

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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Townhead Road, Dore looking down from the village hall towards the center of the village which shows the old Midland Bank (now HSBC Bank) on the left before it moved to its new location many years ago.

Totley Residents Association Update

The heavy snow on 3 February meant Committee Members were unable to get to Green Oak View for the monthly meeting, which was cancelled. This was unfortunate because we had planned to discuss the formation of a Friends Group for Green Oak Park. Trish Dearden who organised the petition about the dangerous condition of the playground facility was to have informed us about her presentation to the Council. As well as this we were to have discussed the problem of provision (or lack of it) for young people in the Totley area. These discussions will now take place on 3 March.

Totley Residents Association – Who are they? What do they do?

As many new families have moved into Totley I thought it time to remind everyone what were the original objectives of the Association. I quote from the constitution: -

1. To work towards providing facilities for recreation and other leisure -time pursuits.
2. To provide opportunity for social, cultural and intellectual development.
3. To work for the benefit of the community to foster community spirit.
4. To collaborate with existing and other organisations in pursuing these and other charitable objects.
5. To monitor, protect and improve the local environments.
6. To investigate and pursue and resolve local environmental issues.
- 7.

Membership is open to everyone who lives and works in the Totley area. The TRA AGM will be held in Totley Library on Monday, 7 April at 7.30 pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Come along and find out what the Committee has been working hard to achieve in Totley during the past year.

TRA Update contd.

Totley "Wish List". Have you put your suggestions into the boxes in Totley Rise Post Office or Totley Library? Some people have. Please think about what you would like to happen in the neighbourhood and put it in one of the boxes. Children at Totley County School will be giving us their ideas. So far one little boy would like a football pitch, a little girl would like flowers to make Totley pretty. Results of the "wish list" will be given out at the AGM.

Notice Board. Finally, we have a brand new notice board at the top of Totley Rise, opposite the Post Office where we use to have a telephone box! Do take the trouble to read it and keep in touch with events in and around the area. Thank you to Dave Aspinall, South West Area Co-Coordinator, for arranging the erection of the notice board.

Avril Critchley

SHEFFIELD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

If I could have a wish for Totley it would be for the Sheffield Animal Hospital to clean up its premises as at the moment they are a disgrace to the Totley area. The car park is a mess with broken fences, holes dug up and left, dog mess and at one time a pair of surgical gloves were lying about. The sign is also an eyesore and if it had not been for the Residents Association cleaning the bank both on Glover Road and Baslow Road I hate to think what it would look like now. As it is their property surely it is up to them to keep it clean. I would like to hear their comments on this subject.

M Marshall.

TOTLEY HALL

At the King Egberts School Table Top Sale I was pleased and surprised to be able to buy an old copy of William Robinson's "English Flower Garden", first published in 1883. Robinson was an influential and sometimes controversial gardener and writer, still often quoted today. It is a very large book, full of information and pictures and cost 40p!

I had another surprise when I opened the book at the page with the heading "Totley Hall, near Sheffield, Yorks" I quote. "This fine old country house stands beside the old coach road from Sheffield to Chatsworth and Haddon Hall, on an elevation with good and extensive views. Over the front door is the date 1623, about the time when Gerard's "Herbhal" was published, and 6 years before Parkinson's "Paradisus" of 1629. Built in such a flower-loving epoch it seems fitting that it should be a flowery place today. Inside the entrance hall there is some fine old oak carving and staircase, and there was formerly a quaint old gallery round the hall, but new additions necessitated its removal. The flower garden slopes rather suddenly from the fringe of the front lawn and is rich in well-grown daffodils and other choice flowers, sheltered by winding hedges. There is a fine range of hills terminated by a bluff or headland in front of the house and to the right are vast stretches of moorland. The elevated character and breezy freshness of the place are suggestive of the sea.

Here, in spring, appear in great profusion the chaste flowers of the daffodil, for Totley Hall is the home of the daffodil ... fit emblem of spring ... here in all its forms and colours".

Monica Foley

DORCAS LUNCH CLUB

The Dorcas Lunch Club began in 1988 as an 'outreach in the community' project at the time of the Dore and Totley URC centenary. It was the brainchild of Rev. Duncan Wilson and Joyce Faris and in the early days catered mainly for people suffering from early senile dementia. This gave their carers a break and also some time to themselves.

Fourteen years later we are still operating on Mondays and Fridays each week at the Dore and Totley URC, although we now cover other elderly frail folk. Some of our referrals come from Social Services, but several come from friends and neighbours.

If you know of anyone needing our help, please contact Valerie Simpson on 2361483. Our attenders come from the S17 areas of Dove, Totley and Bradway and we rely heavily on the support of Transport 17 for their help in bringing our members to the clubs.

By the way DORCAS has nothing to do with Dore Old Residents! Dorcas was a caring lady in the early church.

Val Simpson

T.O.A.D.S. SPRING OFFERING

Why don't you let T.O.A.D.S. put you in a good mood for (hopefully) a lovely Spring and Summer by coming to see our May play "Kindly Keep It Covered" by Dave Freeman. A few years ago we produced another play by Dave Freeman and John Chapman "Key For Two" which I can honestly say was the most enjoyable play I have ever been in - so well written and extremely funny. This one seems to be equally funny, indeed we, the cast, have been reduced to tears - of laughter, I hasten to add - just sat down reading it out loud. We have discovered since selecting the play that a professional company are taking it on tour this Spring, so we must be on the right track.

The play is set in a Health Farm run by Roland, formerly of the Kindly Mutual Insurance Co, and his wife Julia. The Health Farm was bought with the proceeds of a hefty insurance payout on the demise of Julia's first husband Sidney. To tell you more would only spoil the evening for you, but I can assure you that you will have a lot of laughs.

You can see "Kindly Keep It Covered" at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South from Wednesday to Saturday, 14 to 17 May at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £3 or £2.50 concessions, obtainable from myself, Kate Reynolds, on 2366891 from April.

