that our farmers are to blame. In actual fact nobody is to blame. Farmers were pressurised to increase production during the Second World War in order to make Britain self-sufficient in food. Farmers did a magnificent job and Britain *did* become self-sufficient in the basic requirements of life.

So - what are the reasons for the decline in population of many of our birds. What are the changes in farming practices that have caused so much havoc? I will endeavour to provide the reasons

1. The use of pesticides is one of the main reasons. Dieldrin was the first pesticide to be used and this proved to be disastrous to wildlife. Today's pesticides are more selective - aimed to exterminate the insects that are known to damage cereal crops. Even more recently, although not so much in Britain, insects are being introduced that prey either on the insects, or on the larvae of insects, that are injurious to crops. The birds that suffer are those who feed not only on insects, but also the birds that eat the affected seeds. They are: greenfinch, goldfinch, yellow hammer, corn bunting, starling, house sparrow, tree sparrow, partridge and turtle dove.

2. The use of fertilisers to increase production of hay, making possible two crops annually. This practice causes disturbance to the habitat during the breeding season, thus affecting ground-nesting birds such as lapwing and skylark.

The numbers of small mammals, such as shrew, wood mouse, short-tailed vole and bank vole are also reduced. One could argue that the reduction in their numbers is beneficial to farmers. That is not the case, because small mammals take only the cereal seeds that fall to the ground. The bird whose numbers have declined disastrously during the last few decades, due to reduced numbers of small mammals, has been the barn owl.

3. Grubbing-out of hedgerows. Although this reason does not apply to the Peak District, it seriously affects bird and mammals in other districts that surround Sheffield. The affected species are all hedge-nesting birds, such as song thrush, blackbird, duncock and turtle dove.

## POST OFFICE NEWS

### Post Office Closures.

Thanks to all customers who have taken the time and trouble to sign the petition regarding our concern over the Governments plan to introduce compulsory ACT (leaflets are available from all Post Offices explaining the ACT in more detail) from the year 2003.

Over one million customers have so far signed petitions demonstrating the public feeling about Automated Credit Transfer (ACT) and the damaging effect it would have on the country's postal network, many Post Offices would have to close if benefits payments such as pensions, family allowances etc. were compulsory paid directly into a bank account. Apart from the overall social consequences, many customers would have great difficulties in travelling to their nearest bank bearing in mind that many of the large banks are threatening further closures in attempts to reduce costs.

A rally is being organised in London on Wednesday April 12<sup>th</sup>. To show government ministers the strength of feeling, not only from subpostmasters, but also well-respected groups such as Age Concern, Mothers Union, Womens Institute and the Countryside Allowance.

### Postal Rates

Will customers please note that postage rates for First class stamps will increase from 26p to 27p from April 27<sup>th</sup>. second class will remain at 19p.

### Bank Holiday Arrangements.

Dates informing customers when the Post Office will be making early payment of pensions/allowances for Easter Monday and May Day will be displayed inside the Post Office as soon as this information is available.

### Banking Services

May we again remind customers that all Post Offices now provide personal banking services not only for Alliance & Leicester, Girobank etc. but also the Co-op, Lloyds and T.S.B. i.e. Cash out and cash/cheques paid in. N.B. other well-known banks are also considering this additional service provided by Post Office's in the future.

### Recycled Christmas Cards.

Many thanks to all our customers who participated in the collection of used Christmas cards. Once again there has been a large increase on last years collection, money raised is being used to provide schools with additional equipment.  
Glen & Jim Webb, Totley Rise Post Office

*Come and have a great time at the PTA*

## QUIZ NIGHT

*AT 8-00 pm. FRIDAY THE 7<sup>th</sup>. OF APRIL*

*AT TOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SUNNYVALE ROAD  
£3.50 PER PERSON, INCLUDING A PIE AND  
PEAS SUPPER.  
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS.*

*TICKETS ON SALE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE  
OR FROM KATRINA WATSON (262 0363)*

*TICKETS NEED TO BE BOUGHT BY THE 4<sup>th</sup>. OF  
APRIL TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT FOOD ON THE  
EVENING.*

## Churches Together in S17

Church Services over the Easter Period,  
19<sup>th</sup>. to 23<sup>rd</sup>. April 2000

All are welcome, whether churchgoers or not

### Joint Services involving all local churches Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. April

8pm. United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd. (in the Hall)

### Good Friday, 21st April.

8pm. Tenebrae, at United Reformed Church

### All Saints, Totley Hall Lane

Good Friday 10 am. Children's Easter Service

12 noon till 3-00pm 3hours at the Foot of the Cross.

During this time you are free to come and go at half hourly intervals.

Easter Sunday 8-00am. Holy Communion, 10-00 am. Family Communion, 6-30 pm. Easter Celebration

### English Martyrs, Baslow Road

Easter Sunday Mass 8am

All other services are at St.Thomas' Woodseats

Good Friday 10 am, 3pm, Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

Saturday Morning prayer 10 am, Easter Vigil 9pm

Easter Sunday Mass of Easter 9.15 am and 11.15am

### Totley Rise Methodist Church

Good Friday - Joint Service with U.R.C., at U.I.L.C. 9am

Easter Sunday, 10.30am and 6.30pm

### United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road

Good Friday - Joint Service with Totley Rise at 9am

Easter Sunday 10.30am

### St. Johns, Abbeydale

Good Friday 10am, Family Service, 2 pm, One hour by the Cross

Easter Sunday 8 am Holy Communion, 10am Parish Communion, 6.30 pm Evening Prayer

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN S17 CONCERT

The Churches Together in S17 will present the "FAURE REQUIEM" sung by the joint choirs and other members of the churches in St. John's Church, Abbeydale on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6-30 p.m.

It will be conducted by Alan East with Paul Green on the organ. Soloists will be Bill Hale and Anne Brookes.

We invite everyone to come and hear it.

Phyllis Glossop, St. Johns Choir

### Millennium Flower Festival

St John's Church Abbeydale will be holding its Millennium Flower Festival on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>. And 18<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the displays is "The Life of Christ".

The church will be open from 12.00 noon on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. June with afternoon teas served from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. At 8.00pm The Tuesday Singers from Whitby will give a concert in the church.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. The church will be open from 10.00am to 5.00 p.m. for viewing, whilst a Morning Market will be held from 10-00 am to 1-30 p.m. serving hot dogs and ploughman's lunches, with lots of stalls for everyone and there will be activities for children.

The festival continues on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. with normal services in the morning and viewing between 2-00 p.m. to 6-00 p.m. with afternoon teas available. At 7-00 p.m. the festival closes with a combined service for Churches Together in S17 with guest speaker Mr Jack Straw of Radio Sheffield. Proceeds shall be shared between the Milawi teacher-training project and church funds. Ray Wright, Church Warden

## A NEW VICAR FOR TOTLEY

But we've not long since had one, haven't we? Well, not really. Because there was a possibility of building a new vicarage, David was made "Priest-in-Charge", rather than vicar. Not much difference, except that he's more easily sackable. A decision has now been made that the vicarage (and the vicarage family!) will be staying at 37 Sunnyvale Road, so David can now be made a proper vicar. This will happen at a special service when Bishop Cyril, recently appointed as Bishop of Doncaster will visit All saints to lead our service, and ensure that David leaves as a vicar! The date has yet to be confirmed. We will keep you informed.

