

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY THE TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1977

APRIL 2002

No. 252

15p.



Baslow Road,

The above cottages were 278 to 282 Baslow Road and stood on the land now being built on near the corner of Summer Lane.

These cottages were demolished about thirty years ago for either road widening or for a bus terminus but neither plan took place.

**TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 15th. 7-30 p.m. TOTLEY LIBRARY. EVERYONE WELCOME.**

TOTLEY, TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND ITS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE – TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

SILVER JUBILEE 1977 – 2002

Totley Residents Association was officially launched in July 1977. The Association was launched to foster a community spirit and become a voice and platform to any group or individual residing or working in the Totley area of Sheffield. It was anticipated that such an organisation would improve communication and develop a better understanding of all community needs from both inside the area and to its immediate neighbours.

The launching of the Association, after several months of planning, proved effective and the enterprise of the magazine called TOTLEY INDEPENDENT became an anchor and accessible medium which continues to thrive and is respected city wide, after 25 years of publication.

A SHORT HISTORY OF TOTLEY

Today Totley is a residential suburb of Sheffield, Yorkshire, situated in the south west of the city. Totley straddles both sides of the busy A621 (Baslow Road) from Totley Rise (at Totley Bridge) to Owl Bar and includes the more rural area of Totley Bents.

Geographically it is the most southern point of both Sheffield and South Yorkshire and shares a boundary with Derbyshire. Although regarded as an important and desirable residential area, a high proportion of it is still given over to agriculture and farming, playing an important role in the local economy. The district still maintains Derbyshire roots, in sport, ecclesiastical and leisure pursuits.

Until 1935 Totley was part of Derbyshire, controlled by Norton Rural District Council. More local matters were dealt with by Totley Parish Council, who met regularly in the village school. The minute book of the Parish Council, now housed in the Sheffield Archives, makes interesting reading and is a good source of history and an insight into a rural community.

In 1935, along with the neighbouring village of Dore, despite much local opposition, by Act of Parliament, Totley became part of Sheffield and Yorkshire. (From Tups to Tykes).

To the regret of the local populous, the Parish Council had to be dissolved.

The result of this was that the new 'Garden Suburbs', acquired by Sheffield, now only had a small voice. The village's relationship with its new owner became somewhat distanced. However, to give the impression that the village itself was dormant would be incorrect.

Totley is mentioned in the Domesday Book and has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. However, it was the coming of the railway in the 1890's that really put the place on the map but also turned the village and its inhabitants into turmoil. Almost overnight the influx of railway navvies doubled the population. They had been engaged by the Midland Railway Company to construct the Totley Tunnel. This was to be a feat of Victorian engineering and the second longest tunnel in Britain. Nearly four miles long. (The Severn Tunnel being the longest).

In 1994 Totley Tunnel became 100 years old and the centenary was celebrated in great style at Totley Bents Recreation Ground by hundreds of locals. (The same year saw the completion of the Channel Tunnel).

By the 1930's the village had settled down again, although, along with the rest of Britain, the effects of the Great War had taken its toll. The War Memorial in Baslow Road commemorates those servicemen and women who gave their lives.

The memorial was created by public subscription under the auspice of Mr & Mrs Milner of Totley Hall.

In more recent times a further plaque was added by the Residents Association for the Second World War.

The railway navvies had been responsible for the formation of Totley Sports and Social Club, which is still active today. The four village pubs continued to thrive, the Churches were well established and many other new organisations prospered. The problem seems to have been that most of these clubs and associations flourished and bubbled away in isolation of each other.

The Village Sports and Totley Horticultural Show had faded away in the 1920's and these had been two major annual events in village life, giving everyone a chance to meet and mix.

Another problem was that since the development of the turnpike road, the axis of the village had changed and it was now difficult to determine its centre. A situation that still exists today. This was further complicated by the fact that, for some unexplained reason, a village hall had never been established. (Green Oak Labour Hall, now Heatherfield Conservative Club(!) had been built in 1926 and All Saints Church not until 1924).

The result of this was that between 1935 and 1977, to the world at large, Totley had become a quiet backwater.

(Although it may be said that the students from Totley College livened up the place from time to time) >

Since the 1930's new housing developments continued in Totley, and indeed still do. 'New Totley' was created around Main Avenue, along with a sizeable estate of council housing (originally part of which was prefabricated).

This was by no means a problem. The area had always had a mixed population of owner occupiers and many of the village locals lived (and some still do) in rented cottages. Also in later years there would be a large semi-permanent body of students at the local college. The community, as a whole, became well-integrated, regular friendships were made, especially in sporting activities, Churches and public houses. Even to the extent that a welcoming party was held for the new prefab tenants in the Tea Rooms, upstairs in the Cross Scythes Hotel.

In the early 1970's Parent/Teacher Associations had been formed in both the Church of England aided village school (which was to celebrate its centenary in 1977) and the more recent 'County' school. Contact and discussions were established between these two groups, as were sporting challenges between both the pupils and their parents.

FORMATION OF TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

At the same time as key members of the two local schools were becoming acquainted, it was being mooted from other sections of the community, particularly a group of council tenants, whose properties bordered the local park, Green Oak Recreation Ground, that there was an urgent need for recreational outlets for the local youth and senior citizens. Indeed all sections of the community. Here it should be noted that Totley has, amongst its population, the highest proportion of senior citizens in the city. At the same time as this need was being voiced, a survey carried out by the Family and Community Services division of the City Council, supported this suggestion, although at the time nobody in Totley was aware that this survey had been taken. However, a new Vicar Alan Jockel, had recently been appointed to Totley and he would prove to be the necessary

catalyst. Moreover he was totally community minded, a good mediator, experienced and a man with the essential ingredient: - enthusiasm. After several preliminary meetings, with all interested parties, to test the water, a Public Meeting was called at Totley County School (which possessed the largest hall) in August 1977.

FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

The turnout at the first Public Meeting was exceptionally high, the hall being filled to capacity. All sections and age groups were represented including the existing Totley Community Association who were based at Abbeydale Hall (which is outside the Totley boundary).