PUZZLE CORNER

A New Dice

Chambers dictionary defines a die (or dice) as 'a small cube with faces numbered or otherwise distinguished'. The common form carries numbers 1-6 so that any one of these numbers can be thrown. If two dice were thrown the combined pair of numbers range from 2 through to 12.

The puzzle is to decide what numbers should be put on a new dice so that when thrown with a conventional dice, consecutive score from 1 upwards could be thrown, and what would be the highest number thrown by the two dice.

Whisperer

Totley
All Saints

School Re-union for pupils who were at school around the years 1942 - 1948 another re union is to be held at The Old Mother Redcap at Bradway on Monday 7th April 2003 from 7-30 pm onwards we welcome any one who has been in the past and also we would like to welcome any old pupils from those years.

School signs. Two new school signs have recently appeared on Sunnyvale Road and Avenue be it that one had to be moved within a week as the council stuck it right in the middle of the footpath so that nobody could get past with prams or mobility scooters.

Main Avenue. Monday February 3rd the snow arrived about half an inch and everywhere was total chaos. Children were sledging down the middle of the road making it even worse for cars to get up, but some good Samaritan turned up with a shovel and wheelbarrow and salted all the way down.

Baslow Road. Another year has gone past and the footpaths on Baslow Road had not been swept of leaves then came the frost and the leaves are frozen to the footpaths. So up come the council to sweep up the leaves, what happens - half of them are still there. And every drain on Baslow Road from Main Avenue up past Lane Head is completely blocked up with rubbish.

Dog bin. Walking through Green Oak Park recently the dog bin was full and overflowing as usual, but also the litterbin in the children's playground was also the same. Surely this is more of a concern to the health authority with young children about.

Post Box. With the post office now gone I have read in the paper where 1,500 post boxes are now to go will this happen at Totley we have already lost two telephone boxes in the area?



WHAT A REFRESHING THOUGHT

As reported by the Cambridge Evening News on 6 December 2002, the landlady of a Cambridge village pub offered Royal Mail some space in her establishment as the site for a new post office.

A Post office spokesman was quoted as saying 'We are running post offices out of fish and chip shops, garden centres and village halls'.

The village had been without a post office for two years. A gentleman who ran a post office in a nearby village and heard of the lady's offer, then offered to run the new outlet as a satellite to his own post office business. As a result the sub-post office was successfully located in the pub and was officially opened in December by a Royal Mail executive.

Now, don't fall into the gutter laughing but does the answer to Totley's problem simply 'lie' in one of our two pubs at the corner of Totley Hall Lane?

C H Eers

Dear Guides,

Guide Parents/Carers, members of the Totley/Dore

Community, After nearly seven years we have decided that it is time to hand over our role of Guide Leaders to others in the community. Our plan is to leave at Easter when hopefully we will have recruited a new group of willing adults.

Do you know of anyone who would be interested? We began when we had daughters in Guides (age 10-14ish), Brownies or Rainbows. However this is not necessary. Anybody with energy, commitment and a love of new experiences is welcome to become a leader.

We meet on Tuesdays from 7-8.45pm at Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall and carry out a range of craft, cooking, sport, games, outdoor and community activities through which we plan on having fun whilst learning new skills or expanding on old ones. We also usually have at least one night away each term - in camping barns, at the seaside or just in the Church Hall.

We would be happy to show the ropes to anybody interested. Please contact one of us - details below. Alternatively you could contact the co-ordinator for this area of Sheffield who is Maureen Allum (Tel: 2351262).

Looking forward to releasing a new set of enthusiastic leaders on the girls of Totley/Dore,

Gill Randall Tel: 2367722

Isobel Doole Tel: 2366011

Rebekah Newman Tel: 2366924

LADIES OF DORE AND TOTLEY ABBEYDALE PARK BOWLING CLUB

This is a crown green bowling club situated at the top end of the Abbeydale Sports Club ground, and which now has open membership to include lady and junior members.

The ethos of the club is to create sportsmanship and friendship whilst at the same time encouraging the skill of members. During the season which runs from April to October, friendly matches are played against other clubs such as Worksop, Chatsworth, Darley Dale, Hallam Grange and Fulwood, and run in conjunction with the annual singles, doubles and handicap events of the club.

The green and pavilion are well maintained and offer the normal facilities and are open every day in the mornings from 10.00a.m. and in the afternoons from 2.00 p.m. extending into the evening.

New members will be most welcome, no previous experience is required, existing members are ready to advise and where needed the club has woods available to allow prospective members the chance to get the feel of the game.

The point of contact is the secretary David Reeves on telephone 0114 2362368

Max Ex-Totley Rise Deli

Sorry for not writing earlier but I have been rather busy!!! Thank you to you all that have been to town and visited me at The Rendevous Café, Union Street, and to you that are unable to come I would like again to thank you for your support of my ex-shop in Totley. Business in town is good and continuing to grow and plenty of people are using me. I am open from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm Monday to Friday for breakfast, sandwiches, light lunches and snacks. Smokers are welcome in the upstairs café, non-smokers downstairs. I would also like to say "Hi" to the local shops on The Rise and wish them all well.

Max

VOLUNTEER FOR TRANSPORT 17? ME?

Why not? Possibly you know little or nothing about this local charity, which provides a wonderful service for the elderly or infirm (often both), taking them to lunch clubs and other social activities, which otherwise they could not reach. This article will not be a history of Transport 17, which has been written about elsewhere; my aim is to tell you how we operate and hopefully persuade you that joining us as a volunteer would be a good idea! Having spent my working life in banking, I took early retirement on health grounds and it was not long before I was looking around for something not too strenuous to do. I felt it was time to give something back to the local community.

I volunteered firstly because the organisation is locally based, which means I can walk to work, and enjoy the occasional breaks during the working day at home, catching up on chores, or just sitting in the sun. Like many of you, I walked past the office opposite Mickley Lane frequently, and often wondered exactly what went on inside. I asked friends and neighbours what they thought of T17 and, without exception, they recommended them as a great local service and told me that I would enjoy the experience. They were right.