## TRANSPORT 17

On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup>. June there will be a book sale in the Transport 17 office at 172, Baslow Road from 10 a.m. till noon. Come along and browse and have a cup off coffee or tea.

We would all like to send our congratulations to our treasurer John Savourin and his wife Judy. They will be celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary on the 5<sup>th</sup>. April, we all hope they have a lovely day.

This will be my last article for Transport 17. I would like to thank the staff of the Independent for their help to me especially with the editing.

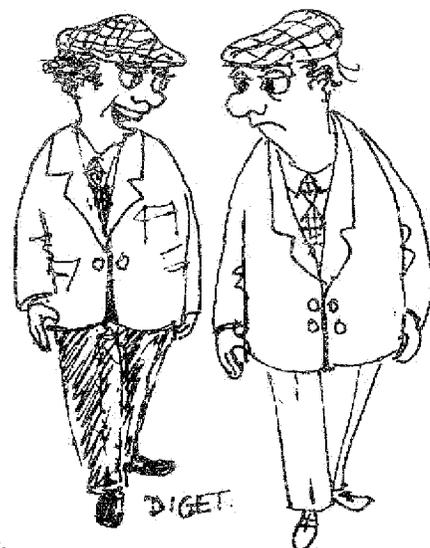
Margaret Barlow.

## 1<sup>st</sup>. TOTLEY SCOUTS GROUP LOTTERY

### FEBRUARY DRAW

- 1<sup>st</sup>. PRIZE No. 45. Johnson 20 Piece Dinner Service  
Mrs. Harrop, Green Oak Avenue
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. PRIZE No. 25 £10 voucher  
Mr. & Mrs. Marples Main Avenue

Peter Casson



"HAVE YOU HEARD, GENERAL PINOCHET HAS COME BACK, & WANTS TO SETTLE IN TOTLEY!"

## MISSING OUT ON WINTER

### FROLICS by Robert H. Carr

Once again we have seen another winter pass with very little snow to contend with. Heavy falls of snow seem somewhat of a rarity nowadays (in this part of the country anyway) yet so many of us remember how we feared the onset of winter and the chaos it could bring.

When young you view snow and ice so differently, then its something to look forward to, to get excited about. It brings a new dimension to the pleasures of childhood - snowballing, sledging, sliding, building a snowman, etc.. The whole world takes on a "Fun Look", I know it was like that in my young days living in Totley. We just could not wait to get out there and be a part of it! In later life, however, most of us would agree with the oft-used comment "the best place for snow is on a Christmas Card". Though I must admit to a certain beauty on a snow covered landscape, particularly in the garden and the countryside, but when you have to earn a living outdoors or by necessity travel from A to B it is no fun at all. Long gone are the carefree days of youth!

How different to those days when we young lads would help dig out the buses stuck in deep snow on Baslow Road. The Sheffield Transport Department would make every effort to give a good service often in atrocious conditions. It was usually at bus stops where difficulties occurred and I remember one bus setting off from Mickley Lane, towards the terminus unable to get a grip and sliding into the Lane and the more the driver tried, the further the bus slid down the Lane until it finished around the bottom of Lemont Road!

By this time quite a few onlookers had gathered to watch the event, then aided by our efforts he took a run at the gradient and made it on to Baslow Road and away to loud cheers from all around. That was fun for us of course though anything but for the bus driver.

Heavy falls of snow being commonplace my father, who worked for an Insurance Company, set off on foot (no company cars then) to call on customers in Fulwood and Mayfield Valley area, some of the houses being quite isolated. Setting off from our home in Totley there was no sign of snow but around midday it started and by six p.m. he was ploughing knee deep in places on his return, so thick and fast had been the snowfall! Worn out by his efforts he must have been glad to get back to the warm comfort of home. It takes little to imagine what chaos such a fall in so short a time would cause today with the amount of traffic on the roads.

Harsh winters have got less over the years, so much so they are now the exception and I am sure we are glad of that, yet as a result of this, so many children are missing out on the winter frolics we took so much for granted. It is some years now since I have seen youngsters sledging down the field behind where we live. The snow we do get is rarely deep enough for fun and games, this I think is so sad.

I do not know what the chances are but if and when we do get snow deep enough to make a good sledge track down the field I may even join them (Call it the carefree days of old age!) It would be great rolling back the years imagining the downward slopes of "Wings Hill" - on second thoughts I would "chicken out".

## FARMING SCENE

Has spring arrived ?? The beginning of March has been exceptionally mild, as has the whole winter period really. This is the third year running when we have had no really sharp frosts, sustained cold spells or deep snowdrifts. Most plants and bushes seem to be up to a month earlier than usual in both bud burst and open flower. This is putting some farmers under pressure, as crops need attention much earlier than normal but ground conditions are still relatively wet. Travelling over crops when the land is too wet leads to rutted fields and crop damage.

You will notice from our potato advert that we, like most other growers, are virtually giving them away this year. A good growing season last year plus the earlier and earlier arrival of imported potatoes has resulted in a flooded market and very low prices. This appears to be the same with most farm products at the moment, although there has been a slight increase in the price of both pigs and lambs recently.

We usually have trouble with our sheep during lambing, either at the beginning or end. This year it would appear to be at the start, as our first three casualties occurred before we had any proper lambings. Two ewes had severe uterine and intestinal prolapses at once. We could not do anything to put these right. One died before we found it in the morning, the other one was put down by the vet. Both were carrying twins. The third one had a partial prolapse and in so doing lost some of the water bags around the lambs. As a consequence the three lambs were born prematurely and did not survive. This is the first time we have had such severe prolapse problems and we are putting it down to the ewes being in very good condition. The mild winter has probably not helped, as the ewes have been using energy to put on fat rather than to keep warm. On a brighter note, the rest of the lambs born to date have all survived.

Some of you may remember that Vodafone obtained planning permission for a transmitter mast on land near Mickley Lane, some two years ago. After this the whole project seemed to be dead until last week when they suddenly resurrected the idea and were in a hurry to get it sorted. It now seems likely that construction will begin during April. I am beginning to wonder if the new estates next to us have triggered this renewed interest. The occupants are likely to be mobile phone users and this area is noted for very poor Vodafone reception. Edwin Pocock

## TOTLEY HALL FARM PRODUCE

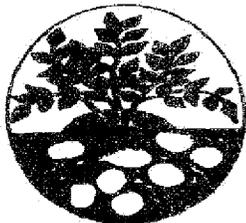
### TOTLEY HALL LANE

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## THE NEW CHURCH

In 1924 Totley boasted the luxury of a brand new church, which was built on land given by Mr and Mrs Milner next to the Old School House in Hall Lane. Its design caused some confusion amongst the Totley residents, for it was quite different from the usual church design. However, it was soon pointed out that it was a similar design to a church at Buxton, and that we would soon grow used to it, as, of course we did. It replaced the 'Tin Tabernacle': a corrugated tin building attached to the Church School that had been used for church services, under a Lay Preacher Mr Foulstone. Incidentally, his daughter was teacher of standards two and three at the school, until she left to marry a butcher who had a shop in the Market Place in Bakewell. When Mr Foulstone left Totley about 1930 a huge farewell party was given in Green Oak Hall in his honour to which all the village were invited.

