

# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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Too good an opportunity to miss! A montage of snowy pictures from February, here's hoping for a long hot summer.

## Totley Residents Association Update

Looking out of my window, I can see lots of young people enjoying the snow. What a wonderful experience our wintry weather has been for them. Most have never had the opportunity to sledge like this before. The traditional site up White Lane, below St George's Farm is alive with excited children, a few parents and dogs. The sun is shining; they are out in the fresh air, enjoying the exercise, much better than sitting staring at a computer screen, playing games.

Later, I walked up past the field on my way to Gillfield Woods, there were well over a hundred young people up and down the field. Adults were sharing the task of keeping an eye on things. One Mum remarked with a smile, they will all sleep well tonight. Several Dads were taking photos. If you took any good shots please email them to [admin@totley.org.uk](mailto:admin@totley.org.uk) so they can go on the website.

I do hope older residents have been able to keep warm and neighbours have helped with shopping. We must also remember how it was a great help to be able to pop into the local shops instead of struggling through the snow to the supermarket. In order to keep going, the shops need **our help all the time**. If we don't use them perhaps next time it snows they might not be there.

As a result of the petition against the lights on Baslow Road, which was presented to the Full Council Meeting on 4th February, an enquiry is being set up by Ian Auckland, Cabinet Member for Transport and Planning, to look into our concerns. A website for SPACE has been set up to keep you in touch [www.sheffieldspace.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldspace.org.uk)

I made yet another phone call to Andy Godson, re -bus shelters and was told Streetforce had received the job before Christmas. They would be chased up by the design team as the work is supposed to be done before the end of the financial year.

Strange how the lights appeared very quickly but we have been waiting for the bus shelters to be turned round for well over a year!

PTO

At the last Area Panel Meeting to be held in Totley at the end of January, we were introduced to Tammy Barrass who has been appointed as Community Assembly Manager for Totley, Dore, Ecclesall, Fulwood and Crookes. Tammy will be working with Rebecca Maddox, the present Area Panel Co-ordinator from 1st February to ensure a smooth take over. We are sorry Rebecca is leaving and would like to thank her for her help in many ways over the last two years. Rebecca is taking charge of the Central Assembly.

Tammy and Matthew Rush, Community Assembly Officer, have accepted my invitation to attend the TRA AGM on 20th April, 7.30pm in The Library. They will be explaining how the new Assemblies will function and how we can input our suggestions and concerns.

So put the date in your diary, this will be your chance to come along with your questions.

The snow has slowed down the work in Green Oak Park, but weather permitting Wednesday 4th March will be tree planting day. Groups of children from Totley County and All Saints Schools will be helping with the planting. Those of you who were rightly concerned about planting silver limes can be assured they will not be planted as there are non available. I have been busy sorting out the best wild flowers to grow in our park.

We will soon need help to grow them, any offers?

The Music Festival will take place 4th - 11th July. Totley County School are holding a musical evening on 1st July so this will set things going with a swing. Please get in touch with Phil and Sue if you have any musical talents [totleymusicfest@bopenworld.com](mailto:totleymusicfest@bopenworld.com)

Finally, Activity Sheffield are hoping to give over 50` s the opportunity to be active, so don't be shy come and join in. Details page 4.

Avril Critchley, Chairman TRA

## Important Dates at St. John the Evangelist Church Abbeydale

**March** Every Tuesday at 6pm in the church hall:-a new youth group for 10 - 13year olds "Rock Solid"

Come and join our Lent Groups every Tuesday at 7.30pm in Lent (5 weeks) starting on March 3rd (meet in the 94 Room in the church Hall)

### Services for Holy Week and Easter.

**Palm Sunday:- April 5th 10.00am** Parish Communion & Blessing of the Palms **6.30pm** Choral service with readings, Hymns & Anthems.

**Monday 6th April** 8pm Address & Compline.

**Tuesday 7th April** 7.30pm Chrism Eucharist at Sheffield Cathedral with the Bishop of Sheffield.

**Wednesday 8th April** 8pm Address & Compline.

**Maundy Thursday 9th April** 8.45 - Midnight Holy Communion Commemorating the Last Supper + Washing of feet followed by The WATCH of the Passion.

**Good Friday 10th April 10.00am** Family service & Making of the Easter Garden.

**2.00pm** Hour by the Cross (Meditations & Music.)

**Easter Day 12th April** 10.00am Family Communion.

### **Looking Forward!!!!.....**

**17th May** 10.30am Ecumenical Service for S17 - Churches at King Ecgbert School Dore

**Ascension Day 21st May** (Thursday) 7.30pm Holy Communion

**Whit Sunday 31st May** (Pentecost). 10.00am Parish Communion

All are welcome Each Sunday there is a service at St. Johns:-

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

10.00am Parish Communion with hymns and choir

## Lights Out!

Since the pieces in last month's Totley Independent, our new group, SPACE (Sheffield and Peak Against City Encroachment) have made some very encouraging headway. Within a very short time we managed to get almost 600 signatures against the new ugly and visually intrusive lighting out on the Baslow Road. In addition we garnered support from the local branch of CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England) and Sheffield Wildlife Trust who have put in objections to the lights. We already have support from Dore Village Society, Totley Residents Association, Bradway Action Group and Friends of Blacka Moor.