Volunteers do one of two jobs – driving or escorting. There is no status distinction between these, you do the one that suits you, and obviously, not everyone feels able to drive our minibuses. In my case, I had never driven anything larger than a Transit-type van, and then only occasionally. I started by escorting, to get the feel of the job, and enjoyed that experience, but there was a need for extra drivers, and I fancied the challenge. Training was given by Michael, our Project manager, and after a few lessons I overcame the feeling that “I’d never do this”, and started out as a driver. Later I took an accreditation test at Sheffield Community Transport – not unlike a driving test, but without the theory part. This has advantages for T17 and improves your confidence too. You do not need any special licence to drive the minibus, but you do need a clean licence (Escorts, of course, do not need a driving licence.)

There are men and women volunteers, and we work together as a team. Typically each bus goes out with a driver and escort, though sometimes the driver does all the work, as there are not always enough escorts (your arrival would help here!).

There are three buses, and each one can take trips to up to three clubs or groups on each weekday. There are other occasional visits, e.g. to the panto, or trips into Derbyshire in the summer.

Volunteers work one to three days per week according to the time they can spare. Although we obviously also do the usual things that retired folk do, (like take frequent holidays!) it is important to provide reliable support, otherwise the group could not provide the continuity that the clubs who rely on us need. Incidentally, not every volunteer is retired.

The preferred age range for drivers is 25-65; escorts can be from age 18 upwards.

A typical day for me involves leaving home about 9.30 am to walk to the Cheshire Home on Mickley Lane, where the buses are parked, a walk I always enjoy. I drive the bus to the office to collect that day’s log-sheet and learn of any new people to pick up, or any cancellations – most days there are at least one or two passengers who are ill or away. We start the runs about 10 am, taking up to 12 people per run. Some busloads include the occasional wheelchair-bound passenger, and each bus is well equipped with a lift to take them aboard easily. For such people our service is often a lifeline, as they tell us they could not get about without our help.

Our destinations are usually local church halls or community centres, and we go out as far as Jordanthorpe, Meadowhead, Broomhill, and Bramall Lane. Once our first job is finished, we often have time for a coffee, and then take our second group to their destination. After that, back to the office or

home for a lunch break, though some groups, particularly the further-out ones, offer us a lunch there.

Then the process is reversed, returning to the first group and taking them home, and so on, until the day finishes about 3.30 or 4.00 PM. Compared with a typical working day in salaried employment, not too taxing! You soon make friends with your passengers, and the sense of doing a rewarding job is immense, such is their continuing gratitude. They look forward to our arrival, and we take pride in being reliable and punctual.

I’ve described the driving job, but escorting often has even greater contact with the people we support, as the escort calls at their door, frequently helps them to the bus, and secures their seat belt when aboard. There is usually time for a chat on the bus, and we catch up with local news and gossip – a two-way process! Drivers and escorts should be reasonably fit, but the exercise in doing this job is healthy, and some of our volunteers have now been with us for many years. However, this carries its own problem since, as they age, replacements are needed. Furthermore, the larger the pool from which volunteers are drawn, the less reliance is placed on any individual, though generally we like to have a steady pattern of working around which we organise our other activities. This also makes planning the week easier for the Project manager.

I am sure there are others in Totley, or someone you know from elsewhere, who would enjoy this work as much as we do, and I hope that this insight will encourage you to consider joining us. If you have any questions, why not give Michael a ring on 236 2962 or call in at the office, preferably in the mornings, when it is more likely to be manned. Your call will be welcomed and you could be opening a rewarding new chapter to your life. Come on down!

Colin Price

TRANSPORT 17 AGM

The Annual General Meeting for shareholders will be on Monday, 24 March. This will be held in Totley Library, Baslow Rod at 7.30 pm. There will be a quiz and refreshment after the official business. If anyone needs transport please ring our office on 2362962. To become a shareholder costs £1 and means that you attend 2 meetings per year and can be as involved as you like. You will also be kept well informed of any developments concerning Transport 17 and community transport in general. Is there anyone out there who would like to stand for the management committee?

Margaret Barlow

Apologies -Weather Report for 2002

Thanks to those readers that pointed out the error in the last edition, we are pleased to print the correct figures:

	TOTLEY	WESTON PARK
Hottest day		
2002	27°C	28.6°C
2001	27°C	28.6°C
2000	28.5°C	30.7°C

FAMILY HISTORY

I am indebted to Terry Peckett (nickname Dicky Bird – but that's another story). Terry's articles on the origins of surnames appeared in The Independent a few years ago.

Prior to their publication Terry kindly did some researches into our unusual family name Pescud. His theory is that the name derives from the Welsh name Pyscoed, which is an abbreviation of the place name Dinbych-Y-Pys-God, the ancient name of Tenby.

Terry found the name of Richard Pesecod, a cursor (walking messenger), for King Edward III in 1335. These men travelled all over Europe and were held in high esteem as the job was dangerous and they were often held as hostages being agents of the Crown. A John and a Walter Pesecod are recorded in 1279 in Northumberland/

Terry's records gave the name of Walter Pescod on a church brass in Boston Stump. Walter, an affluent merchant, died in 1398. There is to this day in Boston, apart from the brass, a 15th century building, recently restored, and known as Pescod Hall.

Terry also found data concerning Walter Pescod's dress. This was a long full tunic, nearly ankle length, fastened by a girdle from which hung a short, broad sword. The tunic was usually buttoned down the front and over it was worn a loose, full mantle buttoned on the right shoulder and flung over the left shoulder. The chaperon was apparently worn under the mantle.

A brass for William Pescod, who died in 1505, is to be found in the ancient church at the hamlet of Themelthorpe in Norfolk.

A census of names from 778 English parish registers for the year 1601 shows the name of Pescod at Wellow, Isle of Wight while the census of 964 parish registers for 1602 shows the name for North Elmham in Norfolk.