An initial proposal from the platform directed by the Vicar (who was elected the first Chairman) to form a 'community' association was passed unanimously and a pre-prepared constitution accepted. The constitution basically said that the association would be open to all and would work for the well being of the local community. It was hoped that the association would also serve as an umbrella for all other established groups in the area and that forum could be set up to co-operate, exchange ideas and offer inter-support. This forum duly met at Totley College.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was able to proceed further and sub groups were formed to identify and develop specific interests, causes for concern and recreational pursuits. Amongst these included a Badminton Section, a Junior Football Team, a Camera Club, a Social Committee and links with the local students. Perhaps most important of all, it was decided to launch a Community Magazine.

A new library and old people's home 'Green Oak View' had recently been built and contact would also need to be made with these. Also, Sheffield Cheshire Home was located in Totley, as was Cherry Tree Children's Home. These would also be invited to participate.

One important point to arise from this meeting and, in particular from the originators of the Association, was a desire that the name would be Totley Residents Association. The title of Tenants and Residents was not to be included as it was thought this may suggest an 'us and them' situation, which everyone was keen to avoid. Particularly as it did not exist.

The title was to be regarded as inclusive, not exclusive.

A small subscription for membership of each household was created. Volunteers agreed to collect house to house - which proved impractical, others paid in the open air at an annual table in Green Oak Park!

A most positive step was also decided. This would be a two pronged attack.

Firstly, a launch date for the Association would be determined and this would also revive the Village Sports Day. This tradition had been popular earlier in the century but had ceased. Secondly, if at all possible, a quality magazine, rather than a newsletter, would be published at the same time. With the amount of enthusiasm and the multi talents of the assembled volunteers this could come about very quickly.

The magazine would be called 'Totley Independent' (after the demised Sheffield Weekly Independent) and the venture would be inaugurated on 4 July 1977: - 'Totley Independence Day'.

From its earliest conception two peripheral goals were identified. To build and maintain a Community Centre (this has still not happened). Secondly, to secure local community transport, mainly for the use and convenience of the ageing population. (This became reality in later years. Indeed it was to become the most successful community transport venture 'Transport 17' in Sheffield).

The Association and its magazine was successfully launched at the newly revived Totley Sports Evening in Green Oak Park on 4 July 1977.

An executive committee had been established and this now set about performing the tasks and duties that it had been commissioned to carry out.

CONCLUSION

The magazine became an immediate success and maintained healthy sales and circulation of over a thousand copies a month. It became available from several retail outlets. The current cost is 15p. There is a constant waiting list from advertisers and the magazine, now in its 25th year, continues to make a profit. Indeed it is the main income of the Association, paying its way in an admirable fashion.

There have been six editors since the launch. It has also served well as a springboard for budding professional journalists. These have been recruited from the local comprehensive school and at one time good communications were established with the Journalism Course at Richmond College, Sheffield.

The magazine has been fortunate to receive regular contributions from first class Totley artists, who are recognised throughout the city.

The Association continues to perform a variety of successful functions. Unfortunately, its ambition to build a Community Centre remains a pipe dream. (Neither are there any old or suitable buildings for conversion). Many attempts at funding were made at City and National levels. The campaign goes on.

A Village Show is held annually. This is well supported. In 1977 a Senior Citizens Christmas Party was held at Totley College. The food was provided by the Home Economics Department. Both Lecturers and Students being involved and this continued, for a good many years until Totley College (later Sheffield Polytechnic) became autonomous and an alternative venue had to be found. The event continued until recently.

On the campaign trail, many successes can be recorded. Housing developments are continually monitored, particularly where they fall in the local Green Belt and conservation area. Constant awareness is maintained with other environmental issues. One major triumph has been the installation of traffic lights in Baslow Road. This is the main dual carriageway through Totley. Prior to this campaign there had been no crossing point between Millhouses Park and Baslow Village, a distance of six miles. Unfortunately it was only in the event of fatal accidents that positive outcome was achieved.

Each year, like similar organisations, the Annual General Meeting is held at Totley Library during April.

Although this is continually a struggle for support a Committee continues to be elected from 'willing volunteers'. Regular talks were presented for a good many years at Totley Library but like the Senior Citizens Christmas Party and Totley Older Peoples Society (TOPS) times change and residents may have found other outlets for recreational pursuits or perhaps the lack of a regular venue has lead to a lack of enthusiasm.

From humble beginnings Totley Residents Association has established both itself and its magazine into an effective and active force, open to all members of the community at large. It is prepared to fight and support issues of local concern. It can reflect with interest and appreciate its own history.

Hopefully it can look forward to a future, although unpredictable, with confidence.

Mike Williamson

Spotlight on

MAX KOCURA
TOTLEY COFFEE SHOPPE & DELI

How long have you lived or worked in Totley?

I have worked in Totley for four years now.

What do you most like about the area?

The greenery, the architecture of some of the buildings, and, of course the people.

What would you change if you could?

People supporting the local shops more.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement so far?

Having two wonderful children, Francesca (8) and Luke (4).

Do you have a goal or ambition?

To maintain a solid and healthy business and live a happy and successful life.

Have you any regrets or disappointments?

My father not being around to see his grandchildren grow up.

What makes you angry?

People not listening to me.

What gives you hope and encouragement?

My family, my mother, and people coming into my shop.

If you ruled the world.....

I would create a safe and happy place to live, with no poverty and obviously the world would be at peace.

What is your most treasured possession?

My children (and my wallet)!

Which historical event would you most liked to have witnessed?

The end of World War Two. I find world history interesting.

Which famous person would you like to meet?

Norman Wisdom. He has given me many a laugh.

Who has had the most influence on your life?

Myself. By being true to myself and trying to follow the path that I have set for myself.

What was your childhood like?

Strict! My dad was the boss of the house, but it did me no harm.

How do you like to spend your time?

With my family. (It used to be in the pub, but I don't seem to have the time anymore!)

What was your best holiday?

On a Greek Island with my mates in the 80's, but more recently with my family in the Canary Islands.

Where in the world would you most like to visit?

The moon. I would love to go into space.

What is your favourite music?

I love all pop music of the 80's. I was always movin' and groovin' on the dance floor.

What skill do you wish you had?

Professional football. The money earned now is incredible.

If you could change your career what would you choose?

Something sporty, (for the money of course)!