We put together a thorough and clear briefing for councillors detailing the evidence in the case against the lights - that the council did not consult the Peak District National Park (which they are bound to do under the Environment Act), that they were acting against their own Green Belt policies, that the lighting was put up before planning was passed, that their road safety arguments did not add up, even making the roads more unsafe. We spoke to Full Council and received an encouraging reception. We knew that our arguments were being taken more seriously than usual when Cllr Ian Auckland, the Cabinet member for Transport and Sustainability, announced that due to our concerns and those of others, a special inquiry meeting was to be held between the Peak District National Park, the Council and the Passenger Transport Executive. We will have the chance to respond. Our local councillors are also now being much more supportive of our efforts. So - community action does make a difference - especially if you garner your support and present your arguments and evidence carefully. And, of course, keep up the pressure.

We want the Council to put any further work on the terminus on hold until the situation with the present Cross Scythes terminus is clearer (the landlord having recently left), until there is a proper road safety report and until all the powers-that-be have properly considered the impact on what they themselves term an "Area of High Landscape Value." We are also flagging up our concern about costs - not only the £375,000 for the new terminus and lighting scheme, but also the considerable ongoing environmental and financial costs of the extra fuel and lighting.

In the meantime, we are also acting on other examples of inappropriate local development - the hugely intrusive Fairthorn development in Dore and the ugly materials used on the new path from Strawberry Lea up onto Moss Road.

We hope to make links with other Sheffield communities which border onto the Peak District National Park in order to protect these vulnerable and precious rural fringes against "urban creep."

For further information or to get involved please contact Dawn Biram on 0114 235 6907 or Sally Goldsmith on 0114 236 7996 or you can email at [space.sheffield@talktalk.net](mailto:space.sheffield@talktalk.net). We also have a new website at [www.sheffieldspace.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldspace.org.uk) Sally Goldsmith

## CHERRYTREE HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN required for a residential setting for young people for a range of low level maintenance work around the building, including some basic decorating. Required on an ad-hoc basis for a few hours every couple of weeks and possibly for emergency repairs. Please contact Angela Grayson on 0114 262 0216 to discuss



## **Transport 17**

I am writing this article on 12th February and our minibuses

have not been out since 2nd February. This is, obviously, due to the weather, but some clubs also cancelled because of the dangerous, icy conditions. The decisions are always made between them and our Manager, Michael Finn. I have never known as many cancellations as this before.

Having fallen over backwards on an icy road myself, I know, only too well, how much it hurts. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will be all systems go.

John Savournin, our Treasurer was 65 on 1st February. We welcomed him to the club!!

Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild have been raising funds for us since last February, when I went to talk to them. They had many events, grew and sold plants and held coffee mornings. They joined with Totley Townswomen's Guild Choir to present "Music for a Spring Evening" concert, last May. Danny and I really enjoyed it. We thank each and every one of them.

Due to my sore ribs, my husband Danny, who is Chairman of Transport 17 Management Committee, walked through the snow and ice to Dore to collect the cheque. It was for £2000. Our Treasurer, needless to say, was thrilled, as were we all.

The date for the AGM has not yet been fixed. It will be at the end of March or early in April. All shareholders will be notified in good time. It only costs £1 to become a shareholder.

The birds are beginning to build nests in our garden so they are feeling optimistic.

Take care and many thanks to everyone for their support. Margaret Barlow

## **1st Totley Scout Lottery**

**Lottery draw for January 2009**

1st Prize No 24  
49 ltr trolley case  
Mr and Mrs Loft  
Quarry Road

2nd Prize No 09  
£10 Voucher  
Mrs Gilbert  
16 Rowan Tree Dell

Peter Casson

## **Big planting tubs for Totley**

As if our little patch of Sheffield is not beautiful enough, the TRA has come up with a way to make it even more beautiful. Working with the Council and Street Force at Norton Nurseries we have got permission for five big planting tubs to be placed around Totley. The tubs will be bursting with flowers, herbs and salad; beautiful, scented or edible... or all three.

Our inspiration for the tubs was the ones we did for Totley Primary School last summer. All summer and into the autumn they were a riot of colour, scent and exuberant growth.

The sites we have chosen for the planting tubs get a lot of people walking by, either on their way to school and back, or to and from the bus or the shops and the Library.

The planting tubs will be at the top of Hillfoot Road on the corner just above the crossing; the top of Main Avenue on the side opposite Liberty Foods; outside the Library; just above the bus stop opposite the Co-op and near the grass verge at the bottom of the shops at Totley Rise. We had hoped to find a suitable spot nearer the Totley Rise shops, but there was just no safe place big enough.

We are hoping that as many people as want to will get involved in the seed sowing and planting up of these tubs. Seed sowing events will happen across the spring where anyone interested will be able to take away and care for the seeds they have sown, bringing them back as little plantlets to be put into the tubs. Watch the Totley Independent, notice boards and lamp posts for details of these events.

Want to offer your time and enthusiasm now? Phone Christine Shimell on 236 1631 or drop a note through the door of 13 Main Avenue.

## **TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**



Our Annual Birthday Luncheon at Abbeydale Sports Club. Meetings held every 3rd Tuesday at 10.00am at Totley Methodist Church Hall. Visitors always welcome.