Terry's examination of heraldry records reveals that of Hampshire for 1634 included a coat of arms for the Pescod family of Newton Vallenge. This coat of arms was Ermines on a Chief OR, three Griffins Sejant SA. The Crest is a Griffin Sejant AR, the Dexter claw raised, beaked and membered on. This means the bottom two thirds of the shield has a gold background with three black Griffins in the Segreant position on top. The crest is a silver Griffin with golden beak and claws, the right claw raised.

Terry thinks that one of the reasons for the change from Pescod to Pescud could be one of pride. During the 15th century and onwards a piece of clothing made of silk or leather in the shape of a bag was worn over the male genitals and fastened to the hose with laces. This was known as a codpiece. It is mentioned by Shakespeare and appears to have been a source of jokes or amusement something like the use of jockstrap and condoms today.

Unfortunately, Terry could find no trace of a family motto.

Burke's Peerage has produced a worldwide registry of Pescud's. This shows a total of 183 persons of that name in Great Britain and just 2 overseas in Canada. I recently received a letter from a namesake in Australia asking for information about the name. He knows of three families of Pescud's in Australia.

My own research into the family name at Sheffield City Library and elsewhere give the meaning of the name as a grower of peas or peasant farmer.

Variations of the name include Peascod; there is a Peascod Street in Windsor, Peskett and Peskott although I have been addressed in my time as Prestud, Pesod, Prescott, Peasegood and Pestcud amongst others.

More common names are to be found in the maternal side of the family including Fuller, Clark, Reid, MacQueen, Smith and Wagstaff. My cousin Adrienne Lee (nee Fuller, my mother's maiden name), who is a genealogist in Australia, has traced the name of Wagstaff to the Glossop family of that name in the 16th century. There is an existence a family society of the name Wagstaff which members of the family may join.

To be continued.

Brian Pescud

THE GREAT JAZZ PIANISTS PAST AND PRESENT

Les Firth has really done a first class job as editor of the Totley Independent. I certainly share his enthusiasm for his love of jazz music. Jazz does make a refreshing change from the over plugged pop music scene. Mention the name of Oscar Peterson to today's youngsters and the answer would probably be "never heard of him". At 77 years old Oscar Emmanuel Peterson is the greatest jazz pianist in the world. Born in Montreal, Canada, he started classical music training at the age of 6. But after listening to the early jazz music from such pioneers as Willie The (Lion) Smith, Jelly Rollmorton, James P Johnson, and the immortal Thomas Fats Waller, he was hooked on swing. As a youngster he joined his first Canadian band led by Johnny Holmes. Practice makes perfect and in the year 1949 he was discovered by the jazz promoter Norman Grant and brought to the USA to play concerts at The New York Carnegie Hall. Since those early days he has played all over the world with top artists such as Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. The world's greatest drummer Buddy Rich, Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Count William Basie, Roy Eldridge to name just a few. Oscar Peterson was not a bad singer either; similar to the great Nat King Cole, plus he has cut hundreds of record albums. Before Oscar burst open the scene one could say that such as Art Tatum and Earl (Fatha) Hines were kings of the piano. Somehow the coloured artists seemed to have that extra special talent over the white players. Count Basie, Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington, Teddy Wilson and Claude Hopkins all led successful being bands during the 1940s era. My own personal favourite pianist was the late Errol Garner, I saw him in concert in Sheffield. Alos, I have met Count Basie and shook hands with Stan Kenton, what magical names. The list of great jazz pianists is endless. Dave Brubeck, Bud Powell, Thelonious Monk, Eddie Heywood, Hank Jones, Ahmed Jamal, Jess Stacey, Ross Freeman, Claude Thornhill, Joe Bushkin. How about our own countrymen, George Shearing, Frank Horrax (with the fabulous Ted Heath Band)? Even the king of swing leader Benny Goodman chose Bill McGuffie to play piano when he toured with his band in London. One could sing praises all day with these great artists. In the year of 1978 I helped to form Sheffield's own big swing band record appreciation society. We still meet every first and third Thursdays in the month and are still going strong at the Earl of Arundel Hotel (corner of Queens Road and Bramall Lane), 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm. After over 24 years we are still as keen as ever for this great sound. Anyone is welcome to come along and listen to some good music. We have a good size private room and car-parking facilities are excellent. Hope to see you on future dates.

John C Barrows

A SHARPE CHARACTER

Readers may be interested in the following story, which emerged during my research, conducted on behalf of Totley residents, Terry and Chris Peckett, into the military service of their ancestor. Sampson Peckett in respect of whom, in turn, they were carrying out a genealogical study. Their interest, I gathered, had stemmed from discovery of Sampson Peckett's burial in the old churchyard of St Mary's, near Bramall Lane in Sheffield.

Sampson Peckett followed the trade of stonemason before his death in the mid-19th Century. Not, I suspect, a particularly unusual existence. However, what I revealed of his previous occupation as a soldier in Wellington's Army, certainly, was unusual and very interesting. Those of the readership with an interest in British military history may be aware that, prior to 1871, those men or, quite often, (young) boys aspiring to be officers in the British Army, were generally required to buy ('purchase') their 'Commissions,' (the reigning monarch's authority enabling individuals to act as military officers - a procedure which still applies to 21st Century officers although today's criterion is now one which is essentially, merit-based and not governed by the size of the individual's bank balance). It follows that although there were such instances as I am relating, the incidence of 'ordinary' men being appointed as officers or promoted from the ranks in particularly class-conscious Georgian society was relatively rare and the cases where this occurred probably speak for the individual's extraordinary ability, outstanding length/record of service or perhaps even both. Having examined records of Sampson Peckett's military service. I believe that we may reasonably, safely, conclude that one or both of these factors applied in his case.