Vacancy for Co-opted Governor-Totley Primary School

Totley Primary School is proud of its recent Ofsted Inspection report. We are now seeking to co-opt a governor who will play an active part in maintaining our excellent high standards. Age and experience is not a barrier but the person should be willing to commit several hours a month to the school. This is a rewarding and responsible role that will help to make our children's future a brighter one. If you are interested in this appointment you can either contact Trish Lamb Chair of Governors directly on 0114 2350422 or write to her c/o Totley Primary School, Sunnyvale Road, S17 4FB.



Are you interested in young people and their access to their cultural heritage?

The "In the Bag Theatre Company" (The Trust) is a Sheffield based registered Charity that most certainly is. From its beginnings about ten years ago it has supported the Sheffield Youth Theatre in its work. SYT is now 25 years old and throughout that time has provided the opportunity to young people from all over the region to study, rehearse and perform the finest plays and stories the world has produced. Twice a year young people are invited to form a company, study the play as an ensemble and in time to perform it at various venues. You may have seen some of its performances at the Merlin Theatre. Ensemble working allows real understanding of the text, encourages young people to go beyond their imagined limits and brings out responsibility and creative contribution. Their parents value the contribution that SYT makes to their growing tip.

Sources include Shakespeare, the Bible, Dickens, Homer, Tolstoy, Bunyan and venues include The Crucible, the Merlin, the Botanical Gardens and Manor Park.

The Trust has developed a series of aims to expand and develop the work of SYT and now welcomes anyone who is interested to join in its work. This could be as a voluntary worker, officer or Trustee. A knowledge of theatre is useful but not essential.

To contact the Trust and find out more, phone or write to:-
Nancy Leckey, Chair, at 32 Steade Road, Sheffield, S7 1DS. Tel 2553143 or
Simon Clements, Trustee, at 6 Caxton Road, Sheffield S10 3DE. Tel 2664428.

TOTLEY GATEWAY TO THE HILLS

Totley is a grand place to live. Surrounded by glorious scenery of Blackamoor, Totley Moss, Burbage and Houndkirk Moors to the west, plus the pastoral scene of Holmesfield and the Cordwell Valley to the south. Let us explore the local area on our own doorstep, with a spring in our step turn out the hiking boots and rucksack and explore some hidden delights on the heights of Houndkirk Hill. Allow 4 to 5 hours for this walk of 7½ miles with never a dull yard. Start from Hillfoot Road, route as follows, cobbled causeway from Chapel Lane to Penny Lane, enter the track and field path through Bents Farm on our right. Stone stile to the charming backwater of Old Hay, cross the bridge spanning the infant Old Haybrook on our left with steps leading up to the lane and track way to the fashionable Avenue Farm, note the weir to our left. Keep forward to the gate and stile field path and slight incline to Shorts Lane and the Dore popular riding stables. Enter the bridle way to our left, before us the magic of Blackamoor, all 448 acres presented to the City of Sheffield by the late benefactor Alderman J. G. Graves in the year 1933. After passing the bubbling stream of Blacka Dike one of the many feeders of the River Sheaf, swing over to our right where a sign points the route to the Devils Elbow Gate. The path climbs fairly steeply for ½ mile. A grit stone causeway threads its way through bilberry patches and a woodland scene as we head for the Fox House Road. Cross the busy A625 road, with care, and walk back 200 yards towards Whirlow and just beyond the old site of the Devils Elbow Road. In early motoring days this stretch of highway was known as a dangerous bend and accident spot before the road was improved. We now enter Houndkirk Moor via a kissing gate, directly opposite the top of Whitelow Lane. Glorious heather moors to tread. Locate a concrete post on the rising slope under Houndkirk Hill. Make a slight detour from the post to scale the grit stone escarpment of Houndkirk Hill, at nearly 1400 feet the high point of the walk. Extensive views of the South Yorkshire scene and nearby the head waters of the Red Car Brook (true source of the River Sheaf). Linger awhile at this high level sanctuary for a coffee break. Retrace our steps back to the concrete post, head slightly to the right of the marker 100 yards below the stream feeders and boldly cross the moor to avoid the boggy patches. After a few minutes we strike the popular highway and ancient track known as the Houndkirk Road. From here head left and walk towards Fox House and the Parsons House (restored and now used as an outward bound centre for the Liverpool based Knowsley Trust). As we leave the last gate along the track swing over to our left towards the Stony Ridge Road where nearby the ruined farmstead stands an old boundary stone (site of a coaching road and Toll Bar). Cross the road where the Stonyridge and Fox House highway junction meet and enter the peaceful sanctuary of Blackamoor plantation. A main track fringes a line of rhododendron bushes towards our own Totley Moor passing the site of lonely Strawberry Lee Farm must conjure thoughts of a noble dignity in its lofty position. All that remains from this by gone age are piles of stones. The track descends between Blacka Hill and Wimble Holme Hill well defined and superb views all around. This is bilberry picking country. In the heights of summer these luscious little fruits are a treat to all willing to suffer a touch of backache.

Pause a while at the wooden seat where paths join from Lenny Hill. Note the plaque in the plantation area just to the right. Set into the stone slab this is in memory to the late Stephen Morton the stalwart rambler and ex president of the



South Yorkshire Ramblers Association, a well respected gentleman. The track descends fairly steeply and we cross the bridge spanning the infant Lee Dike. Here the track broadens through an avenue of Beech trees. (The Sheffield Corporation Parks Dept have recently classed this area as a special nature reserve). Soon we rejoin a surfaced road at the head of Strawberry Lee Lane.

A short stroll and we are back to the sports field.

The Cricket Inn looks mighty tempting as we head for home via the cobbled causeway after a grand little outing on our local hills.

John C. Barrows.

The Ladybower Challenge Walk 2002

Do you enjoy walking in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside? Well, King Egbert School Association, is organising a 26 mile Challenge Walk on Saturday, 29th June. It will start and end at our Wessex Building on Totley Brook Road in Dore, going out to Ladybower Reservoir via Burbage Rocks, and returning via Hope and Grindleford Cafe', where the main walk ends and lifts are available back to school. There will also be a short walk of about 14 miles for those who don't wish to do the full walk. The walk is part of the parent-teacher association fundraising effort, and for the entry fee we provide:-

- checkpoints en route with free cold drinks
- free travel from checkpoints back to the finish for walkers wishing to retire
- a certificate if the walk is completed in 12 hours
- a ploughman's platter and tea at the finish point
- First Aid personnel in attendance

For both walks, it is up to you to decide on your route, but you have to check in at the checkpoints. The cost of the walk is £7.00 (£4.00 for under 18's), and £8.00 on the day. Badges and T-shirts will be available at extra cost, please see application form. Under 16's will have to walk with a responsible adult and under 18's need written parental consent. For further information or application form please send a S.A.E. to

Walk Organiser, K.E.S.A., King Egbert School, Furniss Avenue, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3QN.