## **Councillor Surgeries**

**Liberal Democrats:**

2nd Monday in the month 6.00-7.00 p.m., Totley Library, Baslow Road and 2nd Saturday in the month from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon, Dore Old School Hall, Savage Lane, Dore Contact details: telephone 235 2289 Email: keith.hill@sheffield.gov.uk, colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk or mike.davis@sheffield.gov.uk

**TRA Website:- [www.totley.org.uk](http://www.totley.org.uk)**

## **The Fleur De Lys Totley Hall Lane**



**Monday night free pool 8pm - 12 midnight**

**2nd Tuesday in month folk music night 8.30pm-11.30pm**

**Wednesday jam session 8pm - 12 midnight**

**Thursday quiz and open the box 10.15pm start**

**alternate Saturdays disco and karaoke**

**Saturday 7th Disco and Karaoke**

**Monday 9th Totley All Saints reunion**

**Tuesday 10th Folk Music in Copper Room**

**Saturday 21st Disco and Karaoke**

**we have stopped serving food for the time being**

**bookings for all parties catered for contact Anne-Marie or Wayne**

**0114 236 8491**

## Over 50's to 'Get Active' in Totley



Activity Sheffield (Sheffield City Council) has been allocated funding to develop physical activity opportunities in the Totley area, for the over 50's.

After a consultation with a representative for the Totley area, a variety of activities have been proposed. Including various types of Dance and Tai Chi (used to develop a healthy body as well as an alert mind). Running a mini Olympics session has also been

discussed, to include activities/games such as skittles, target games, bocchia, table tennis, mini golf, to get us in the spirit (what ever our age) for the 2012 Olympics.

Currently the above are just suggestions, and we'd really like your ideas and thoughts as to the types of physical activity or sport sessions that you feel are missing from the



Totley area. Please try and keep your suggestions realistic and consider the following;

- What activities have you previously done and really enjoyed, but don't participate in any longer? Or
- What activity have you always thought you'd like to try but have never had the opportunity to do so?

We'd be pleased to hear from you, with any suggestions and we'll be looking to develop the activities from April 2009 onwards.

### **Why is being physically active important?**

There are numerous benefits to being physically active;

- Successful ageing – the adoption of a more physically active lifestyle can add years to life, even for previously inactive people.
- Disease prevention - reduces risk factors for Coronary heart Disease i.e. reduces blood pressure, Helps maintain weight loss
- Maintain mobility
- Improved/enhanced independence, well being and quality of life - i.e. enhances mood and effective in treating depression

To name but a few.

All sessions will be developed by fully and appropriately trained staff with vast experience of delivering a variety of activities to the over 50's, with various abilities. Sessions will be safe and effective and can be tailored to your



particular needs (i.e. health needs or ability).

If you are interested in being updated on activities being developed in your area, or you have some suggestions (whether you are new to exercise or a regular exerciser) please contact Kelly Riley, Older People's Development Officer (Activity Sheffield) on 273 4266.

## Beryl Redmayne

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Miss Beryl Redmayne who died on 28th January aged 97. Many Totley folk will remember her as a most likeable and happy teacher, and, for those who served on the staff, a willing and supportive colleague at Totley Infants' and Junior School for about 25 years.

She was an enthusiast for outdoor life, particularly walking, gardening and sporting activities, both at school and out of school-hours. During wet playtimes and dinner-hours at the school she was known to organise anyone, pupils and staff alike, to have games of badminton in the school hall. We noticed her gentle patience with awkward children, parents - and yes, even teachers - making her point quietly and never arguing or getting angry. She was a wonderful example-setter to all with whom she came into contact. We remember her with thankfulness and happy reminders of a life well and graciously lived.

Judith Norris

*In September 1962 I moved up from Miss White's reception class into I1 at Totley County School. Miss Redmayne was my teacher for that year, I recall her with great affection, as with all the teachers at the school in those days. Ian Clarke, Editor*

## Ramblings

Walking out in the last couple of weeks caused me to remember that old urban legend of the Inuit having over forty words for snow. In fact they have hardly any. Googling, I found that the Finns have more words for snow, the Sami people of Lapland even more but that we English speakers are not doing so badly ourselves. For blowing snow we have blizzard, flurry, sleet - and what about those "wintry showers" the weather forecasters announce. I'm never too sure what those are. For snow on the ground we have packed snow, powdery snow, slush and my favourite rarity - snirt - snow mixed with dirt. Then there's rime - a magical mixture of frost and snow.

The marvellous thing about tramping (sometimes teetering) around Totley has been the different sounds spoken by the snow and my boots. There was the sharp "crump" in the wondrous hush around Woodthorpe and Shep's Bank after a night where the whole world became pillowed in white. Evidently BBC sound effects use a spoon in custard powder to imitate this. Then there's the gritty sound on recently cleared ground where there has been a later fall of granular stuff. On treacherous tightly packed down snow there's an ominous squeak.

The snow also holds a graphic record of all that has passed over it - sledges, boots, high heels (yes, really!) dogs, rabbits, foxes, birds, badgers, even red deer near Monnybrook.

But best of all has been the transformation wreaked by the snow - fields, trees, roofs all made anew and picked out by the dazzle. In the evening it will take on a blue or grey tinge. Sometimes it has the quality of an old etching. And the whole world seems to be sledging - and making snowmen. As the humorous one with his rictus grin on Mickley Lane said - "No to Global Warming!"

GS

## Thankyou

I would like to thank the person or persons for picking up a glove that I dropped yesterday when I was going to Oxfam. The bus came so quickly around the corner I didn't have time to pick it up. Thank you for a God living community in Totley.

Paul Savage

## BEDDING PLANTS

Totley Primary School PTA is again selling a wide variety of bedding plants this year. Hanging baskets are also available, that are competitively priced and will look great in the summer. If you would like to place an order please collect an order form from the library on Baslow Road, during March, and return it with your payment to them by the end of March. The plants will be delivered by the nursery to the school in May - after the frosts! - where they will be sorted into orders ready for collection. Anyone can place an order and profits from the event are used for the benefit of the school children. Last year the event raised around £600 which went towards some outdoor play equipment for the juniors. We are now working towards creating an outdoor classroom for the children.