The advent of the church into the village was to bring about a big change in the life of many residents. First, a choir was needed and Elijah, my eldest brother, now eleven years old, who had an excellent voice, was allowed by my father to leave Chapel and become one of the first to sit in the new choir stalls. Ronnie Steer, and Earnest Pearson, both older, also joined, becoming Servers, and I believe Percy Crookes was the first Sacristan and Cross Bearer. Of course, most people have heard of the Rev. Jermyan Hutton first Vicar of All Saints, a wonderful man who was not averse to taking the Gospel into the 'Pub', and could be found in the Cross Scythes many Sunday mornings after church having a drink with the locals. I suppose that the fact that the choir at the Chapel was composed of women only was the spur for the boys leaving to join the Church choir, and my other two brothers Geoff, and Jeff followed as they reached a suitable age.

My Father became one of the first Sidesmen, along with Mr. Lake, husband of one of the day-school teachers, 'Billy' Wise, the man who gave the cut-glass butter dish that I won at the Bowling club Ladies- day in 1925, and Herbert Crowther, father of Herbert who married Connie Tym, sister of Laurie, my son's God-Father.

I remained at Chapel, attending Sunday School and the evening service, hoping that one day I might be able to join the choir, but, in 1928 when I was twelve years old, my father gave permission for me to transfer to the Church Sunday School. However, before I left Chapel I was asked to do something I had never foreseen, nor was prepared for.

The regular organist, Jessie Fox, was ill and unable to play one Sunday night, and I happened to be the only one at the service who could play the piano. But, I knew nothing about organs, and said so. Furthermore I wasn't a brilliant pianist. However, in the absence of an alternative, I was persuaded to have a shot at it, as otherwise there would be no music at all. (I think, perhaps, that might have been a better arrangement!). Never the less, ever ready for a challenge, and after all my Father always said there wasn't such a word as 'can't', I approached the organ, sat down, and stared at the Stops, knowing nothing about them except that they altered the tune in some way. I pulled out two or three likely ones, not knowing what to expect, put my fingers on the keys and started to play. One thing I hadn't reckoned with was that I had to pedal at the same time. There was silence for a second or two, then, getting the message, my feet tried to keep up with my fingers, up and down like my Mother's sewing machine. I was just getting used to the two opposing movements when, thankfully, the service came to an end. I can only say that the congregation kept on singing. I kept on playing, wrong notes and all, and it ended without undue trouble.

I hadn't been long at the Church Sunday School when the church organ was being overhauled and repaired, and the Children's Service, which was held in the afternoon, was in danger of having no music. A harmonium (a portable organ) had been borrowed for the evening service and it stood just in front of the Chancel steps, a stool in front ready for the player. Miss Oaks, the Senior Teacher suggested I have a go. "After all", she said, "you play for hymns at school don't you?". To this there was no answer, but I was even more nervous of this contraption than I had been of the Chapel organ. However, pride, heaven help me, would not allow for refusal, and, once again I found my fingers and feet trying to co-operate with each other, and voices were raised to the accompaniment of a very questionable performance.

In 1925 the first Confirmation was held at All Saint's church Totley, when my Father was one of the first candidates. In 1926 Confirmation was held at St. John's Abbeydale, when my Mother was a candidate. In 1929 it was at All Saint's again, and this time, as I was now aged 13, it was my turn. It was the custom for all females to wear flowing white veils, similar to those worn by nurses of the time, which were usually handed down from Mother to Daughter and on to Grand-daughters as in my family. Girls all wore white dresses and either black or white shoes, and all walked up to the Chancel steps in twos, kneeling there to accept the blessing of the Bishop before returning to their seats to kneel until the ceremony was over. My memory of the whole Service and all its implications, is that it was much more intense and impressionable, particularly on a young mind, than the modern 'Standing group' of today; but then that's progress!

I stayed with the Church, as worshiper, and Sunday-school teacher, until my marriage at All Saint's to a Sheffield Police Officer in 1936, remembered I'm sure by Rita who was chosen from my reception class to be my young attendant. Happy 2000 Rita.

Incidentally, the first wedding to be held at All Saint's Church about July 1925 was 'Nobby' Green, (I think his name was Harold, but am not sure), from Summer Lane. It was at this wedding that the custom started of 'Tying the gates' by the village lads, who demanded 'Halfacrown' (2s.6p) ransom from the Bridegroom before they would let the couple pass. My brothers had made sure that my husband had a half-a-crown in his pocket, and so we passed without a hitch. The custom continued at least until the beginning of the second War and probably beyond. I lost touch for a while through war work and the War changed many things.

Jo Rundle



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## THE BRIDGE, by C.N.Railton Holden

You will all be aware that once again our celebrated railway bridge is a profound item of news. At the moment, vehicular traffic is obliged to crawl gingerly through a forest of plastic cones, two of which I may, inadvertently, have despatched to kingdom come, but of course I tell you this in strict confidence. Some years ago when we visited Hampton Court Palace my wife would not allow me to enter the maze. She tends to dwell rather lengthily on my weaknesses, though I don't have many, and yet our Totley cone forest is not much of a maze problem unless your female passenger happens to be complaining that your 10 m.p.h. is an absolutely reckless speed. Well then, why all this new work on the bridge? Most likely in preparation for the mighty French camions bearing heavy loads of Golden Delicious to Sainsbury's and Tesco. Godfrey Shorthouse states with conviction that in a strong wind our bridge already quivers, but I fear that he is overobsessed by that famous news film of the American suspension bridge which wobbled in the breeze, undulated dramatically and finally descended in separate chunks to the river below. However, it is not my intention to spread gloom and despondency throughout our picturesque valley, although the more I contemplate Totley's bridge the more I am vividly reminded of Pont de l'Arche in the spring of 1940.

If you buy a Michelin map no.55 you will discover that Pont de l'Arche, a village which years ago took its name from the beautiful arched bridge, is situated on the river Seine a few kilometres south of Rouen. Our battalion had arrived by train but because of complicated unloading facilities the bulk of the unit and the stores detained at a small station at the north end of the white bridge, while the 15 cwt Bedfords could only be unloaded a little further south at Louviers, together of course with the drivers. Almost straight away we drove this transport out of Louviers and up to Pont de l'Arche and I can clearly remember guiding my truck several times across the bridge as the stores were transferred from the north bank to the south bank. I can still see all those thick cables laid over the bridge roadway and conducted to explosive charges down below and also to French engineers who, when the Germans arrived, would depress their plunger and so end the life of the village's beautiful white bridge. When the stores had been relocated our trucks were parked around the village square south of the river. We were in that village to hold the river crossing until all our allied troops in the north, those not cut off in the Dunkirk pocket, had completed their strategic withdrawal to the south. Presently, announced by an exceedingly loud clattering sound, a French artillery train drawn by teams of horses passed through the village. What a shock! Seemingly French artillery had not developed much since the Battle of Waterloo and the sight of those 1940 horses did nothing to steady my sinking morale.

Here I feel compelled to digress. When I was about five years old one of my grandmothers took me to see a black and white film of Peter Pan. Everything went wonderfully well until Captain Hook and his ugly pirates appeared. Granny then heard a slight scuffle beside her, turned to look and realized that her grandson had gone A.W.L. but being an avid reader of Sherlock Holmes Granny put two and two together and eventually discovered me hiding under the tip-up seat until the pirates had gone. This incident scarred me for life and accounts for my extremely sensitive nature, something to bear in mind as you read on.