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Dear Editor

I was pleased to read John C. Barrows letter about those great ramblers John Derry and GHB Ward in your February issue, and wonder if I might respectfully make one or two amendments to what he wrote about the latter local personality.

Mr. Ward, who I also walked with on occasion (but unlike Mr. Barrows, cannot claim to have known 'Very well') lived at Storth Lodge, Moorwoods Lane, Holmesfield (not Moorside Lane Totley) and his initials were GHBW (not GWBW); for George Herbert Bridges Ward.

Our Ramblers' Association memorial to him is on a piece of land at the summit of Lose (not Loose) Hill. This is now known, and officially recognised by HM Ordnance Survey, as Ward's Piece. The RA raised the money to purchase the hilltop and immediately handed ownership over to the National Trust in 1945. Roy Bullen

Dear Editor Re - Dec Issue, Bang, Bang, Bang

I wish to thank the people responsible for commencing the petition re fireworks and correspondence relating to this. Many thanks to all who supported this campaign. I note with interest printed in the Sheffield Star Feb 6th a letter also referring to fireworks -quote "Time for a change to firework laws", from Elizabeth Hellmick, Bradford, and in the Chesterfield Advertiser 8th Feb North East Derbyshire, M. P Harry Barnes has been handed 1,866 signature petition from Brenda Elridge on this subject. Let's hope that with constant public pressure the Government will act quickly and get to grips with this very important issue.

Hoping for a successful conclusion. Yours sincerely A Senior Citizen, Totley.

Long Range Totley Resident

As a military historian, I am very interested in the whereabouts and links with the area of an early member of a Second World War "Special Forces" unit. The Long Range Desert Group who is shown as a Totley resident in that unit's Association List of Members which was published in about 1946. The soldier's name was Captain A. Denniff and I understand that he had a distinguished career with this, equally distinguished, wartime "commando" unit. I wonder whether Captain DENNIFF stayed on in the area? Indeed, is he still with us or perhaps there are relatives or friends in Totley who know and remember him?

I would be very interested to hear from anyone particularly the man himself.

I have also heard the odd 'snippet' that we have had other former wartime 'special duties' personnel amongst us including an S.O.E. member, again does anyone know anything more positive?

S.E.ACASTER Member Society For Army Historical Research and Military Historical Society (2350119).

Fair Trade

Fair Trade is a partnership between producers in the 3rd. World and buyers in the developed world, which ensures that the farmers get decent wages, good working conditions and fair prices. It seeks to protect human rights, especially of women, children and indigenous peoples. It works to remove the causes of poverty and seeks to create awareness of our part as consumers in the global economy. It is against all exploitation of labour, particularly of women and children, and many women are given direct help to set up small businesses so that they can support and educate themselves and their families.

There is now a growing network of Fair Trade shops across the U.K., And a great breakthrough has been the increasing sale of fairly traded goods in the supermarkets. In Sheffield, there is a Traidcraft shop at 142 Devonshire Street, selling tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, nuts, cereals, chocolate and other foods, as well as paper goods. There is also a large selection of crafts-carvings, pottery, throws, wall hangings, jewellery and cards, from Africa, India, South America, the Philippines and other parts of S.E. Asia. The headquarters of Traidcraft is at Gateshead, from where goods, including some clothes, can be bought via mail order- Traidcraft, Freepost NT 972, Kingsway, Gateshead NE11 9BR. A large part of the business in Sheffield comes from Sale or Return boxes: goods are collected on Mondays and sold, usually by various churches, and unsold items are returned the following week. There are 2 job-sharing managers at the shop, a board of directors and a group of volunteers, more of whom are always needed.

At this moment, the shop is obliged to close for 6 months as the landlord is carrying out renovations. The Sale or Return service will continue and temporary, affordable premises are being urgently sought for the 6 months. Any ideas or offers gladly welcomed-please ring 2556644. The shop in Devonshire Street will re-open in slightly larger premises in September. Meanwhile, some local churches regularly hold sales of Traidcraft goods. Buying them is an excellent way of showing true fellowship and promoting justice.

Trish Lamb, English Martyrs.



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Scenic Flight by Hugh Percival

Percival, on holiday on the South Coast, climbed into the rear seat of the twin-seater monoplane. A stout gentleman of apoplectic countenance in flying gear with goggles round his forehead approached the plane, nodded to the passenger and remarked "If God had meant us to fly he would have given us wings." He then climbed into the pilot's seat. Percival was struck by the humour of the remark although the depressed attitude of the pilot did not suggest humorous intent.

The pilot started the engine. The plane taxied slowly down the small runway, gathered speed and, to the obvious relief of the passenger, took to the air.

The aircraft reached an acceptable height and levelled out. Percival admired the view of the coastline, the sea and the adjacent countryside.

On looking forward he saw to his dismay the figure of the pilot slumped over the controls. With ashen face Percival, with some difficulty, clambered into the front seat.

After a few moments his mind cleared and he picked up the telephone that he had seen the pilot use before takeoff.

To his a voice spoke "Airfield here".

"Passenger here" stuttered Percival. "The pilot has died. What shall I do?" he added in agitated tones.

"Are you sure he's dead?" asked the voice from the airfield.

"Yes. I've thrown him overboard" replied Percival, in desperation.

"I'm not surprised. He's had heart trouble for some time" the voice said nonchalantly.

"What am I to do now?" bellowed the passenger.

"Not to worry sir. Passengers are insured" was the reply from the ground.

"That's a comfort anyway. I don't suppose you know the amount of benefit?" Percival said with a strong hint of irony.

"Not offhand, although it should at least cover the funeral expenses including refreshments. Next of kin are of course informed free of charge" came the reply.

Amazingly the plane had kept to an even keel so far. Suddenly the engine sputtered and the descent began.