Steve Bate, Totley Primary School PTA

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

As our audiences seem to like a good laugh in these gloomy times, our next offering is another comedy. "That's My Girl" by David Bathurst is certainly a 'good laugh'. With a cast of ten, there is a real mixture of characters, surrounding the main young man, Richard, who is awaiting the arrival of his parents. They are to meet his fiancée for the first time, so it is an important day.

Needless to say, things do not work out as planned. However, you will have to come to St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, Totley, to see what actually happens. The dates are Wednesday to Saturday, May 13th to 16th, at 7.30pm. Tickets are still at an amazing £3.50, or £3 concessions, from any member, or from me, Kate Reynolds, on 236 6891. Fairtrade tea and coffee, fresh orange juice, 50p each, and red or white wine £1.25, are available in the interval. What more could you wish for!

## THE ABBEYDALE

I was intrigued to read Joan Hilton's recent article but was just too young to see the film "Young Tom Edison" released in 1940. I well remember the sequel "Edison, the Man" in which Spencer Tracy "took over" from Mickey Rooney. Both were M-G-M family features which did well at the box office, despite containing no violence, sex, drug abuse, swearing etc. Both films are now available in DVD format.

Reg Parker



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stevenbarnett@hotmail.com

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## OPEN DAYS

Have you ever wanted to play Crown Green Bowling but don't know started how to get started? Well here is your opportunity. Abbeydale Park Bowling Club will be holding 2 Saturday morning sessions on the 11th & 18th of April at 10.00 am, when you can come along and have a go.

There will be members to guide you through the rules and method of play, so, as long as you have some flat soled shoes e.g. Ecco or similar, then do join us. For any further information please contact either: Trevor Davies (Captain) 236 0318 or John Hall (Hon Sec) 236 7174



"DIGEST."  
"IF I'M EVER FEELING A  
BIT LOW, I FIND A TOTLEY  
BRICK GIVES ME A LIFT!"

## MODERN PHILOSOPHIES

- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- He who hesitates is probably right.
- Success always occurs in private and failure in full view.
- The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required on it.
- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive. You never really learn to pray until your children learn to drive.
- To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.
- The problem with the gene pool is there is no lifeguard.
- When they made the man who discovered Stilton cheese, they threw away the mould.
- Before you point a finger, make sure your hands are clean.

## Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that John Edwin Pocock has applied to vary the premises license for the Top Barn, Totley Hall Farm, by altering the start date from 20th November to 15th November annually. Anyone wishing to make representation in respect of this variation should contact Licensing General Section, Town Hall, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH. 0114 273 4264, and respond in writing by 20th March 2009.

## Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice

### Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is such an appropriate time to support Bluebell Wood. The parents that we help will do more "mothering" in the short lives of their children than most of us do in a lifetime.

Take an average Sunday morning: time for baths, hair wash, shaving, & cutting nails. Not unusual in itself, but what is unusual in the home of one of the families we are supporting is that Mum and Dad have to help all 4 of their children with all these tasks. The 3 eldest children all developed a degenerative muscle weakening disease as they grew up, and now aged from 8 - 16 years, have varying levels of mobility. The final addition to the family is 11 month old Harriet who isn't yet old enough to help herself!

With their sunny personalities all the children love this day, but none of them are able to perform any of the bathtime routine tasks for themselves, so "mothering" really is a big job on a Sunday. By the time all 4 children are dressed it's time for Mum to start cooking lunch. With only Ollie, the youngest, able to feed himself, once again lunchtime takes a big chunk out of the day, so it's only in the long days of Summer that the family then venture off for an afternoon out together!

As all three of the eldest are in wheelchairs which have to be loaded into the specially adapted car, and with specialised equipment to be taken along to support the family, it's another half hour just to load up and set off. Once they arrive at their destination Tom, the eldest boy drives himself in his power assisted chair whilst little Harriet goes in a baby carrier, and Oliver and Lucy are pushed by Mum and Dad.

At the end of the day, exhausted, but happy, Mum and Dad can at last have a little time to themselves before the military routine of the next day starts. But for them, every minute with the children is well spent: Tom with his cheeky personality; Lucy who loves being with people; Ollie who asks lots of questions; and happy little Harriet are their pride and joy.

### Spring into Fundraising

Our new Spring Fundraising pack is now available will ideas to suit everyone. Why not try your hand with our Spring Quiz and test your recollections of 2008. Or why not try and find a home for one of our lovely 17" Ducks? These ducks come with a sheet of 30 names and a winning name in a sealed envelope. Names are sold for just £1 and the lucky person who chooses the right name wins the duck. To request your pack, duck or quiz please call Michelle on 0845 108 1579 or email [michelle.white@bluebellwood.org](mailto:michelle.white@bluebellwood.org).

## Eggcidents

One of the delights of keeping hens is collecting the eggs. Opening the flap to the nest boxes and finding one, two, three eggs is always a thrill. And sometimes they're still warm. Eggs so fresh are absolutely delicious.

I've had a habit of putting the eggs in my jacket pocket to carry them back to the house and this created an incident that fully mortified my 16 year old son. We went down to London for a show last summer, driving to Brent Cross, parking, and then walking to catch the tube into central London. You can imagine that my son disowned his mother when I felt in my pocket after we were sat on the tube, and pulled my hand out covered in broken egg.... before we left home I had gone out quickly to tend the chickens, and forgotten that I had put an egg in my pocket.