That night in France we attempted, not very successfully, to sleep in our Bedfords but at about 4.00 a.m. Tommy Knott, quartermaster and disciplinarian, ordered us to imitate him and wear our gas masks and this of course we did, our fear of

Tommy far outweighing our fear of gas. Tommy in the flesh was daunting enough but Tommy behind a gas mask struck terror into even the bravest. Well then, those Huns were up to their old beastly tricks again but two hours later Tommy, or someone else in authority, discovered that rising river mist was not quite as lethal as phosgene gas. When daylight clearly arrived, Mr. May, the transport officer, looked at the sky, looked at our exposed Bedfords, promptly transferred his section about a kilometre into a thickish, sheltering wood and ordered the drivers to use their camouflage netting. In due course midday arrived and so too did the loud, unnerving sounds of war, emanating from Pont de l'Arche. A despatch rider zoomed into our hitherto serene refuge: transport corporal urgently needed in the village to activate a non-starting truck! In need of instant transport, the corporal whose face had a long drawn look glanced around hurriedly and chose me with my vehicle. Strictly speaking I was the transport clerk, the only character able to read, write and operate a typewriter but I was also a singularly ungifted driver to say the least, particularly cack-handed at double-declutching the Bedfords which had not been equipped with synchromesh gears. I was tempted to plead my chronic mediocrity but thought better of it. At this point in a really good war story the hero would have been conscious only of glory and splendour, whereas I was remembering Captain Hook and his ugly pirates.

Back in the village square our corporal, a soul in torment, made one brief attempt to restart the engine of the indisposed truck, opened the bonnet, set about a painstaking interior inspection lasting all of ten seconds, and then yelled for a tow rope. Shells were exploding over our heads and a tiny fragment of shrapnel caught the officer's neck. Fortunately it left only a scratch but it hastened our departure. We were now five prospective travellers with only four cabin seats available which explains why I rode spreadeagled on a mountain of army blankets in the back of the invalid truck. There's glory and splendour for you

The corporal, taking charge of the towing vehicle (mine really), then led us out of the village onto the wrong road which meandered aimlessly up across a bare, treeless hillside in full view of the German tanks north of the river. The tank gunners speeded us on our way with a thunder-clapping blitz which made lucid thinking quite impossible: we seemed to be loitering on the ear-splitting edge of eternity. But no material damage was done and when our vehicles were over the hill and out of gun range it occurred to me that if my parents' genes had only functioned in a different way twentyone years

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previously, I could now be serving king and country extremely well as an efficient member of the A.T.S., instead of lying on a pile of army blankets in the role of a low cast infantryman. During that shell-shocking day the battalion came apart at the seams. News reached us that the French engineers had blown up the white, arched bridge, leaving half our infantry companies on the German side of the Seine. We five refugees were heading for Louviers and beyond but the rest of the transport section could have been anywhere.

Time now to return to our venerable bridge in Topley. This bridge need not cause apprehension to anyone, driver or pedestrian. When all the plastic cones are harvested and when the diggers have been herded away, Topley people will find that they possess a supreme unit of engineering which incorporates everything that modern technology can offer - well able to defy the monster French juggernauts and their Golden delicious. I shall monitor the work personally and if I suddenly notice that thick electric cables are lying across the bridge from one pavement to the other then trust me: I shall scramble down the railway embankment and ensure that those cables are not attached to a large box with a substantial plunger jutting out of its top. I take no chances. Captain Hook and his pirates, have lot to answer for.

### T.O.A.D.S. SPRING PRODUCTION

For those of you who did not see last month's Independent, T.O.A.D.S. Spring production is "Confusions" by that well known Scarborough Playwright Alan Ayckbourn. It is five loosely inter-linked short plays that deal riotously, but with sharply pointed undertones, with the human dilemma of loneliness. If you are familiar with Ayckbourn, you will know that you are in for a lot of laughs and also an insight into human nature. "Gosforth's Fete", the fourth little play is the one that sticks in my mind, having seen "Confusions" some years ago - very funny!

The plays are directed by Bev Hazlehurst - her first shot at being in front of the action rather than on stage and she is making a very professional job of it! Bev has been with us since I persuaded her to take over a part four years ago when a member of the cast was moving to Scotland, and has been part of every production since - mostly on stage, but also behind the scenes.

You can come along and enjoy these plays at St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, Wednesday to Saturday, May 10th to 13th at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £2.50, concessions £2, from me. Kate Reynolds on 2366891 or by calling at S.E. Fordham Opticians on Topley Rise. Whatever you do, don't miss it!

## FOR ALL 16-25 YEAR OLDS - TAKE UP THE PRINCE'S TRUST CHALLENGE

There is a special organisation, which may be of interest to you in your local community. Its called the Prince's Trust - Volunteers and it helps young unemployed people aged between 16-25. Groups of up to 18 are recruited from all areas and walks of life onto a 'personal development programme' for 12 weeks. These teams are built together using a number of techniques in the first two-weeks of their course. The second week is a residential week either in the Peak or Lake District. Typical quotes after this week are:

"I never thought I could be cold and still feel happy..." and "I really feel like I'm getting to know the others in the team."

Some of the young people at the Cherrytree Hostel become involved in the Prince's Trust scheme. Examples of what they have been involved with include: working on a refurbishment project at Croft House Settlement; a kitchen based project at the 393 Club in Hillsborough; and transforming a garden area next to the Community Alliance Centre in Uppertorpe. All funds for these projects are donated by businesses, or fund raised for by the team. One volunteer was overheard during the press opening of a garden project saying that he felt proud of his achievements and was glad that he had decided to do something productive with his time.

After this 4-week project the team then disperses and the individual volunteers work on a two-week placement. These range from animal sanctuaries to music shops. Following this the volunteers re-group for the final team challenge. Now they involve disadvantaged members of the community with the Prince's Trust by doing things like taking them away for day trips to the seaside.

Finally the team get together to celebrate their achievements in the form of a presentation to an invited audience. The whole course is NVQ based and every one who attends has the chance to gain 3 key skill units and a profile of achievement. The next presentation is due for Friday 14th of April. If you would like to attend or wish to find out more information about the Prince's Trust please ring: 0114 263 4446.

This is an excellent opportunity and everyone benefits - all volunteers would advise you to take up the challenge!

**DON'T FORGET YOUR TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION A.G.M. ON APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>. AT TOTLEY LIBRARY 7-30 pm.**

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## GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL.

It's that lovely time of year when there is a show of Spring flowers and the birds are in full song, and most gardeners get a buzz feeling to get on with some serious gardening. April is a busy month. I hope you took advantage of the very mild spell during March in between showers that is. It was not a good time for digging, the ground was much too soggy, but I managed to get a bit of tidying up done that always makes the garden look better. As I always say at this time of year, watch the weather, have the protective fleece ready in case of frost.