Peckett (sometimes shown as 'Pickett') held the (non-commissioned) rank of sergeant prior to his promotion to (commissioned) officer -initially as 'ensign' or, more commonly, second lieutenant. Attainment of the rank of sergeant would have been no mean achievement particularly in the harsh and unforgiving environment of 'King George's Army' of the late 18th/ early 19th centuries. It would have been a very tough life controlling Wellington's 'Scum of the Earth' as he so disdainfully (but probably in the main accurately) described his human resources.

Of particular interest, in the case in point, is the fact that Peckett appears to have been made an officer (in February 1813) in the same regiment -the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment in which he served as a sergeant (and most probably, as a 'ranker' before that). Even today individuals in this same situation are often posted away to other regiments on promotion in order to avoid the possible negative effects of (over) familiarity with former colleagues of similar rank status.

In July of 1813 Sampson Peckett was apparently slightly wounded whilst serving with the 34th in the Pyrenees - the Regiment at the time being engaged in operations against the French in the Portuguese/Spanish 'Peninsula' Campaign.

In October 1813 he was appointed adjutant of the 34th Regt. - effectively the Commanding Officer's 'PA' in modern and slightly non-military parlance.

Peckett was promoted to substantive lieutenant in November of 1816 - at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars.

Although his time as a serving Commissioned officer was relatively short - he was retired 'on half pay' by June 1817 Peckett appears to have been something of a 'local hero' in that records show that he earned the 'Military General Service Medal' awarded for service in the Napoleonic Campaigns and he was entitled to no less than eight 'bars'-

(which were attached to the ribbon) - each indicating his presence at the Peninsula War Battles of: Benevento (1808), Albuhera (1811), Vittoria (1813), Pyrenees (1813), Nivelle (1813), Nive (1813), Orthes (1814) and Toulouse (1814).

It should be noted that awards of this number of 'battle' bars were relatively uncommon within the Army. Whilst at least three of the bars relate to his n.c.o. service - almost certainly indicating his presence 'at the sharp end' it should be borne in mind that, although, later, as Adjutant, Peckett's duties would not, ordinarily, require him to lead men into battle he would be where his commanding officer was i.e. not far from if not always actually in. 'the thick of it' and it is quite possible that circumstances (e.g. incapacity or death of fellow officers) did require his direct involvement in actual combat as, perhaps his wounding in the Pyrenees evidences.

'The bottom line' is that in whatever capacity, **he was** present at these great historical conflicts and was doubtless, later, able to relate dramatic and spell - binding tales of those events.

Again, those readers who have seen any of the exciting and highly entertaining (if, occasionally, over-glamorised) episodes of 'Sharpe' broadcast on ITV in recent years and interestingly, starring Sheffield's own Sean Bean in the title role will recall a fictional representation of historical events very similar to Sampson Peckett's real story. I do not suggest any factual link between the two but in conclusion and on a lighter note, merely seek to highlight some very interesting parallels such as 'their' promotion from the ranks. Perhaps 'Sharpe's' author Bernard Cornwell also came across Sampson Peckett's story!

The fate of Lieutenant Peckett's medal is presently unknown - if indeed it was ever claimed for, in common with a number of other medal issues e.g. the medal for sailors at Trafalgar, (and including the USA's issue of it's medal for participants in the Frontier/Indian Wars) the MGS was not authorised by the British Government until 1847 or issued to those entitled until 1848 - over thirty years after the War and battles which it represented! Not surprisingly, many remained unclaimed by those individuals who were entitled to them but who were by then deceased or where next of kin did not claim on their behalf. A cynic might suggest a careful strategy of revenue conservation by a parsimonious and 'no longer grateful' state (some things don't change!)

However, were we to know more details of Sampson Peckett's military life this could well illustrate an instance of fact proving more interesting than fiction!

Stephen Acaster

Member: The Military Historical Society and The Society for Army Historical Research

State Registered CHIROPODIST

Clare Atkinson BSc (Hons) MChS
At
Greenways
Natural Health Centre
180 Baslow Road, Totley

For an appointment please phone
(0114) 236 0890

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

March is a month of contrasts. The weather can be winterish one day and deceptively summery the next heavy leaving some gardeners in quite a dilemma as to what to do next. However, things in the garden are on the move. Spring flowers are well on their way; grass will be picking up and need mowing. Set the mower high on the first few cuts. March in the greenhouse is not affected by the weather much, all the preparation work can be carried out, seeding cuttings, pricking out etc. There is no excuse for sitting around. If you have not got a greenhouse you can still put your coat on and do a bit of tidying up, clearing leaves, cleaning patios and paths, painting fences, huts and frames, if snow is still with us then curl up with a good seed catalogue and dream on. However, March can be one of the busiest months and is the month that gardeners get the tingling feeling of spring being just around the corner we hope.

PS: There was an error in my last tips. I recommended a temperature of 100°F for seedlings. I hope no one used this, as 60-65°F is about right. I did say to look at the recommendations on the packet.

FLOWERS

Bed out Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots and other spring bedding plants. Plant autumn sown sweet peas, spread out the roots as you plant and work fine soil around them, firming it thoroughly with the knuckles. March is a good time to sow hardy annuals, providing the soil is in reasonably good condition, sow thinly in growing position, cover the seeds with fine soil to about twice their own depth, try *Convolvulus minor*, cornflower, clarkia, calendula, godetia, larkspur etc. Plant gladioli and montbretias, make successional plantings over about 1 month or six weeks, this will lengthen the flowering period. Start montbretia into growth first in trays filled with a mixture of peat & sand and very little compost. Cover and place in frame until growth appears transfer them to growing position about 4 - 5 inches apart each way.

Prepare any vacant beds for planting; work in fertilisers such as Growmore, especially round herbaceous plants. Water newly planted perennials if (if) weather is dry. Deadhead daffodils. Keep a sharp look out for slugs and deal with them straight away with your favourite method of extermination. Lift and split up and replant overcrowded snowdrops. Towards the end of the month sow pansies & violas in nursery bed ready for flowering in the late summer and again next year. Penstemon that has overwintered in frames or greenhouse should be given full ventilation now.