Many things affect egg-laying. Chief among them is moulting, when a hen doesn't lay for at least 8 weeks while she loses, then regains her feathers. Daylight has an affect too, so short dark winter days mean that hens don't lay so much, and eggs are fewer during winter months.

Also trauma and fright can cause hens to stop laying. One thing which can spook chickens is big birds flying low over them as I witnessed recently. Edna was out on the lawn and a pigeon flew low over her. She immediately squatted down on the grass with her wings half spread out on the ground, and then raced for cover under the nearest bush. This is the fear instinct in the case of a hawk looking for prey. Hens have been known to die of fright on the spot when hawks fly low over them.

Since the sparrowhawk has been taking finches and blackbirds recently in Toley the hens are probably right to be fearful.

Of course, if hens go broody they also stop laying, expecting that their eggs will hatch out. Hens without a cockerel lay sterile eggs, so they have no chance and must be persuaded to stop because they can both overheat and starve as they sit on the nest all the time.

Dora went broody last summer and it took some persistence on my part to stop the broodiness. Lifting her off the nest didn't work since after a rapid meal and drink she would then rush back to the nest. She also pecked Martha and Vera if they came into the nest box to lay their daily eggs causing problems for them. I cured her by placing her in the shade on some metal frames inside a metal cage. She soon got uncomfy enough to give up.

If you want to hatch chicks, get fertile eggs from a breeder, and the hen needs to be lifted off night and morning to get some food and drink.

Jennie Street

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Martin Pickering

## Earthworks

Although I've been visiting my allotment regularly over the winter to pick kale and dig artichokes and leeks, there is a strangeness, an unfamiliarity about the garden in winter; as though it were withdrawn into another world where I cannot follow. From the springiness of the grass on the path down to my plot, I can tell that I am the first person to walk this way for a few days and walking down the little path onto my plot, I find myself treading softly so as not to wake anyone. This piece of land that I know so well has turned its winter back on me and is getting on with its own thing. I am an intruder on my own plot. The few crops and many weed that have made it through the early winter are now smothered with snow. As it melts they have the look of hair that has been under a hat for too long, but it will not be long now until the increased day length will perk them all into growth. But just for now they are somehow loosened and slack. The effort of growth is abandoned and the plants have sunk back into themselves. The crops and the weeds have on their winter drab.

The birds have joined this dreamtime and are easily startled. As I walk past the compost heaps a blackbird flies fast and low across the plot towards the trees, ringing out its alarm; and a wren clicks at me as I go to inspect the damson tree at the far end of the plot.

Despite the cold and unfavourable conditions for gardening, I know from experience that some of the best weeding can be done on these dry, clear late winter days whist the weeds are still off in their dreamtime. At this time of the year even the most deep rooted docks give up their grip on the soil with little more than a sigh. And buttercups and dandelions that during the summer can take real effort of root out, surrender without a fight. Weeding is never my favourite task, but at this time of the year it is almost a pleasure. I've been in my own dreamtime across the winter and so it's good to be back doing what I love even if it is blowing a gale and bitter cold.

The winter is plotting time for gardeners and one of my plots for this year is to move the compost heaps. I inherited my compost site from the previous gardeners on this plot. The row of pallet bins has been just behind the hedge for so long that they now stand on their own proud promontory of rich soil. My on-going discussion with the Allotments Department about the source of the water logging at the far end of my plot is unresolved, so until something can be done about it I have decided to move my compost making down to the wet end. As the compost in the old bins gets used across the spring and summer, a new and good sized, sheltered bed of rich soil will be revealed where they have stood. It deserves something special, so at the moment I'm thinking chicory followed by salad fennel, both inter-planted with some special Italian lettuces. I might even risk on outdoor tomato plant.

And planning what I am going to grow this year starts my seed sowing juices running. Not a good thing at this time of year when it is really too cold and there is not enough length of day for most seeds to germinate. My enthusiasms are somewhat dampened by the snow, but still I find myself leafing through seed catalogues looking for anything that might just survive if sown now. Although I consider sowing

broad beans in containers a waste of good potting compost and gardening time, I do it every year just to assuage my seed sowing urges. I still might find something a bit more challenging than broad beans if I just have another look.....  
Christine Shimell

## Weather Report for 2008

I think most people would agree that the summer of 2008 was a disappointment, the driest months being February with 9 days rain in Totley (T) and 8 days at Weston Park (WP). The wettest months were January with 26 days rain (T) 25 days (WP) and October also 26 days (T) 19 days (WP). The total for the year came to 221 days (T) and 218 days (WP), compared with an average of 185 days. The wettest day was on 5 September 47mm (T) and 39.2mm (WP). There were 4 days when we had an inch (25mm) or more of rain. All in all Totley had more rain than Weston Park in every month except for April when (WP) had 3.3mm more than (T). Four months had double the average rainfall and 3 months fell below.

Snow fell or lay on 8 days (T) and 3 days (WP).

There were 3 consecutive nights of -6.5C, 16-18 February (T) when the coldest nights of the year were recorded thought (WP) recorded -6.7C on the 20<sup>th</sup>. December had 10 nights and one day with temperatures of 0C or below. The warmest month was July when 16 days had temperatures of 20C or over. February had a 6 day warm spell for that time of year and reached a maximum of 13.5C (T) 15.6C (WP), then came a very cold spell a few days later, followed by another 12C warm spell a few days after that. Surprisingly July produced a day with a temperature of only 14 C(T) 16.1 (WP) in the middle of the hot days.