### FLOWERS

Prepare supports for your perennials especially the taller varieties such as lupin, delphiniums and oriental poppies. Complete the planting of herbaceous perennials; continue planting gladioli corms for a succession of blooms. Alpine plants can be moved and replanted now, give roses a good feed. Tonks formula is recommended this will encourage first class blooms right through the season. Sow hardy annuals, plant out sweet peas and give them a good supporting frame. Pansies and violas can be planted now if they have been properly hardened off, a cool semi shaded place will give a longer life to the flowers. Start dahlias in a frame, cover the tubers with light soil and water sparingly, and keep well ventilated unless frost is forecast. Plant out antirrhinums and penstemon once they are hardened off, clematis can be planted now a good pot grown specimen is best. Keep all beds weed free and mulch them to make it easier to retain moisture.

### VEGETABLES

Finish planting early potatoes at the beginning of the month, plant second earlies at the end of the month. Sow Brussels sprouts late summer and autumn cabbage, cauliflower, in a seedbed, and small rows of lettuce and radish every three weeks to avoid a glut. Feed spring cabbage which are near maturity with a top dressing of nitrate of soda and hoe it in, and another dressing in three weeks time. Plant onion sets 4" to 6" (10.15cm) apart in rows about 30cm (1 ft) apart. Prepare trenches for runner beans with plenty of humus and other moisture retaining material in the bottom. Sow parsley outdoors don't forget that carrot fly grubs love parsley so make a fleece tent to prevent the fly getting to it. For those of you who grow celery prepare trenches now, unless you grow the self-blanching variety. If you want a few early french beans, sow a few now in pots, and place them in a greenhouse, they need about 13 degrees C (55 degrees F) to germinate, the seedlings will be hardened off later on for planting out late May. Sow main crop carrots, thinly, in drills about 1/2" (1 cm) deep and 30cm (1ft) apart. If carrot fly is about make a fleece tent to prevent attack. Sow globe beetroot in a fairly sheltered border out of doors, it need not be a large sowing, as it will be followed by another one in May, sow seeds 15cm (6") apart in rows 30cm (1ft) apart, sow seed in threes and reduce the seedlings to one at each point later on.

### TREES SHRUBS AND FRUIT

Watch out for disease in apples and pears, if scab and mildew were present last year, spray when leaves start to show and continue this over one month. Nimrod T or Supercarb should help to control it. Renew mulches round bushes and cane fruits and rhubarb. Make sure that newly planted trees and shrubs are kept moist during dry spells, forsythia, winter jasmine, flowering currant and other winter flowering shrubs can be cut back to within a few buds of the old growth once the flowers have finished. Prune late flowering clematis also hybrid T and floribunda roses.

### GREENHOUSE AND INDOOR PLANTS

Sensitive plants should be protected by shading from strong sunlight, it's a bit early to use the side vents on your greenhouse, as most plants under glass hate draughts

particularly during early development. Prick off seedlings as soon as they can be handled carefully, do not let them get too deep rooted as this will cause them to check their growth when transplanted, pot on seedlings pricked out earlier. Take cuttings of winter flowering begonia, rest freesias, lachenalias, arum lilies and cyclamen, place them on a shelf near the glass and gradually reduce the watering, pinch out the tips of chrysanthemum cuttings on those required for spring flowering. Plant tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicum, etc in a heated greenhouse, maintain a temperature MIN 55 degrees F, otherwise wait a few weeks and buy plants ready brought on. Watch out for all the creepy crawlies and deal with them as soon as they appear ants and woodlice can wreck a tray of seedlings overnight!! Gently wash leaves of indoor foliage plants except the furry leafed kind and put them outside in a warm rain shower, pot on geraniums and young plants like begonias and gloxinias, feed established plants regularly, split up and re pot ferns.

### LAWNS

Keep all grassed areas clean. Spike, aerate and top dress if you have not already done so. Start or continue routine mowing, deal with any moss patches as soon as possible, trim edges for that looked after appearance. Give a good dressing of fertilizer if you didn't Autumn feed last year, and water it in well.

### **DONT FORGET THE TOTLEY SHOW IN SEPTEMBER.**

It will be at the new venue,

### **TOTLEY COUNTY SCHOOL**

I hope you will make a special effort, to support us in this Millennium Year

### **A SUCCESSFUL SHOW RELIES ON PEOPLE PARTICIPATING.**

If you have any suggestions to make it even better let any of the Committee know in good time.

Cheerio for now

TOM Busy Bee.

## Meals on Wheels for Pets!

If you've ever tried carrying pet food home from supermarkets you'll know what an effort it is. Busy mums have to waste valuable leisure time fetching their child's pet rabbit something to eat. Who wants to spend Saturday morning fetching sacks of horse food instead of riding? Supermarkets just can't carry the huge range of different types and makes; they can often only offer a single aisle of goods.

Local people Janet and David Bale have started up a small business to cut out the trouble. It all began when they were thinking how hard it is for full time workers or people without transport to get large sacks of pet food. How could older people be expected to keep their pets if they couldn't walk home with heavy tins of cat or dog food?

As a result "Petsfare" was born and now offers a remarkable local service to help people keep their dearly loved pets. As the saying goes - if you want it, use it! Their number is FREEPHONE 0800 38 99 049. NB free delivery and low prices.

**TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT  
GROUP  
FOR THE  
VISUALLY IMPAIRED.**

The dates for our 2000 meetings are;

**April, Tuesday 25th. with Sandra  
Ashton from the Tapton School for  
the Blind**

**May, Wednesday 24th.**

**June, Thursday 22nd.**

**July, Tuesday 25th.**

**August, no meeting.**

**September, Thursday 21 St.**

**October, Tuesday 24th.**

**November, Wednesday 22nd.**

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 11a.m. at  
4, GROVE ROAD, TOTLEY



**THE JOHN WADE  
SINGERS  
FRIDAY APRIL 14  
CONCERT**

The John Wade Singers will be giving a performance of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, together with *Millenium Dreams* (music by Paul Green, words by Margaret Green) and C.H. Parry's *I was Glad*.

Conductor John Wade.

Organist Paul Green

Venue and Time:

**CHRIST CHURCH, DORE, 7.30pm.**

Tickets: £5.00 and £4.00 (Senior Citizens)

Availability: 0114 2360820, 01246 415778, via choir members or at the door

Proceeds in aid of the Horizon Macmillan Appeal. This is an initiative in connection with the proposed hospice to be built at the Northern General Hospital.

The information contained in this notice conflicts with that in "Dore To Door". This is due to the fact that, for reasons beyond our control, we had to change the date and venue after that publication went to the printers.

**COFFEE, CAKES and CUTTINGS**

We are shortly coming round to this annual event. It is to be held as usual at English Martyrs Church (corner of The Crescent Road and Baslow Road). The date is Saturday May 20th and the time is 10am to 12 noon. We are asking for readers support in two ways i.e. to attend on the day and to donate confectionery, bric-a-brac, books, plants etc. We can collect any of these items. Just ring 2367176, 236 5313 or 235 0422.

The proceeds this year is being shared between Transport 17 and 'Reaching the Unreached'. This is an organisation working amongst the poorest of the poor in South India. The money will help to provide one or more clean water wells.

Thank you all for your help in the past. We hope to see you there on the morning of the 20th May.

Please come along and enjoy a coffee or two and socialise with your friends and neighbours.