"I'm coming down now," shouted Percival hysterically. "In that case you should jump out and use your parachute said the man at the airfield. "Before you jump try and direct the plane out to sea. We don't want any unnecessary fatalities, two are enough".

Percival, now oblivious of the conventional courtesies due when speaking to a stranger, directed several choice expletives down the line in a hysterical voice.

"Don't forget to pull the ripcord of your parachute on the way down, sir. The voice from the airfield was as helpful and polite as ever despite the abuse.

Faced with no alternative Percival closed his eyes, dropped out of the cockpit, pulled the ripcord and felt with thankful heart the straps bite into his armpits. He floated gradually downwards until his feet jarred against the rough ground of the airfield.

The attendant approached at a run from the nearby office. "Congratulations on your landing, sir."

Percival bestowed an aggrieved look on the man who consulted his watch. "There are still ten minutes of your flight time left, sir." the man remarked. "Would you like to go up again? The reserve pilot is quite healthy I believe."

Percival stared angrily at the attendant, kicked him violently up the backside and, having thus relieved his feelings, departed from the scene thankfully breathing in the sea air grateful to be alive.

Vegetation Management on Totleybrook Rd.

If you are horrified by what's been done on Totleybrook Rd here are a few addresses of people to whom you may like to drop a letter to voicing your concerns.

Richard Allen M. P.

85 Nethergreen Rd., Sheffield, S11 7EH

Mr. Richard Watts

Development, Environment and Leisure Department

Sheffield City Council, Howden House, 1 Union St., S1 2SH

Councillors Colin Ross, Keith Hill and Anne Smith

Sheffield City Council, Town Hall Surrey St, S1 2HH

Mr Phil Jones c/o

Community Relations Room

317 Rail House, Store St. Manchester, M60 7RT

The Removal of Trees in Totley Rise Church Carpark

On Monday March 24th, the five trees in the car park and those overhanging Baslow Road were removed for the following reasons:-

1. The leaves were a hazard underfoot when wet, particularly to the elderly.
2. The leaves, twigs and small branches caused constant damage to the rooves and gutters of the premises.
3. The removal of the leaves from the car-park was a thankless and time consuming job - especially for Jenny our caretaker.
4. The damage caused to the rooves and guttering was expensive when repairs to the property have to be undertaken.
5. The trees have been involved in several minor car accidents.
6. The roots were lifting and breaking up the tarmac surface in several places, and this also is proving to be a hazard.
7. The trees overhanging Baslow Road were leaning dangerously.

Council approval for this work was sought and granted. The removal of the trees will add light and space to the area in front of the Church and make it more visible, accessible and hopefully more inviting and "user friendly".

New, smaller growing, ornamental trees will be planted in due course along the riverbank.

Don't forget, Totley Residents A.G.M.
15th. April. Totley Library 7-30 p.m.

O d d - J o b s

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GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

I've been putting seeds in this week (mid March) it is always a pleasure doing this the anticipation of things to come. It always amazes me to realise that a lovely plant or tree can come from such small seeds. The daffodils are well up in the garden a sure sign of Spring. The gales did a bit of damage around us, fortunately we did not suffer much. The rain we have had will have leached most of the nutrients out of the soil, it will be advisable to replace this by adding compost or fertilizer to your soil as soon as possible. Keep an eye and ear open for the weather forecast, old Jack Frost can do a lot of damage at this time. It doesn't take him long to nabble those new shoots just coming onto the plants you have nurtured over the winter, so have the fleece, newspaper etc. handy just in case.

Sun can also do a lot of damage, in the greenhouse, keep seedlings shaded from strong sun, they like plenty of light once they are through, but the sun can shrivel them up in no time. It's one long long battle isn't it !! April is a busy month in the garden, so get cracking and let's see a good display in your garden and some lovely exhibits at the Totley Show in September.

FLOWERS

Hardy annuals sown last month can be thinned out to encourage them to grow sturdier, keep flower beds free of weeds, spread a mulch over them to help keep the soil moist, don't be tempted to buy bedding plants unless you have a cold frame or greenhouse to bring them on, they will be very tender at this time and will need to be hardened off. Daffodils, tulips etc should be giving a good show by now, take off the flower heads as they fade and when they have finished let them die back naturally, they will then make good plants next year. If you have to move them dig a trench in a shady spot and heel them into that until the leaves have faded, then put them in a dry, cool spot until the autumn when they can be planted out again. Plant out gladioli corms in succession throughout the month so that you don't have a glut, and can enjoy them over a longer period. April is a good time to move or plant alpine plants, also for making a new violet bed out of doors to provide clumps for forcing next winter. Antirrhinums and penstemons can be planted out now if they have been properly hardened off. It's a good time to take cuttings of chrysanthemums that are going to make dwarf specimens in pots, stake up tall plants as they progress. Make sure newly planted plants don't dry out, April showers sometimes are not enough. Plant up patio pots and tubs with summer flowering bulbs these can be placed in borders to add a touch of colour, especially amongst shrubs and plants which have finished flowering. Prepare bed for summer bedding plants include plenty of humus (the rotting veg type not the cheesy stuff to retain the moisture. If you have not spread bonemeal for a year or so give them a treat now. Keep an eye out for the usual nasties slugs, snails, greenfly etc etc will be looking for those succulent goodies you have just planted so deal with them as soon as you spot them. I haven't had the recipe for Totley escargot yet so you will have to use some other method.

VEGETABLES

Clear and dig over any plots which have finished producing and prepare them for the next crop, test the soil and add the necessary fertilizer or compost to suit the type of vegetables you are going to grow. Give spring cabbage which should be looking good now a final dressing of Nitrate of soda or nitro chalk. Plant onion sets in well prepared soil they like plenty of good compost with a bit of bonemeal, hoof and horn or similar to give you good flavoursome bulbs. Towards the end of the month you could plant out your onion plants which you should have sown in the greenhouse on Boxing Day, they will need protection from frost, at first, so have the fleece handy. Most vegetables can be sown now, don't plant bean plants until the frosts have finished.

Earth up potatoes as they make new growth, prepare celery trenches for further sowings. Leeks need a rich, deep soil if you are interested in producing those fine specimens for Totley Show. Sow carrots thinly so as to avoid having to thin them. I'm told the carrot fly can smell them a good distance

away if they are disturbed. A tent of fleece or fine netting will also help. If you can find any soot, the old boys used to use this as a carrot fly repellent, spread it around the base of the plants.