VEGETABLES

Its a bit early to plant veg. outside in this area jus yet, but you could plant a few seeds of cauliflower arid broccoli and other brasicas in a frame. Prepare the veg. plots ready for planting, test soil and correct any unbalance for they type of vegetables to be planted. Dig a trench, if not done already on the site designated for runner beans and fill with compost well rotted manure, so that it is ready for planting those prize -winning plants at the Totley Show.

Towards the end of the month sow broad beans and peas outdoors cover with cloches if it turns out cold.

TREES SHRUBS AND FRUIT

There's still time to spray apple and pear trees. Mulch between rows of raspberries with well rotted manure; this not only feeds the plant. It also protects the fine roots that are near the surface of the soil. Watch out for caterpillar and aphids and deal with them, as soon as they are seen. Firm in any newly planted trees and shrubs and those loosened by frost. Plant out heathers and deciduous shrubs. Prime autumn flowering shrubs that flower on the tips of new growth such as spirea, hardy fuschia, buddleia, also late summer flowering clematis. Cut out dead or diseased shoots or branches around the garden. Complete the planting of fruit trees & bushes.

GREENHOUSE AND INDOOR PLANTS

Don't forget to shade seedlings & young plants, and ferns needing protection from strong sunlight. Gradually increase watering and feed actively growing plants, tomato fertiliser is fine for this job. Top dress plants such as ferns and aspidistras with potting compost. Stop petunias and salvias at 4 - 6 leaf stage, pinch out tips of bush fuschia and geranium. Plant

bulbs, corms and tubers such as begonias, gloxinias and hot weather plants. Repot Cacti towards the end of the month. As I have said many times before carefully watch ventilation, the sun in March can do more harm than good, particularly on young seedlings and plants. Take cuttings of bedding & greenhouse plants, fuschia, marguerite, pelagonium & heliotrope. Sow aubergines and capsicums for cultivation under glass you will need temperatures of 60- 65°F for these to germinate, Sow tomatoes 3rd week in March will make good sturdy plants for outdoors in June. Cannas and dahlias can be started into growth in heated greenhouses. Sow cucumbers in heated frame or greenhouse. Take leaf cuttings of African violets and Cape primrose, House plants like maidenhead fern, spider plant can be divided and repotted.

LAWNS

Deal with bare patches, repair edges by re-turfing or re-seeding. Operate and spike compacted areas. Keep newly turfed or sown areas well watered. Allow ground to settle before sowing at the end of the month, Turf can be laid towards the end of the month, ground and weather conditions permitting.

Cheerio for now. Tom, Busy Bee

TEDDIES FOR TRAGEDY'S

Some years ago we heard of children in Africa, extremely sick and frightened and in most cases nothing but a rag to wrap around them. A toy was an unheard of thing. The mother would walk sometimes for days to get them to a field clinic where they could get some treatment and to give them comfort. The medics would give them a gift and found the best gift was a teddy bear, something they could cuddle.

The Mother's Union took up this appear and is now known as Teddies for Tragedy's. When told about this my group of craft workers and I took up the challenge. The Totley Library was very good and allowed us to display information and the pattern for anyone who would like to make teddies. The people of Totley have searched their home for any unwanted wool and donated it for this project. To date from this area we have sent 830 teddies and from Sheffield 4,000 teddies have already gone. Besides Africa these teddies have gone to other countries where there has been disaster and children have no homes and lost all their belongings. Now we have a new Head of Area Library who is trying to be efficient and has had all our notices removed, all our wool was taken away, all the thank you letters are gone and the little saying from grateful children, "Doesn't this man believe in charity and doing something for once in a while without pay, I hope that he and his family always have all they want". My children and I have known what it is to be poor but the children we are trying to give a little comfort are 100 times worse off then ever I was. These teddies go with our love. God bless these teddies and the children who receive them.

Totley Library Craft Group

CHANGES

Recently, in bed one morning, apropos of I know not what, my wife suddenly said 'Don't you agree things have changed more in our lifetime than in any other generation before us? Well, who am I to argue at that time in a morning, particularly with no notice of Prime Minister's Question Time?

It so happened that I also got a letter from a friend on holiday in the Algarve. He enclosed two articles from 'The Economist' about the expansion of universities to take more students and who should pay for this, in particular the case for student loans. He wanted my views.

Now no one should take this at face value as an erudite debate between two eggheads. He regards me as a true and believing member of the Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire and loves to try to provoke me, all in fun of course. I think it stems from a ramble many years ago. He was having a grumble about 'this spendthrift socialist council always putting up the rates'. I did my bit of stirring by saying I preferred to pay slightly higher rates to provide, for example a cheap, reliable and clean public transport system, good libraries, pleasant parks and well maintained roads.

However, back to the present; since my friend spends some months in the Algarve over winter there is no chance of a face to face discussion, and I was forced to put pen to paper, four sides of A4 in fact, much of it tongue in cheek, though not all! The first question posed was should the majority of school leavers go to university? If we mean conventional academic universities my personal view would be not. I am all for education in the widest sense, but certainly not automatic transfer from school to university for the majority. Indeed, I have long argued for a break between the two for most students. I came into higher education in the 1950s, all students being part time. The least interested students were some of the young ladies, sent on day release schemes by their employer. They would do anything rather than serious study, knit at the back of the class and indulge in endless conversation. Among the keenest students were young men who had done National Service. Additionally, I acted for 25 years as a part time tutor to students of the Open University. Again, these students, both male and female, were mature and made a definite choice to study in their spare time; they did not drift into it straight from school, and again the majority were very good students.

The second topical question is who should pay for the university education. One current argument is that students should take out loans to be repaid later. One obvious consequence of this is more students deciding to study locally and stay in the parental home, to my mind a retrograde step. Such students lose the opportunity to become more independent and widen their horizons. At the opposite extreme is that education should be free to the student because society benefits from the work of the educated people. I heard Tony Benn, the former MP say that he was extremely glad to benefit from the education his GP had received when he needed a doctor. There has also been much talk of a so-called 'graduate tax' supposedly imposed because 'graduates earn more'.