John Artindale

**PEAK DISTRICT EVENTS**

**APRIL**

22 EASTER EGG HUNT Longshaw Visitor Centre.

All day between 11.00am - 4.00pm Tel: 01433 631708

24 CHESTERFIELD EASTER MARKET in Chesterfield town centre. Admission free. Street Organ Festival all day. Market open from 9.00am, entertainment 11am - 4pm. Tel: 01246 345777/8

25 FLAGG RACES Flagg Moor, on A515, 5 miles south of Buxton. Point to point steeplechases, 6 races. First race 2.00pm. Tel: 01298 84738

30 BUNTON BRASS BAND FESTIVAL. Pavilion Gardens, Buxton. Approx 9am - 7.30pm Tel: 0161 427 3670. Brass band contest, own choice test piece. Approx. 50 bands take part. Four sections: championship second, third, fourth. Bands from Australia, Northern Ireland and UK.

**MAY**

1 CHESTERFIELD MAY DAY MARKET AND RALLY in Chesterfield town centre fun fair in town centre. Admission free. Market open from 9am. Tel: Tourist Information Centre: 01246 345777/8 Rally starts 10am entertainment from 1pm (these times to be confirmed)

1 BIRD WATCH DAY Help the National Trust survey the moorland birds of the area. 9am from selected car parks. Contact the National Trust, High Peak Estate Office on 01433 670368

All these events and many more may be found in the "Peak District 2000". A free paper published by the Peak District National Park

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Janet Alton MNIMH, Medical Herbalist, presents a series of articles about the medicinal uses and folklore of wild plants growing commonly in the Totley area.

## I. Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

The humble dandelion: scourge of garden, lawn, under walls and paths - it takes a mechanical digger to get those long roots out! But our ancestors knew the value of the plant and used its roots and leaves as medicines in various ways. There is also a mass of interesting folklore surrounding the plant.

The Latin name 'Taraxacum' is derived from the Greek taraxos' (disorder) and akos' (remedy), revealing the dandelion's age-old reputation as a curative plant. The English name 'dandelion' comes from the French 'dent de lion' meaning 'lion's tooth' and generally assumed to refer to the toothed leaves. The dandelion seedhead was once used by young women in a similar way to the daisy - to divine whether their lover was faithful: instead of picking off the petals one by one, they would blow at the dandelion seeds reciting 'He loves me, he loves me not' until they were all gone. Even today children enjoy 'telling the time' by blowing at the white seeds of the dandelion 'clock'. The bald appearance of the seedhead after the seeds have dispersed gave rise to a very old name for dandelion: 'Priest's Crown', because of its resemblance to the partially shaved head of a monk. However, the French have an even more descriptive name for the plant: 'pissenlit', which needs no translation, and refers to its great reputation as a diuretic. When excess water is lost from the body, the risk is that potassium reserves will be depleted. The beauty of using dandelion as a diuretic is that the plant itself contains potassium, which more than replaces any that is lost by the diuretic effect. Strangely enough, dandelion leaf tea can be used to help cure bedwetting in children. As long as the child is given the tea to drink during the day and not last thing at night, the effect is to readjust the system's daily rhythm. Dandelion leaf also has a reputation for treating kidney stones, because in diluting the urine it helps prevent the formation of the crystals which clump together to form stones. In the days long before the

mechanisms of heart failure were understood, dandelion leaves were traditionally added to foxglove leaves to treat 'dropsy' - water retention caused by the failing heart. Dandelion root coffee is a marvellous substitute for real coffee if you have been warned off it because of high blood pressure, nervous tension, IBS etc. Not only does it make a refreshing drink, but you can feel good in the knowledge that you are helping your liver as well! Many of us remember drinking 'Dandelion and Burdock' soft drink as children, never realising that this was once brewed as a spring tonic, to 'cleanse the liver'. It could also be fermented as a beer. Herbalists prescribe dandelion root whenever the liver seems to need gentle encouragement to clear the body of accumulated toxins. It is the bitter principle in the root that does the trick, acting also to improve the function of the gallbladder. The acrid white sap exuding from the leaves and stems of dandelion was once used in Derbyshire as a cure for warts.

Quite apart from medicinal uses, dandelion leaves can be enjoyed as a salad vegetable, as long as you pick them young, before they get too bitter. They are delicious in sandwiches (especially brown bread) seasoned with a little lemon juice, salt and black pepper. Traditionally the leaves should always be torn instead of chopped, as this is thought to preserve the flavour. They can also be quickly boiled like spinach and served with butter, flavoured to taste with grated nutmeg, garlic, or chopped onion. Or make a pasty or a quick pizza with layers of cooked leaves, mozzarella cheese, sliced black olives and tomato puree - wonderful. Another up to date and health conscious way to serve dandelion leaves is to stir-fry them quickly with vegetables (e.g. carrots, celery, peppers, and broccoli), a few mixed nuts, Indian spices (try cumin, coriander, turmeric and chilli powder), with half a tin of chopped tomatoes, a little tomato puree and garlic. Served with rice, this makes a really colourful and tasty dish.

It may surprise you to know that plants like the dandelion are still valued and prescribed with great benefit by medical herbalists. As a qualified member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists I am now offering consultations in Totley. If you would like to know more, just ring me on 236 4765.

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## SHEFFIELD BACH SOCIETY

This millennium year is the 250<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's death in 1750, and to celebrate his work, the Sheffield Bach Society and 6 other musical groups in the area are joining together this spring for

### A BACH FESTIVAL

#### 1. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>. April 2000.

Sheffield Bach Choir  
 Sheffield Bach Players  
 St. Matthew Passion. J.S. Bach  
 Stephen Liley, Evangelist  
 Nigel Boucher, Christ.  
 Deborah Peakee-Jones, soprano.  
 James Huw Jeffries, countertenor.  
 Kevin Maclean-Mair, tenor.  
 John Dunford, bass.  
 Conductor Roger Bullivant

Sheffield Cathedral 6-30 pm.

#### 2. Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>. April 2000.

Cantores sing with the Dorian Players  
 James Smith, organ.  
 Singet dem Herrn, Chorale Preludes and  
 Ricercar, Bach.  
 Plus works by Homilius and Marchaut  
 Director Anne Norgate

St. John's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield 7-30 pm.

#### 3. Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. April 2000.

Hallam Choral Society  
 Jesu Priceless Treasure. Bach.  
 Plus Let Thy Hand be strenghtened. Handel  
 And Gloria in D, Vivaldi  
 Conductor David Sanderson

Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses, 7-30 pm.

#### 4. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. April 2000.

Sheffield Oratoria Chorus  
 South Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra  
 St. John Passion, J.S. Bach  
 Harry Nichol, Evangelist.  
 Brindley Sherratt, Christ.  
 Kay Jordan, soprano.  
 Cari Searl, contralto.  
 Andrew Burden, tenor.  
 Giles Davies, bass.  
 Conductor Alan East

Sponsored by Mrs. E.M. Denman

Sheffield Cathedral 7-30 pm.

Ticket for concerts can be obtained as follows:-

Concert 1 - Sheffield Music Shop.

Concert 3 - At the Door

Concerts 2, 4, - Sheffield Music Shop, Whitham Rd.  
 2661000, SPCK Shop, East Parade 2723454.

Tickets also available on the door for all concerts.