TREES SHRUBS and FRUIT.

Roses need feeding to produce good quality blooms. Tonks formula is usually the basis for most good fertilizers, use it now and when the second flush of flowers show buds. Buddleia, leycesteria, fuchsias and many other shrubs can be pruned now, the planting of evergreens should be completed this month, don't forget to protect them from wind. Make sure all newly planted trees, shrubs and fruit are firmed well into the soil and the surrounding soil is weed free. Check your tree ties, make sure they are still firm and not biting into the bark of your trees. Spray trees and fruits with a quality fungicide if you have suffered from scab, mildew or canker in previous years. Blackcurrants which have big bud mite can be sprayed or the big deformed buds removed and burnt, replace grease bands on apples, pears and cherries, burn the old ones. Clean up strawberry beds by removing dead leaves then cleaning the surface of the beds and making it really tidy, have your straw ready towards the end of the month. Give ericaceous plants a feed with iron sequestrene.

GREEN HOUSE and INDOOR PLANTS.

As your greenhouse should now be bulging with seedlings, pot plants, cuttings etc it is very important that the greenhouse ventilation be watched carefully, particularly if you use parafin or gas heating, open the doors and vents on sunny days, closing them in late afternoon, shade seedlings from strong sunlight. Pot on any cuttings or seedlings which are well established, half hardy annuals can be hardened off later in the month. Watch out for greenfly and whitefly, I have found that vine weevil killer PRAVADO is very effective and also kills vine weevils if you are unfortunate to have these pests. Take cuttings of fuchsias, geraniums, winter flowering begonias etc. Prick out seedlings which are easily handled (two or three true leaves). Rest freesias, lachenalias, arum lilies and cyclamen place them on a shelf near the glass and gradually reduce watering if you have not done already. Plant tomato, cucumbers, capsicums etc remember they need minimum 65 degree F. to germinate and 50 degree F. minimum when they are growing. Watch out for ants and wood lice they can devastate a tray of seedlings overnight. Indoor plants should have their watering increased and established plants given a good feed, split up and re-pot ferns give the leaves of pot plants a wash (except hairy types) most pot plants enjoy a spell outdoors in the fresh air when it's not frosty. Hanging baskets can be made up now and hung in the greenhouse to get established.

LAWNS.

Rake, roll, scarify, spike and give a top dress of old compost (growbag is fine) and feed with a good lawn fertilizer, treat any moss patches with moss killer as soon as possible before it gets established. Cut grass regularly this gives a dense mat

it gets established. Cut grass regularly this gives a dense mat which weeds do not like, don't set the mower to short especially if the weather is dry, it's a good time to seed a lawn it must be well prepared soil and must be kept moist until established. Well that should keep you going for a bit and as Mr Titchmarsh says Enjoy your Gardening. Cheorio for now. TOM BUSY BEE.

TOTLEY SHOW 7th SEPTEMBER 2002

We are in the process of planning this year's show and would like to recruit some new helpers who have not been involved with the show before. There is a wide variety of jobs available and you would work alongside experienced helpers. Some of the jobs are:

Preparing the rooms on the Friday evening - strong young men needed! [and putting everything back on Saturday]
Helping with serving refreshments, Security on the day
Car parking on the day Help with taking entries
Games attendants, Selling programmes at selected points before the show

We also would be grateful for small prizes for the Tombola stall which may be left at Busy Bee anytime.

So, now is the time to make a start on that painting, embroidery etc., or start taking those photographs, nurturing that houseplant, planting those flowers, and planning your entries for this years even bigger and better show.

Please contact Pauline Perkinton or Tom or Christine Steele with any offers of help or any queries.

KING ECGBERTS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday April 12th from 7.30pm. Quiz Night - bring friends and family to form a team of up to 8 or join one on the night. Bring your own refreshments or order your own Pizza.

Price £3.00 adults, £2.00 senior students, £1.00 junior students. Tickets on the door at Wessex Hall.

Saturday, April 20th. Jumble Sale. Dealers 10 am. to 11 am. £5, Public 11 am to 1 pm. 50p. Please deliver any jumble to Wessex hall on Friday evening.

TOTLEY & DORE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The dates for our next meeting is as follows:-

THURSDAY APRIL 18th.

SPEAKER RAY HOLMES of SHEFFIELD TALKING NEWS

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Volume 2

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- Deer in and around the Peak District.
- Two papers on Millstones and the history of the millstone industry.
- On woodland archaeology in Sheffield.
- And on a rare slug - the ashblack slug in ancient woods and heaths of the region.

There are also reviews of recent publications.

The latest issue is available from bookshops and other outlets - price £5 or from Wildtrack Publishing, P.O. Box 1142, Sheffield, S1 1SZ; price £5 = £2 p.&p

For readers wishing to know more about both wildlife and history in and around the Peak District and for all those interested in the area, and concerned about its conservation, this is *essential reading*. It is of value to ecologists and archaeologists generally.

The Journal is produced with support from the *Centre for Environmental Conservation and Outdoor Leisure* at Sheffield Hallam University.

The editors welcome offers of papers, notes, articles etc. long or short, on wildlife, natural history, archaeology, local history, landscape history and conservation.

For more details contact the editor:

Dr Ian D. Rotherham, Wildtrack Publishing, P.O. Box 1142, Sheffield, S1 1SZ or via Sheffield Hallam University.

Telephone: 0775 1089499 or 0114 2252874, or

E-mail: i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk

'The Flora Sheffielder Volume 1

Part 1

Edited by Dr Ian D. Rotherham and Janet Alton

This is a collaborative project between the Centre for Environmental Conservation and Outdoor Leisure at Sheffield Hallam University, and the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield.

An interactive project for local people across South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, North Notts. and the Peak District

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A full review of this issue will be in the next edition of the Totley Independent.

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We will start loaning equipment from our new loan point during March.

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PUZZLE CORNER

A Prime Cube

Many readers will have noticed that, on dice used in many games, the sum of the two numbers on opposite faces add to the same. $1+6, 2+5, 3+4$.

Of course, any sequence of consecutive numbers can be so arranged.