I ended the notes to my friend by admitting I did not have strong fixed views on all or indeed any of the difficult choices to be made. I think there is little point in aiming for a fixed high percentage of school leavers going to university. Not all are suited and it may lead to disillusionment either then or later when expectations regarding work are not met. I think university tuition should be free to the student but I am less certain about free accommodation. After all, those not going to university don't have state provided accommodation.

One thing I have wondered about is some form of National Service before entering university, not just with the armed services but possibly ancillary work in hospitals, old people's homes, police, social services etc. Even road mending and street lighting repairs - there is certainly scope in these areas. Such service could then gain some credit towards cost at university.

I do not favour a graduate tax. If higher salaries ensue they would involve paying more tax anyway. Just think of the logical ramifications. A well paid airline pilot who trained to fly in the RAF or an engineer trained by the army, also paying extra tax.

But back to the start of the article, 'changes'. I was recently invited to a lunch at Hallam University along with other retired staff. We saw only a few sections on a brief tour beforehand but these were sufficient to show how things had changed in the twenty years since I retired. The training kitchens for students in the catering industry were vast and on open plan lines. A laboratory in the science section was also vast and almost as clinical looking as a mortuary on T.V. Gone are the dark teak benches of my days in industrial and teaching laboratories. Unfortunately we did not see these sites when students were at work. What would have been a library in my day is now a learning centre with 600 PC sites for students to work at and hardly a book in sight! The fitness centre with literally dozens of machines resembling either torture machines or vast office chairs was another eye-opener.

Ah well - it's heartening to think this has grown from the humble beginnings promoted by the city council fifty years ago.

I must encourage my friend to visit and see whether I can persuade him some good ensued from the rates he grumbled about.

Don Ashford

The Dramatic Society Dore & Totley United Reformed Church

DANGEROUS CORNER

One of J B Priestley's famous time plays, first performed in 1932.

Robert and his wife are entertaining to dinner her brother and sister-in-law and two other business associates. The subject of his brother's suicide crops up. Something seems not quite right and he insists on knowing the truth - the whole truth. Is he taking a risk? Will more be revealed than is good for anyone's peace of mind?

Would it have been wiser to bypass that dangerous corner at which he was demanding the truth? Better to let sleeping dogs lie?

**Dore & Totley URC Dramatic Society present
"Dangerous Corner" at the Church Hall, Totley Brook
Road, from 2nd - 5th April, at 7.30 pm.**

Tickets from the Box Office - telephone 235 2178, or Martin's Shop, or from any member of the Society.

ROUND THE WORLD IN 92 DAYS

Chapter 5

Oriana then cruised between Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef, past Whitsunday Island, then docked at Brisbane. From here my wife and I visited Hamilton Island, where we had our photograph taken – my wife holding a koala, (Australians never say koala bear – only the former). Its' claws scratched my wife's shoulder!

Our next port of call was Brisbane, and my wife and I went on an excursion to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. Here there are many species, not only koalas, but kangaroos, a bush turkey, an emu, etc etc. Having taken a number of photographs of kangaroos, one with a joey peeping out from its pouch, I noticed a lady about to take a photograph of her husband, with six kangaroos in the background – all stretched out in the shade of a tree. I suggested, "Why not stroke one of the kangaroos?", he responded "But it might bite me!". I walked up to the nearest kangaroo and stroked its neck, demonstrating how tame they were.

One of the lecturers on the ship was Professor Harvey Mann, who in addition to relating his experiences with mountain gorillas in Rwanda, gave a talk about taking photographs of show business personalities. He said that due to his friendship with Peter Sellers he came to know Sophia Loren quite well. After Harvey had taken a photograph of Gina Lollobrigida, holding her sick son, it had been published on the front cover of a magazine. On the following day from publication he received a telephone call from an irate Sophia Loren, "When did you take the photograph that beetch?", to which Harvey responded "I haven't taken any photographs of beaches lately". Sophia Loren replied "That beetch Lollobrigida!". Apparently the two actresses are deadly enemies!

While writing about lecturers I will advance a few weeks. Terry Waite CBE joined *Oriana* at Barbados. In his first talk he explained that after returning home, having been a hostage in Beirut, he received many requests to give talks and open various events. Wishing to spend as much time with his family he turned them all down with the exception of one, opening the London Marathon. He and his family live in Blackheath and as he was walking across Blackheath he stopped to talk to a lady with her six year old son and four year old daughter. The son looked up and said "You're Terry Waite and you've just returned from being a hostage in Beirut". After opening the marathon Terry returned across Blackheath, stopping to talk to the lady and her children again. The little girl looked up and said "You're Mr Waite and you've just come back from being an ostrich". Some true stories are better than jokes! Terry was promoting two of his books, one called *My Journeys with Primate* which can be taken two ways (a) with Archbishop Runcie (of Canterbury) or (b) a monkey. Choose whichever you like!

When at sea on *Oriana* every day my wife and I would walk around the promenade deck four times which adds up to roughly a mile, adding up our walks to the library, Chaplin's cinema and the restaurants we would walk about 2 miles day. When the wind was gale force 6 on the Beaufort scale the "tunnel" was closed for walking. The tunnel is at the front end of the ship and inside is a notice, "No Jogging", the echo inside is very loud.

Entertainment in the Theatre Royal was varied, my wife and I enjoyed the singing of Renato Pagliari whereas for those passengers who like comedy there was Bobby Knutt. I have written about Dennis Healey (not the Labour politician) in a

previous chapter. One evening, before dinner, when attending the Captain's cocktail party he was wearing black evening clothes but brown slippers!

