

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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Seen the new trees in Green Oak Park yet?, here they are being planted by children from the local schools.

Totley Residents Association Update

March 4th, a crisp sunny morning, things are happening in Green Oak Park. A team of men from Green Estates arrive and begin to dig large holes around the park, planting the new trees has begun. By 11.00am 4 holes have been prepared for the gingko, ornamental pear and 2 acers.

Shaffaq Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the local Environment and Councillor Mike Davis arrive to join in the fun with children from Totley County School. They listen to the clerk of works and learn how to use a spade safely. Each tree is lowered into its hole which has been dug out by hand and carefully measured to make sure the tree will be stable.

The children busily fill in the soil round the trees, helped by Shaffaq. He has obviously done the job many times before and enjoys chatting to the children. Many residents joined in, it is lovely to see so many in the park, lots of photos being taken.

We all head off home and return later for round 2 at 1.30pm.

In the meantime the team from Green Estates and Jerry Gunton from Parks have been busy staking the trees. 3 stakes are used for each tree to make sure they are stable and won't be damaged when the grass is mown. 4 more holes are dug for the Tibetan Cherry and 3 Sorbus trees. Children from All Saints School arrive and immediately strip off their coats ready for action. They set to work planting the trees. Mary Bagley, Director of Parks and Countryside calls in for a chat. She is delighted to see how much better the park is looking. Once the trees are planted, the children enjoy five minutes in the playground before returning to school.

PTO

**TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AGM - 20th APRIL
7.30pm IN TOTLEY LIBRARY - ALL WELCOME**

The sad news is the 2 large willow trees near the bowling green, both about 70 years old have reached the end of their life. One has already gone; it became dangerous after the recent strong winds and was felled as an emergency. The other will be felled in the near future. Mary Bagley suggested an evergreen oak would be a welcome edition for the park. That and other trees will have to wait until next year as all the best specimens will have left the nursery by now.

Another problem which has arisen is the area just inside the Lemont Road entrance. While being prepared for the planting of new perennials water logging has occurred. It could be caused by a spring or a broken pipe. This is being looked into and will be corrected in the future.

The circular bed is coming along very well and will be planted any time now.

On behalf of us all a big thank you to everyone who helped to make our tree planting day a big success.

Already the ornamental pear is coming into flower. In years to come the trees will mature and help make our park beautiful.

A blight on the tree planting was the amount of dog faeces left around, some even on the bowling green. All dog owners have a duty to clean up after their dogs.

Bus Shelters!! Guess what, I have just heard they will not be altered until May / June because under "The New Road and Street Works Act" anybody wishing to work in the Highway has to book a date in advance. Work on the bus shelters will now have to be booked and this will take time.

"Over 50's Get Active", it said in the last Independent, but it doesn't seem this will happen. So far no one has been in touch with Kelly Riley, Older People's Development Officer from Activity Sheffield. I often hear complaints that we do not get any help in Totley. It will be our loss if we don't come up with ideas of what we could try. As you know I get exercise walking my dogs, but I would like to try Tai Chi. I can't do it alone, so do ring up Kelly on 273 4226 and tell her you would like to try something new to help keep fit. It would be a great pity if the money that has been allocated to Totley went some where else.

Now another moan.

Green Oak Park and Totley Hall Park are being targeted by unwelcome people, young and old who should do better.

It is not a good idea to use the parks as a drinking area or the bowling green as a football pitch. Smashing bottles and leaving broken glass around for someone else to clear up is anti social and dangerous, especially for children, dogs and wildlife. BUT it is up to the community to help the Police. If you witness anti social behaviour you **MUST RING 101** and report what is happening. People living in properties overlooking the parks have the chance to help our community by reporting what they hear and see.

Ringling 101 is completely confidential

No one except the police will know a call has been made. Just give the operator the details and they will deal with the problem. The more we tell the Police the more we can help ourselves, so please ring 101.

**TRA AGM will be held on 20th April
in the Library at 7.30pm.**

Have you ever been to the AGM?

Why not give it a try?

This year will be very interesting.

After the reports and election of the committee, which won't take long, we will hear a presentation from

Tammy Barass, our Community Assembly Manager. Community Assemblies replace the Area Panels in May. Tammy will explain what they mean for us and how we can be involved and influence what happens in Totley.