For example numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

$7+12, 8+11, 9+10$.

The problem is to find the lowest sequence of prime numbers which can be arranged on a cube so that the three pairs of opposite faces all add to the same total.

Answer page 13

Don Ashford

TOTLEY FROM ABOVE

The February 02 edition of The Totley Independent News has just reached me, to be read and enjoyed as all other copies have. May I perhaps answer the questions posed by Mr Duncan Froggat in his article entitled Totley a View From Above.

1. The square shape in the wood above the bridge and path to Woodthorpe is indeed the old swimming pool, if the photo goes as far as Holmesfield Wood, he may see another swimming pool.
2. The circular features visible between Gill Field Wood and the path to Woodthorpe Hall I believe to be the remains of Home Guard activity during the last war.

A searchlight was located in the centre of the field at the bottom of Wings Hill, this was circular. Along the top of the same field running parallel to the drive to Woodthorpe Hall were three or four huts, roughly 30ft. x 18ft. obviously these were square. In the adjoining field moving westwards were two or three circular ponds, of the dimensions suggested by Mr Froggat. These "Ponds" I always felt were water filled collapsed mine workings but I cannot verify this. Not so very far away at the top of Mickley Lane there used to be drift mine workings. The Ponds mentioned were again circular. I hope this may shed some light on Mr Froggat's questions.

I am born and bred in Totley only moving down here on retirement.

Mike Roberts. Higher Wescott, Holsworthy

Totley All Saints' School Re- Union

Totley All Saints' School re-union for pupils who were at the school during the years 1942 to 1946, will be held at the Old Mother Redcap at Bradway on Monday 15th April from 7.00 p.m. onwards we look forward to seeing you there.

COFFEE MORNING

Dore Methodist Church

SATURDAY 13th. APRIL

10-00 a.m. to noon

Various stalls including Traidecraft.

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P.Maltby

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COFFEE, CAKES & CUTTINGS

This is a preliminary notice to say that the above event will be held at English Martyrs Church Baslow Road on Saturday May 18th 10 a.m. - 12 noon. If you can plant a few seeds, turn out some unwanted books or bric a brac (or even bake a cake!!) we shall be grateful.

The main beneficiary of the event will be Transport 17.

Items can be collected if necessary, by ringing 2367176 or 2365313.

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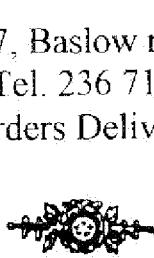
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WHAT TIME IS IT SOPHIE?

For her recent ninth birthday my granddaughter chose a wrist watch for a present from her parents. She saw one she liked in a Samuels shop priced between £14 and £15. Her father, not one to spend a shekel when half a shekel would do, played the card which all parents (including me) will have played. "That's very nice Sophie but before we buy it let's look in this shop just to make sure there isn't a different one you prefer". So off to the catalogue shop Index they went and there purchased the identical make and model watch for less than £9.

On a walk shortly after Christmas a lady member of the group told me she had been stuck for a present for a friend in her nineties. Eventually she had bought a decorative garden figure - a little wooden chap to sit on a stone or an upturned plant pot. I think she paid around £10 for it but had seen the identical figure in some garden centres for £27. It wouldn't require a financial wizard to work out a comparison of the profits. We recently had to renew our car insurance at a cost of £223. Seduced by TV adverts we obtained two other quotations for effectively the same cover; SAGA £268, RAC £463. I rest my case.

We are frequently told competition in the market place is to the advantage of the customer by forcing down prices. Personally I don't like having to shop around half a dozen stores for each purchase so that I don't feel I have been cheated.

Wasn't it great when the price of an item didn't vary more than a few percent wherever purchased. Even better when a packet of Woodbines cost twopence whether from the local beer off or from Harrod's emporium (did they sell them)?

Of course the same sort of thing has happened in public transport. Do you remember the chaos in town when the bus companies were allowed a free for all? Now we are back to almost a nation wide monopoly by large operators such as Stagecoach replacing former local publicly owned services. And in those days there were inspectors around for strangers, and locals, to ask about the services.

And what about the fragmentation of the railways? Shall we also see there a reversal by forming larger groups as in 1922? Perhaps, if so, we may get a less complicated fare structure. As far as I can make out fares on a particular journey may vary according to which direction you travel (A to B or B to A), day of the week, time of day, how far ahead you booked, whether you booked by 'phone, at the station ticket office or to the ticket man on the train. I thought the aim was to provide a convenient, integrated travel system to encourage people to use public transport.

Never mind, Sophie will be able to tell us how late the train is - if it comes at all. Don Ashford

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T.O.A.D.S.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The first ever programme of a T.O.A.D.S. play said ; "We take this opportunity to point out to you that this is the first of what we hope will be a long series of productions." Well, fifty years on, I think we can safely say that it HAS been a long series, and as you may know, we are repeating that first play "Young Wives Tale" by Ronald Jeans to mark the occasion.

The cast list of the first play was as follows Vic Cummings, Edna Bishop, Flora Laurie, Margaret Bowie, Barbara George, Grayson Bird, Brian Gowers, and the late but great Lil Robinson. It was produced by Tony Burrows, with the help of the following people Syd Cawood, Jim Bunn, Joan Searby, Pat Batty, Peter Bird, John and Doris Bagshawe, and Kitty Burrows. We know where Edna, Joan and Pat are, but would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of the rest of the cast.

The dates for the production are **Wednesday to Saturday, 15th. to 18th. May 2002**, at **St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, Totley, at 7.30.p.m.**

Tickets are now available from any member of T.O.A.D.S., or from me, Kate Reynolds, 2366891, or by leaving an order at S.E.Fordham Opticians on Totley Rise.

And don't forget, if you have ever been a member of T.O.A.D.S. in the past fifty years, please get in touch with me, or our Chairman Jeff Bagnall on 2351206.

To celebrate this Golden Jubilee, on the Saturday evening, the 18th. May, we shall be holding a 'Sherry Reception' at 6-45 p.m. with the scrapbooks and photographs of the fifty years on display before the 7-30 curtain rise. The interval coffee will also be free.

Tickets for the Saturday evening will all be priced at £3.00.