Further details Tel .0114 268 3812



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 of wine

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For further details tel; 262 0406

### 1<sup>st</sup>. TOTLEY SCOUTS GROUP LOTTERY FEBRUARY DRAW

1<sup>st</sup>. PRIZE No. 45, Johnson 20 Piece Dinner Service  
 Mrs. Harrop, Green Oak Avenue

2<sup>nd</sup>. PRIZE No. 25 £10 voucher  
 Mr. & Mrs. Marples Main Avenue

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## PEAKTOWN STORY Chapter 23 by Hugh Percival

Shortly after the examination result celebrations John Winter was asked by Alan Brown to undertake the audit of a finance company in London. John's feelings were mixed. The job would last five weeks and he would be unable to see Susan on weekdays. He would of course return to his lodgings at weekends. However, the visit to the capital and its many attractions would compensate for this to some extent.

John had not been to London since childhood. The abiding memory of that visit was the sight of ships moored on the Thames at night as he and his parents crossed one of the bridges.

John and his assistant Roger Heath boarded the London train at the Midland station on a cloudy Monday morning. They took seats in a third-class compartment, placing their luggage in the racks.

The train shuddered into life with a hiss of steam and slowly left the station. John gazed out of the window and recognised local landmarks as they slipped by; the football ground where he had seen many a match in triumph or despair; the park with its gentle stream and recreation ground; and then darkness as the train entered the long tunnel taking them out of the city.

At the next station they were joined by a miserable-looking, bespectacled youth, full of cold and a mature, bespectacled lady, presumably his mother. John decided to read his newspaper rather than exchange baleful looks with the youth. Occasionally he raised his eyes and bestowed a look of sympathy on the mature lady. He also exchanged a few words with Roger Heath from time to time.

After reading the newspaper John stared out of the window at the passing scene. Normally this would have been of interest to him but, unable to compete with the youth's belligerent stare and not wishing to catch his cold, he decided to go to the refreshment coach. Roger Heath was happy to go with him.

After consuming coffee and biscuits at a leisurely rate they returned to their compartment to find the youth hastily withdrawing his feet from John's seat where they had been resting. John gave the youth an angry look, wiped the seat with his newspaper, sat down and stared out of the window with a grim expression.

Fortunately for John's piece of mind the youth and the mature lady alighted at the next station. John's faith in human nature gradually returned when a young, jolly-looking mother and her baby took their places and a Derby and Joan couple holding hands passed by on the corridor.

John could now enjoy the passing scenery. The train rattled rapidly past fields with cattle, sheep and horses grazing, past embankments, woods, roads and rivers, past cities, towns and villages with their houses, shops, pubs, churches and the occasional football ground or cricket pitch.

After stopping at half-a-dozen stations the train arrived at St. Pancras at midday. The two auditors took lunch at a small Italian restaurant nearby. Their hotel lay at Victoria. They caught the tube-train to that station, carrying their luggage amongst the multitude of fellow travellers. It seemed to John that a large part of the populace were present at the tube-station such was the enormity of the crowd that ebbed and flowed between the various lines.

Roger Heath had been on the audit in the previous year and they soon found their hotel, a large rectangular building of five storeys. They were welcomed by an attractive, dark-haired young woman.

"Are pets welcome?" John asked the receptionist.

"Yes of course sir" she replied in a pleasant manner.

"What about animals?" enquired John innocently.

The receptionist laughed loudly. "They're welcome too" she said after some thought.

Roger Heath broke into laughter and then apologised for his colleague's weird sense of humour.

The two auditors left their luggage in their rooms and made their way to Hyde Park Corner carrying briefcases. Their client's offices lay nearby, an elegant, mature, white building looking immaculate in the afternoon sunshine. The adjacent buildings of similar design and colour were mainly in use as embassies of foreign nations.

They were met by the assistant office manager, Rodney Barrowdiff, a burly, bespectacled, young man with a mop of dark hair and a swarthy countenance spoke in a cockney accent "Welcome to town gentlemen. You're just in time for rosie".

"Good. I've always wanted to meet her" said John innocently.

"Rosie Lee - tea" whispered Roger Heath to his senior. "Rhyming slang".

"I like a sense of humour - so unusual in an auditor" Mr. Barrowdiff said condescendingly. "Are you on the barrow?".

"Straight and narrow" whispered Roger Heath who was familiar with London ways.

"If not you may borrow my ticket for a private cinema club. Quite a salacious film this week - would suit a merchant banker" said the assistant manager with a leer.

John accepted the offer with becoming grace. He did not wish to offend Mr. Barrowdiff.

The auditors began their duties by testing a selection of finance agreements with the daybook. These latter recorded details of all agreements effected with borrowers, such as amount of loan, security, interest charged and number and amount of repayment instalments.

At seven o'clock they left the offices and had a meal at a nearby restaurant under Spanish proprietorship.

"One of the delights of London is the amazing number and variety of restaurants" remarked Roger Heath enthusiastically as they ate their meal. "One can eat at a different place on each day of the year

They enjoyed the fare including a bottle of wine immensely. John, in charge of expenses, settled the bill, pleasantly surprised at the reasonable charge.

Roger then returned to the hotel to pursue his studies leaving John to his own devices. John decided to visit some of the locations featured in Dicken's books. An avid reader he had read all the books of the great writer and had also read several biographies of the "inimitable"

John took the tube to the "Monument" station. He crossed London Bridge where in a house nearby Nancy had been clubbed to death by Bill Sykes. John shuddered at the thought of the brutal deed.

The auditor then made his way to the George Inn in Southwark. This ancient, balconied inn in the Borough is similar to the White Hart Inn formerly lying in the next alleyway described in Pickwick Papers where Mr. Pickwick first met Sam Weller. John bought a pint of bitter and took in the scene as he drank visualising Mr. Pickwick and his companions at the bar with Sam Weller in the yard outside cleaning boots.

The sites of the former Shakespeare theatre, the Globe, and the former Marshalsea prison for insolvent debtors, being in the vicinity attracted his interest and made him eager to further explore the capital in the weeks to come. Dicken's own parents had been incarcerated in the Marshalsea for a time and the novelist had set the prison as the home of Little

Dorrit.

John returned on the tube to his hotel and enjoyed a drink with Roger before retiring for the night.

At breakfast next morning John told Roger he had been surprised to see so little shipping on the Thames. Roger, a veritable authority on London informed him that most of the ships were in the Pool of London down river.

The day found John and Roger checking cashbooks with bank statements. At lunchtime they bought sandwiches from one of the many establishments purveying these. John delighted at the choice available, purchased one of banana and one of cottage cheese. Roger chose ham and pickle, and sardine.

The auditors left rather late that evening after a laborious day checking bank accounts and postings. John was surprised to see Rodney Barrowdiffe still in his office.

"Rodney's waiting for a bit of slap and tickle", Roger remarked on the way out. "He's having an affair with one of the typists.

"Quite a character isn't he", commented John. "What about the trouble and strife?"

"I doubt if she is aware of the situation", replied Roger.

After enjoying a meal at a French restaurant Roger left to resume his studies while John made his way to the House of Commons. He intended to listen to a debate. He had to wait in a small queue before walking to the spectators' gallery where he looked down on the famous auditorium. The green leather-backed benches were sparsely populated, there being no more than twenty members present. A junior minister was speaking apparently giving the government's view on some question of parliamentary procedure.

Some members had their eyes closed no doubt better able to listen to the junior minister without the distractions of sight. Others were engaged in conversation with neighbours. Occasionally a member would enter or leave the forum. One member of apparent importance appeared from time to time to discuss matters with one of the members having no regard of the speaking minister.