The lowest barometer reading ever recorded at 950mb occurred on 10 March. Just on thunderstorm occurred during the year.

The 5 June and 1 July produced the highest daily amount of sunshine for the year (13.4 hours). 1512.5 hours of sunshine was recorded in 2008 against an average of 1380 hours, according to (WP) records but the last 3 years have been sunnier. The total of 121 hours sunshine recorded for February was the highest since records began in 1897 with December also producing twice the average for the month.

	<b>Totley</b>	<b>Weston Park</b>
<b>Rain for the year</b>		
2008	1170.1mm	981.2mm
2007	1179.9mm	948.8mm
2006	1039.1mm	783.5mm
<b>Coldest Night</b>		
2008	-6.5C	-6.7C
2007	-5C	-3.4C
2006	-6C	-5.8C
<b>Wettest Day</b>		
2008	47.0mm	39.2mm
2007	80.6mm	88.2mm
2006	24.9mm	22.7mm
<b>Hottest Day</b>		
2008	26.5C	27.4C
2007	26.5C	27.1C
2006	29.0C	30.6C

Vivien Filleul

## GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

The snow is slowly receding (11 February) though the garden is still covered and looks nice with its winter coat on. Old Jack Frost is on the rampage, I expect one or two of the more delicate plants will not survive, we have had such mild winters that we are a bit complacent when it comes to wrapping them up. Do not write them off too soon as old mother nature is always full of surprises when you think a plant is dead given a bit of time you might see a new green shoot appearing. The pond is frozen over, I have put a ventilator in the water to give the fish somewhere to breathe. I have made a small wooden frame with a bit of plastic double glassing on the top about 9 inches square, this seems to work OK. It floats on the top of the water and a couple of vent holes in the side keep the water from freezing over.

There is not much you can do in the garden when snow is around apart from cleaning bird feeders and topping them up regularly. That does not mean you can sit there doing nothing, there's seeds to plant in trays in the greenhouse or coldframe, or even on the window sill, ready for the warmer weather when they can be planted out. The garden club at the school starts this month. I hope the snow has cleared by then so that we can start sowing seeds and planting out any plants that are ready, the cabbage and lettuce are looking OK at the moment in the greenhouse, they are earmarked for the school plot so that there will be something to see fairly quickly which is encouraging for the children, especially those who are a bit impatient. If you have any spare seeds or plants surplus to your requirements please let us have them, bring them to Alan, the School Building Supervisor, his house is just inside the school gate on Sunnyvale Road or drop them at my place, 170A Baslow Road. If we are not in leave them on the table in the driveway, thanks. As soon as the snow has finished then the gardening starts in earnest. Tidying up the moss, planting new plants, painting fences and sheds, making sure paths are safe etc etc. Watch the weather, March can be very unpredictable, the greenhouse temperature can soon zoom up to 100 degrees which is not conducive to healthy plants (unless you grown orchids) and it can drop just as rapidly at the end of the day so be very vigilant and ventilate carefully. I think I have mentioned before that the automatic vents are very good and save a lot of worry but you still need to keep a wary eye open, make sure the doors are closed at the end of a warm day when the temperature drops, usually around 4pm. Make sure the items for The Totley Show are receiving the TLC needed. September soon comes around these days (especially at our age).

**FLOWERS** March is a good month to divide or transplant the majority of herbaceous plants. also a good time to sow seeds of many herbaceous plants such as delphiniums, lupins, perennial gypsophila, perennial statice etc. at the end of the month make the first plantings of gladioli and montbretias, take dahlia cuttings-sever the firm young shoots when they are around tins (5cm) long, insert in deep sandy soil in trays or pots. They should be rooted in a propagator with a temperature of 60-70, water well. Start begonias and gloxinias. Prepare flowerbeds when soil conditions are right. Work in a balanced fertilizer, such as Growmore round herbaceous plants. Remove weeds as they appear, remove all dead flower heads.

Put up sweet pea supports, sow summer bedding plants in a heated greenhouse, and prick out any sown earlier, as soon as two true leaves form. Spray with fungicide such as Chesunt compound, to prevent damping off. Lift, split up and replant snowdrops if they are overcrowded. Watch out for slugs and deal with them when seen.

**VEGETABLES** Clear up areas removing old crops. Prepare the areas for salads and new vegetables. Dig trenches for runner beans and celery. Start chitting potatoes, sow cauliflowers, broccoli and other brassicas in a frame or greenhouse.

Runner beans can be started off in March in a cool greenhouse. I put 7 or 8 in a 5in or 6in pot.

**TREES, SHRUBS and FRUIT** Feed cane and fruit trees with balanced fertiliser. If you haven't fed them for a couple of years, give them a treat of super phosphate of lime, or nitro chalk, they will enjoy that. Firm in newly planted fruits, mulch and keep them well watered. Complete all planting of tree and bush fruit. Cut down any damaged shoots of blackberries to sound wood. Spray all fruits as soon as aphids and caterpillars are seen. Spray apples and pears with fungicide to control scab and mildew. Clean up strawberry beds, taking off all dead or injured leaves and clean up the bed generally.