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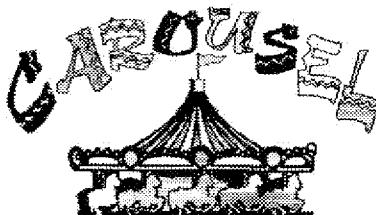
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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE is one of the most well-known songs in musical theatre.

PUZZLE CORNER(see page 10)

Solution to A Prime Cube

The numbers are: 5,7,11,13,17,19.

5+19, 7+17, 11+13.

Don Ashford

BACK FROM THE ANTIPODES

After a great time in New Zealand visiting our "new" Kiwi daughter, having a prolonged holiday and overcoming Jet Lag we are once again back to the Totley Independent.

We must thank Kevin Walker (TRA chairman) and his son Mathew for an excellent job editing the March issue



JULY 9 – 21, 2002

"rare pleasure"
The Times



BUXTON

FESTIVAL is again gearing up for a record breaking summer, with sales to date well ahead of last year's levels at this time. With two more days this year there is more on offer, with no fewer than seven operas, and a mouthwatering music programme.

There is another special morning literary series with outstanding speakers including some of the most distinguished authors of our time, ranging widely across fiction, history and biography. They are Rosamunde Pilcher (10 July), The Duchess of Devonshire (11), David Starkey (12), Gore Vidal (13 - 3pm), P D James (14), Joan Plowright (15), Michael Palin (16), Stella Rimmington (17), Roy Jenkins (18), Douglas Hurd (19), Antonia Fraser (20), Shirley Williams (21).

Buxton is, of course, famous for opera, and this year Totley residents can take advantage of an "opera coach" which will run on July 9 and 21. On July 9 the coach leaves Totley Rise at 6.05pm to see **La Péchiche** — one of Offenbach's most magical creations, with music coloured by a Spanish influence, from boleros to fandangos: a perfect Festival opera! Return to Totley is expected at 10.45pm. Opera tickets range from £10 - £41.

On July 21 the opera is **Erismena** by Cavalli — a 17th century comedy with some modern twists. A gentle farce of disguise and sexual confusion — amazingly it ends up with multiple reunions rather than a bloodbath! The truly lovely music drives the plot of unlikely situations to a glorious and happy ending. This is a 5pm performance, so the coach leaves at 3.20pm, returning before 9pm. Opera tickets cost £10 - £32, with a 10% discount if you see both operas.

On each occasion you can enjoy a drink or perhaps a stroll before the opera performance. Coach tickets cost £5 return. The full programme for the Festival (with over 70 events ranging from the profound to the frivolous) can be obtained from 01298 70395, where further coach information is also available. Watch out for the full programme in the next Independent.

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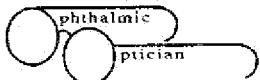
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MONDAYS	COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am. To noon
TUESDAYS	COFFEE MORNING. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon.
	CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm.
WEDNESDAYS.	COFFEE in the LIBRARY, 10am. to 11.30am.
	MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING. All Saints Church Hall 8pm. to 10pm.
	TODDLER GROUP. 10-00 a.m. to 11-30 a.m., All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. 236 6789 or 236 3603
THURSDAYS	PUSHCHAIR CLUB. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 1.30pm.. to 3pm. Tel. 2363157 for further details.
SATURDAYS.	MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING. All Saints Church Hall 2 nd . And 4 th . Saturdays 7.30pm. to 10pm.

APRIL 2002

- TUES. 9th. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.** "The Furnival Project" Mrs. J.Grinonnan, 2-30 pm. Totley Rise Methodist Church
- SAT. 12th. QUIZ NIGHT.** King Egberts School, Wessex Hall, 7-30 p.m. £3 per adult, £2 senior citizens, £1 students. Details inside.
- SAT.13th. COFFEE MORNING.** Dore Methodist Church, 10 am to noon. Details inside.
- SAT. 13th. MALE VOCALS with Ethan Leigh.** Heatherfield Club, Baslow Rd..8-30 pm. Non Members Welcome Entrance £1.50.
- SUN. 14th. & 28th. MINATURE TRAIN RIDES.** Abbeydale Rd. South, 1-00 p.m. to 5-00 p.m.
- MON. 15th. TOTLEY ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL RE UNION,** Mother Redcap 7-00pm. onwards. Details inside.
- TUES. 19th. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**, "Cornwall" Mrs.C.McKay, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10.00 am
- SAT. 20th. TABLE TOPSALE.** Carterknowle Junior School, 10 am. to 1 pm.
- SAT. 20th. SHEFFIELD ORATORIA CHORUS.** Beethoven Mass in C Piano Concerto No.1, 7-30 pm. Sheffield Cathedral, Full details inside.
- TUES. 23rd. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.** "History of Snooker" Mr. R.Jackson, 2-30 pm. Totley Rise Methodist Church.
- SAT. 27th. MALE VOCALS with Adrian Alexander.** Heatherfield Club, Baslow Rd..8-30 pm. Non Members Welcome Entrance £1.50.

THE INDEPENDENT FOR MAY

The next issue of the Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on

SATURDAY 4th. MAY.

COPY DATE for this issue will be

SATURDAY 20th. APRIL

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

'E' mail les@lesfirth.f9.co.uk

Distribution & Advertising. John Perkinton, 2, Main Avenue, Tel. No. 236 1601.

Items for publication may be left or sent to 6, Milldale Road, 2, Main Av., Totley Library or V.Martins Abbeydale Rd.

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We welcome letters about local affairs and will publish as many as possible. However the views expressed are not necessarily those of Editor, editorial staff or the Totley Residents Association and must not be imputed to them.

A Yorkshire businessman, on the death of his wife, instructed the stonemason to carve on the headstone the words 'SHE WAS THINE' but when he went to inspect the stone he found the mason had put 'SHE WAS THIN'.

The grieving widower angrily informed the mason that he had left the E out.

"I'm very sorry", said the stonemason. "I'll put t'E in tomorrow without fail".

When the widower went again to see the tombstone the legend now read "EE SHE WAS THIN".

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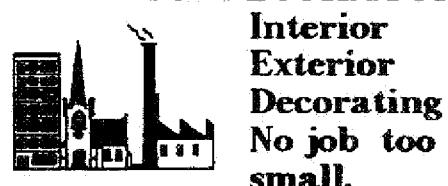
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