This casual conducting of business recalled to John's mind a parliamentary tale he had heard some time ago. A research scientist in a government department had found a way of making human hair grow. Unfortunately when tried on a willing, bald guinea-pig hair grew in abundance on the man's chest and body but not on his head. The minister, when reporting these

findings, informed the house that the department had solved the problem of supply but not of distribution.

John came to the conclusion that nothing of importance was on the agenda that evening and, after absorbing the atmosphere for a time, he left.

While at Westminster he looked round the Abbey to be impressed by the imposing front towers of the ancient stone building. Its worn cloisters had been trodden by many pilgrims to the shrine of St. Edward since its erection in the reign of Edward the Confessor in the eleventh century and its rebuilding by Henry the Third two centuries later. John noted particularly the helmet worn by Henry the Fifth at Agincourt and was moved by poets' corner where Dickens is buried amongst other famous writers.

The walk back to his hotel took John down Whitehall past the Cenotaph, through Trafalgar Square dominated by Nelson's Column, under Admiralty Arch, up the Mall, past Buckingham Palace where a few tourists were looking through the railings and through Victoria. A short walk but a large lesson in history that enhanced his readings on the subject at school and since.

On the Wednesday evening Roger took time off from his

studies, the attraction being a visit to the private cinema club in Soho. The main feature revealed a well-developed young lady in various stages of undress, hard pressed to resist the attentions of a lecherous young man intent on gaining satisfaction.

The following morning Rodney Barrowdiffe asked for their reactions. John admitted that he had learned a thing or two while Roger Heath was overcome by a fit of laughter. Rodney seemed to think that the film was quite tame when compared to others he had seen at the club and was thinking of withdrawing from membership. No doubt he now had other matters to interest him.

After a week or two of the finance company audit John was getting used to life in London. Travel on the tube was hectic, particularly at rush hour, and one of the least attractive parts of their stay and he missed Susan desperately, writing to her at least once a week. However there were many compensations, the huge selection of sandwiches for lunch, the voluminous choice of restaurants for the evening meal, the wine with the meal but, most of all, the places of interest to visit. St. Paul's Cathedral with its splendid dome and monuments of Nelson and other notables; the Tower Of London with its grim history and the crown jewels; the Monument to the fire of London designed by Wren; the river Thames and its bridges; the Inns of Court and the Old Bailey; the financial institutions of the City such as Lloyds, the Stock Exchange, the Bank of England and Moorgate Place the head office of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; the huge number of theatres (They attended one performance each week); the splendid British Museum and Natural History Museum and superb art galleries with their old masters; and Madame Tussaud's waxworks and its lifelike figures (John had spoken to one figure believing it to be a spectator like himself).

One visit of particular interest took John to the Dicken's House Museum at 48 Doughty Street, Bloomsbury where the author had once lived and where he had written Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby. John spent a couple of hours there studying the mementoes such as original manuscripts, quill pens, pictures of scenes and characters from the books, family portraits and the Wooden Midshipman from Dombey and Son, a dwarf figure that somehow gave reality to the book.

At the end of the five-week audit John was reluctant to leave London there being so many sights as yet unseen. However there was always the thought of next year's audit to come assuming he was still employed by Dilks & Sons.

## Richard Walker



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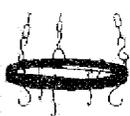


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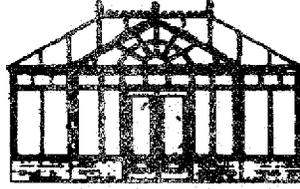


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- TUESDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon.  
CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm.  
LADIES EXERCISE TO MUSIC, All levels, United Reformed Church, 10.30am. to 12 noon. Tel 2359298
- WEDNESDAYS.** COFFEE in the LIBRARY, 10am. to 11.30am.  
MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall 8pm. to 10pm.  
AMERICAN LINE DANCING, United Reformed Church 8pm. to 9.30pm., Tel. 2369298
- THURSDAYS** OPEN DOOR, United Reformed Church, 10am. To noon.  
PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1.30pm., to 3pm. Tel. 2363157 for further details.  
AMERICAN LINE DANCING, United Reformed Church 1pm. to 3pm., Tel. 2359298
- FRIDAYS** TOTLEY TOTS, Baby & Toddler Group, 1.30pm. to 3pm, Wizz Kids Preschool Building, Totley Primary School. Contacts Julie 2350839, Lucy 01246 470971, Alison 2364316.
- SATURDAYS.** MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall 2<sup>nd</sup>. And 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturdays 7.30pm. to 10pm.

## APRIL

- SAT. 1<sup>st</sup>. JUMBLE SALE, St. John's Church Hall, 10-30 am. till Noon, Admission 20p. on behalf Yorkshire Cancer Research
- FRI. 7<sup>th</sup>. QUIZ NIGHT, King Egbert School, Wessex Hall 8pm. Tickets at the door. Bring your own refreshments.
- SAT. 8<sup>th</sup>. TABLE TOP SALE, King Egbert School, Wessex Hall, 10-00am. To 1-00pm. To book a table Tel. 236 7942
- SUN. 9<sup>th</sup>. "FAURE REQUIEM" St. John's Church Abbeydale Rd. 6-30 pm. Details inside.
- SUN. 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>. & 24<sup>th</sup>. (Easter Mon.) & 30<sup>th</sup>. MINATURE RAILWAY, Abbeydale Rd. South. 1-00 pm. to 4-30 pm.
- TUES. 11<sup>th</sup>. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom, 2.30pm. Devotional.
- WED. 12<sup>th</sup>. WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 8pm. in the Church lounge, Easter Meditation arranged by Marion Jepson.
- WED. 12<sup>th</sup>. SPRING FAYRE For Leonard Cheshire Services, 10am. To 12 noon Sheffield Cheshire Home. Further details from Jackie Short tel. 0114 2367491 or 0114 2369952
- FRI. 14<sup>th</sup>. JOHN WADE SINGERS, Christ Church Dere. 7-30 pm., Full details inside.
- SAT. 15<sup>th</sup>. TABLE TOP SALE, Heatherfield Club, Baslow Rd. 10 am. to 12-30 pm., 50p admission to include tea/coffee & biscuits. Further details tel. 236 4300.
- MON. 17<sup>th</sup>. T.R.A. A.G.M. Totley Library 7-30pm. All welcome.
- TUES. 18<sup>th</sup>. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am "UNDER WATER SEARCH UNIT" P.C.Garnor
- MON. 17<sup>th</sup>. CHILDRENS WEAR SALE, Totley All Saints CE School, 1-00pm to 9-00pm. Full details inside.
- TUES. 25<sup>th</sup>. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, Totley Rise Methodist Church Schoolroom, 2.30pm. "Do it yourself" Easter Tuesday, Dr.M.Jepson  
EASTER SEVICES FULL DETAILS INSIDE

## THE INDEPENDENT FOR MAY

The next issue of the Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on **MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>. MAY.**

**COPY DATE FOR THIS ISSUE SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup>. MARCH**

Editors Les & Dorothy Firth, 6, Milldale Rd. Tel. No. 236 4190

E Mail [les@lesfirth19.co.uk](mailto:les@lesfirth19.co.uk)

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