**GREENHOUSE AND INDOOR PLANTS** Your greenhouse should now be filling with seedlings and

young rooted cuttings. These little plants must have plenty of light and air if they are to be sturdy and not leggy and weak, so watch your ventilation and shade delicate seedlings from strong sunlight. If you can justify the expense, automatic vent openers are a boon at this time, when the weather is so unpredictable. Gradually increase the watering of plants which have been resting. Feed actively growing plants with high potash fertilizer (tomato liquid will do). Stop petunias and most bedding plants at 4 to 6 leaf stage, pinch out the tips of bush fuchsias and geranium cuttings. Pot up cyclamen seedlings and rooted cuttings of pot plants; take more cuttings of bedding and greenhouse plants such as heliotrope, marguerite, fuschia and pelargonium (geranium) as soon as sufficient growth is made. Actual cutting will depend on the type of plant, for geraniums which have thick stems cuttings of 3ins or so are ideal. 2in cuttings will do for the thinner fuchsias and heliotropes, cut then cleanly below a joint and insert them in well drained boxes or in 4in pots filled with sandy compost, inserting them just enough to keep upright, they can be placed in a warm spot out of sunlight or better still in a heated propagator. They need a constant temperature of 60-65F.

Try propagating a few perennials that are just making new growth, it is very satisfying to see your stock increase this way, if you have too many there are lots of charity stalls who will be delighted to have them. Sow cucumbers and tomatoes if you have a heated greenhouse, also melons, keep an eye on the weather, don't let a sharp frost take you by surprise and ruin all your excellent efforts.

**LAWNS** Prepare ground for new lawns to be sown at the end of the month, or beginning of April. Clean up all the winter rubbish from established lawns, spike, aerate and feed by raking in potting compost or peat mixed with lawn fertilizer. Trim the edges, this makes a real difference to a smart appearance. Enjoy your spring gardening.

Cheerio for now.

TOM

## Researching your Totley property using the 1911 census.

Many will be aware that the 1911 census is now available to view on line at <http://www.1911census.co.uk>. You can search using an inhabitant's name or an address. With this in mind I set about trying to find out who lived in my house which had been built in 1906. The search took several days and called upon the memories and local knowledge of dozens of people and cost me around £50.00 so I thought I might publish my 'journey' here so that others can learn from my mistakes.

When researching a property you need the road name. If you know this, and that road was named the same in 1911 as it is now, then you are on to a winner but if, like me, that is not the case, there are a variety of options open to you.

A trip down to the local history section of Sheffield library on the second floor will introduce you to some assistants who are keen to help you unravel some local history. They will show you maps dated in the late 1800's and, on those you will see the road names. If, like in my case, there was no road name, you cannot then search the 1911 census. With a bit of luck the maps will give you the road name and you will find your house.

With no road name available to me I set about searching 'Totley' as a road. Sure enough 91 houses became available, but only the ones that have road names are shown and so were no use to me. If you use your local history knowledge and search for Totley 'Derbyshire' you will be disappointed too. On the census Totley is shown as Sheffield and in the West Riding of Yorkshire or in West Yorkshire. By searching 'Totley' you may be lucky and find your property but I didn't.

I then tried searching for known buildings such as the 'Fleur De Lys' or the 'Cross Scythes'. Some helpful people said they thought my road was called the 'New Turnpike' or the 'Greenhill to Baslow Turnpike' but these don't seem to have ever been official names. Again, without the road name, even the pubs can't be found. I went back to the local

history section of the main library and found the 'Business Directory 1912'. Amongst the 'Hotels and Inns' I found the 'Old Cross Scythes' and 'The Fleur de Lis' (notice the specific spelling). No road names are given but the landlords' are. For the Cross it is someone called George Thomas Reeves and for the Fleur it is George Creswick. At last I had some people to search for. I found a George Thomas Reeves and he was a licensed victualler but he lived in some other part of Sheffield. Next I searched for George Creswick and bingo there were three of them. One was the landlord of the 'Flet de lis' (see the spelling problem again) well, I now had a property near to me. Still there was no road name for the Fleur so, how was I going to find my house that has a number and a road name that did not exist in 1911?

When you find a property on the 1911, you have an option to move on to the next property in the survey. I clicked 'next property' and a house on Totley Hall Lane appeared. The Marshal family lived there. I know the Marshals are an old Totley family so that told me very little. I went back to the Fleur on the census (it costs nothing to go back to a property you have already looked at) and clicked 'previous' and there I found 'Elder Cottage' with no name of a road. Could that be the first house after the Fleur on my road? You may have figured out by now that I live on Baslow Road, on the left, up the hill from the Fleur.

A trip to the Fleur, where there are lots of the Totley descendents, revealed that 'Elder Cottage' is on Hillfoot Road so the Census bloke must have walked from Hillfoot to the Fleur and then along Totley Hall Lane. The wrong direction for me so I decided to trace his

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footsteps backwards, even if it meant looking at every house he called at. I did this by clicking the 'Previous' button which took me to a house that belonged to a teacher and the next to a school caretaker and then a butler from down south somewhere. Going down Hillfoot Road I expected to find the school and then be led all the way in to Dore. The journey through the census would cost me pounds and pounds along the way, but then I had a stroke of luck. The next house I saw was not the school, but one called 'Fernmount'.

If you look at the houses after the Fleur, there are three buildings divided each in to two houses. In the middle of each building and between the houses is a name. The first building is called 'Fernmount', the second is called 'Moorlands' and the third is called 'Hill Crest'. I looked at

the first 'Fernmount' and there was Keith Unwin (retired farmer) and his family which included Jessie Unwin (school teacher). Again I clicked 'previous' and another 'Fernmout' appeared. In this one was a widow Frances Hall with her music student daughter and a lodger (presumably how she made her money). Then came my house going up the hill 'Moorlands' where the printer (employer) Joseph Parker lived with his family. Just to test my theory I checked the next house which was again called the 'Moorlands'. In that house lived a travelling salesman from London called John Pittman along with his family. Next came the third building 'Hill Crest'. Here lived John Wood and his family, all from Lancashire. He was a 'School Master'. At the top of the hill, the second 'Hill Crest' was occupied by Rice Kemper, a Vice Consul from America and all his family. The building names were the same as they are now and the number of rooms in the houses fitted too. The order of the houses was clear from the building names and one further search took me to a labourer's house at Lane Head. From there I went no further but you can if you wish of course.