Of all the places we visited Sydney was our favourite. Here there are replicas of HMS Bounty and the cutter in which Captain Bligh and 18 seamen were placed by Fletcher Christian. As my wife and I were waiting for the replica of HMS Bounty to return from one of her trips around the harbour (it's now powered by an engine), we went into a restaurant called The Italian Village. Here the price of 2 ice creams with a strawberry on each cost the equivalent of £20! This was made up, being a Saturday, by a surcharge of 12.5% plus gratuity. People are allowed to walk over the Sydney harbour bridge but only after handing in their watches, cameras and other valuable, true but very strange!

My wife and I went on an excursion from Sydney to Bondi Beach where trying to take photographs of surfers I got the end of my trousers wet!

Alan Faulkner Taylor



Illustration – The replica of HMS Bounty

Answer to PUZZLE CORNER from page 2

Numbers on the faces 0, 6, 12, 18, 24, 30

Highest number thrown $6 + 30 = 36$

Don Ashford



Miniature Train Rides

~Timetable 2003~

<u>March</u> Sunday 23rd	<u>August</u> Sunday 3rd Sunday 24th Monday 25th (Bank Holiday)
<u>April</u> Sunday 6th Sunday 20th Easter Sunday Monday 21st Easter Monday	<u>September</u> Sunday 7th Sunday 21st
<u>May</u> Sunday 4th Monday 5th (Bank Holiday) Sunday 25th Monday 26th (Bank Holiday)	<u>October</u> Sunday 5th Sunday 19th
<u>June</u> Sunday 8th Saturday 21st } Open Days & Sunday 22nd } Exhibition	<u>December</u> Sunday 7th } Santa Sunday 14th } Specials 11am to 3.30pm
<u>July</u> Sunday 6th Sunday 20th	Warning – Steam locomotives may emit sparks, ashes and oil which could result in injury or damage to clothing. Passengers travel at their own risk.

First train 1pm - Last train 5pm (or dusk if earlier)
(Please note that dates and times may be subject to change without notice)

Light refreshments, ice creams, tea, coffee etc usually available but you are also welcome to bring your own picnics. There are a number of picnic tables available but you may also use your own rugs, tables and chairs.

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DATE: Wednesday 12th March 2003

TIME: 7pm to 9pm

VENUE: Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield

If you walk in any of Sheffield Wildlife Trust's nature reserves once a day, once a week or only once a month OR if you would like to be involved in your local reserve, then you can help us by becoming a Community Ranger.

INTERESTED? FOR INFORMATION & TO BOOK FOR A BUFFET MEAL (free of charge), telephone Annabelle Kennedy - Community Wildlife Ranger on: 0114-263-4335 by 6th March. Please also contact us if you would like more information but cannot attend the evening.

AUCTION

Friday 11th April 2003

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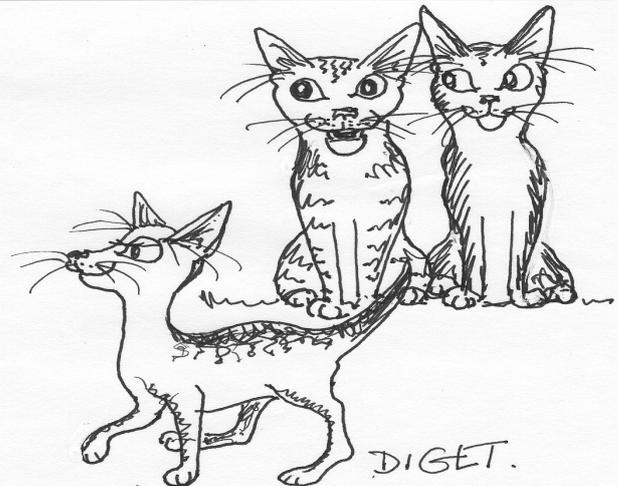
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- MONDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am. To noon
- TUESDAYS** COFFEE MORNING. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am. To noon.
CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm.
- WEDNESDAYS.** COFFEE in the LIBRARY, 10am. to 11.30am.
MODERN SEQUENCE 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 2nd. And 4th. Saturdays 7.30pm. to 10pm.

MARCH 2003

- MON. 3rd. TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING.** 7:30 p.m. Green Oak View Day Centre - on Lemont Road - Drive directly opposite the library single storey building.
- WED 12th. COMMUNITY RAGER EVENING.** Victoria Hall, Buffet Meal, Workshops, Presentations, see page 12 for further details.
- THURS. 13th. HEBREW PRAISE DANCING.** 8 p.m. Totley Rise Methodist Church.
- SUN 23rd. MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES.** Abbeydale Road South, first train 1 p.m. – last train 5 p.m.
- THURS. 28th. HEBREW PRAISE DANCING.** 8 p.m. Totley Rise Methodist Church.
- SAT 29th. QUIET DAY.** All Saints Church, Totley Hall Lane 10am to 4pm. Led by Meg Dixon
- SAT 29th. RSPB WORKSHOP.** St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road. 10-30am to 4pm. Doors open 10am. Tickets £10.00 available from John Badger (247 6622) and Hilary Sills (235 6598).
- SAT 29th. ST MATTHEW PASSION.** Sheffield Cathedral, see page 12 for details.

APRIL 2003

- WED 2nd – SAT 5th. DANGEROUS CORNER.** The Dramatic Society. Dore & Totley URC. 7:30 p.m..
- SUN 6th. MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES.** Abbeydale Road South, first train 1 p.m. – last train 5 p.m.
- MON. 7th. TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** 7:30 p.m. Green Oak View Day Centre - on Lemont Road - Drive directly opposite the library single storey building.
- FRI 11th. AUCTION.** Dore & Totley URC. All profits to The Line, Sheffield Childrens Helpline. See page 12 for details.
- SAT 12th. GRAND JUMBLE SALE.** King Ecgbert School, see posters for details.
- SUN 20th. MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES.** Abbeydale Road South, first train 1 p.m. – last train 5 p.m.
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THE INDEPENDENT FOR APRIL

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

SATURDAY 29th. MARCH

COPY DATE for this issue will be

SATURDAY 15th. MARCH

Editors Les & Dorothy Firth e-mail firths@fish.co.uk
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