I have taken the time to write this so you can learn from my experiences should you wish to search the history of your house in Totley on the 1911 census. Unless your road name is on the census, find an anchor point such as the 'Fleur de Lys' but it may be best to do so by finding the landlord in the name of George Creswick. When you find a house by the above method, make a note of the names of the people who lived there as that is the best way to ensure you can find it again.

Happy hunting.

Graham Webb.

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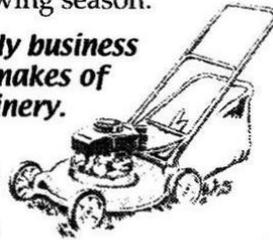
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## TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>COFFEE MORNING</b> , All Saints' Church Hall, 10am-noon <b>ANTE NATAL PILATES</b> , United Reformed Church, 6.30-7.30pm, Phone Emer Coffee 07792 422909
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>COFFEE MORNING</b> . Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am-noon <b>WOODSEATS ADVICE CENTRE</b> . Drop in service, free, impartial, and confidential. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am-noon <b>CRAFT GROUP</b> . Totley Library, 2pm
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>COFFEE in the LIBRARY</b> . 10am-11.30am <b>TOTLEY RISE METHODIST PLAYGROUP</b> . Grove Road 9.30am-noon, Phone: Sheila 235 0130 or Janine 262 0773 <b>TODDLER GROUP</b> . 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Mel 236 6300 <b>HEALTH WALKS</b> . 10.30am, Totley Library foyer. Phone Sue, The Health Walk Ranger: 0114 283 9195 <b>MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING</b> . All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>TOTLEY RISE METHODIST PLAYGROUP</b> . Grove Road 9.30am-noon, Phone: Sheila 235 0130 or Janine 262 0773 <b>NCT COFFEE GROUP FOR DORE TOTLEY &amp; BRADWAY</b> , 10am-noon, For mums & babies/toddlers, meeting in various locations, Phone Sally Spearing 236 2604 for further details (email: sally@spearings.me.uk) <b>PUSHCHAIR CLUB</b> . Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 1.30pm-3pm. Tel. 236 3157 for further details <b>CHAIROBICS</b> . Totley Library, 2pm-3pm. £1 <b>PILATES CLASS</b> , United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 6.15pm-7.30pm, Phone Emer Coffee 07792 422909
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	<b>MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING</b> . All Saints Church Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> . And 4 <sup>th</sup> . Saturdays 8pm-10pm

### MARCH 2009

**SUN 1<sup>st</sup> CASTLETON FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 10am-3pm  
**FRI 6<sup>th</sup> WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**, Totley URC 10.30am  
**SAT 7<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Tony Verno, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.  
**TUE 10<sup>th</sup> FOLK AT THE FLEUR**, Fleur de Lys, 8.30pm, all welcome  
**SUN 15<sup>th</sup> MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES**. Abbeydale Road South, First train 1 p.m. - last train 5 p.m.(weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk  
**TUES 17<sup>th</sup> TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**, AGM, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am  
**SAT 21<sup>st</sup> HOLMESFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 11.30am-4pm, Local Produce, Cheese, Meat, Hot Sandwiches & Tea/Coffee  
**SAT 21<sup>st</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Keep It Country Duo, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.  
**WED 25<sup>th</sup> TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP**, Totley Library, 7.30pm, all welcome  
**THU 26<sup>th</sup> SHEFFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, 9am-4.30pm, Barkers Pool  
**SUN 29<sup>th</sup> MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES**. Abbeydale Road South, First train 1 p.m. - last train 5 p.m.(weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk

### APRIL 2009

**SAT 4<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Deano, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.  
**SUN 5<sup>th</sup> CASTLETON FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 10am-3pm  
**WED 8<sup>th</sup> SPRING FAIR**, Cheshire Home, 10am - Midday  
**SUN 12<sup>th</sup> & MON 13<sup>th</sup> (EASTER) MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES**. Abbeydale Road South, First train 1 p.m. - last train 5 p.m.(weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk  
**TUE 14<sup>th</sup> FOLK AT THE FLEUR**, Fleur de Lys, 8.30pm, all welcome  
**SAT 18<sup>th</sup> HOLMESFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 11.30am-4pm, Local Produce, Cheese, Meat, Hot Sandwiches & Tea/Coffee  
**SAT 18<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Russ Elliot, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.  
**MON 20<sup>th</sup> TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AGM**, Totley Library, 7.30pm. All Totley Residents Welcome.  
**TUES 21<sup>st</sup> TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**, 'The Wardrobe Mistress's Tale', Judy Colby, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am  
**WED 22<sup>nd</sup> TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP**, Totley Library, 7.30pm, all welcome  
**THU 23<sup>rd</sup> SHEFFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, 9am-4.30pm, Barkers Pool

### THE INDEPENDENT FOR APRIL 2009

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

**SATURDAY 4th April 2009**

**COPY CLOSE DATE for this issue will be SATURDAY 21st March 2009**

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