Please make the effort to come along, ask questions and make suggestions.

Another request, this time for the Music Festival.

The organisers are still hoping for more musicians and singers to come forward and offer to take part. The date 1st - 11th July. Please contact Sue and Phil on **totleymusicfest@btopenworld.com** or 236 3331

The crocuses and daffodils are looking fantastic at the moment, let's hope they remain so and are not damaged by unthinking people.

Remember, after they have finished flowering the flower heads need removing, but the leaves must be allowed to die down naturally. Food produced by the leaves goes back into the bulbs ready for next years flowers.

Avril Critchley

Chairman TRA

MOTHERING SUNDAY

I am writing this on the day before Mother's Day, or should I say "Mothering Sunday". The young people who were in service were, apparently, allowed to go and see their Mothers on this Sunday. They would not have earned very much so, probably, took flowers or, perhaps, a cake that a kindly employer may have given them.

My own Mother died 25 years ago this May. She had had some friends round for tea and cakes that she had made. They swapped plants and had a good chat. She put some chicken in the oven and went to see them off. She remembered that she needed some potatoes. There was a market at the end of her road in South London, so she grabbed her shopping bag and dashed up there to get some.

A couple of hours later, I got a call to say that our beloved Mum had collapsed and died. A neighbour was passing and went to her aid but it was too late. Because she did not have her handbag with her, just a purse, it took a while for us to be contacted as we did not live near.

My family, my sister and I could not take it in. It was a lovely way to go though. She hadn't been ill and knew that she was very much loved. There were people of all ages at her funeral. The Priest said that she was a lovely lady, not a Saint, but she had always done her best.

My father died at the Battle of Arnhem. Later on, my Mum married again and I had a wonderful new Dad and a much loved sister. My children and hers all loved their grandparents very much and had a lot of fun with them. Our Mum was, once again, a widow when she died.

The theme running through all this story is love. We have always tried to pass that on to our sons and daughter and now our grandchildren. We have been very blessed.

In this day of computers, etc., I notice that in newspaper and magazines, "Mum" and "Dad" are spelt in lower case. I will never, ever start these words other than with Capital letters. Our Mums and Dads are too important and deserve respect. Madonna and Bono are spelt with capitals. What does that say about our world today?

ESPA BUNTING

CHESHIRE CHAT

At last we have a new bar at Mickley Hall. It was fitted out earlier in March and painted in red, cream and black. The money for the refurbishment was kindly donated by Father William Kilgannon and the parishioners of The Mother Of God Catholic Church. To express our thanks to them we asked The Father to open the bar for us at our St. Patrick's day celebrations on March 17th, which he agreed to do.

We had a very successful evening including entertainment. Father Kilgannon played the Irish flute, Lizzie entertained us with some Irish dancing and Steve Brooke and friends sang Irish folk songs. Jonathan Watson won a hamper full of Irish goodies in the raffle, and the Guinness went down very well with several people. We are having a competition to name the bar at 10p a time, so if anyone has any ideas please have a go. The next item on our 2009 itinerary will be the Spring Fayre on Wednesday April 8th 10am-12 noon. Please come and support us and find some bargains at the same time. The cakes always sell quickly so get there in good time.

We are also hoping to be one of the venues for the proposed music festival. Keep looking in the Independent for further details.

Busy times ahead in the next few weeks in the garden. The 1,000 crocuses given by Street Force are in full bloom at the moment and look lovely. The rose bed started last year needs tending and plans are afoot for the tubs and containers that brighten up the quadrangle in the summer. So please keep supporting us, as we rely on your generous contributions to help make a better quality of living for our service users.

Ann Lee Voluntary Support Group.

Ramblings

I am just a student when it comes to identifying bird song, but the chiff chaff is easy – sounding exactly like its name. John Clare, countryman and poet, knew it as the chipchap. Walking into Gillfield Wood on March 21st, the Spring equinox, this little warbler was heralding the arrival of Spring more potently than any other bird. Other migrants do not arrive until April. Hurray for the chiffchaff.

Inside the woods there are dreamy drifts of delicate white wood anemones – one of the earliest of the spring flowers and a sure indicator that this is ancient woodland. Other names – according to Richard Mabey's absorbing *Flora Britannica* are windflower, Grandmother's nightcap or Moggie nightgown, the latter being a Derbyshire name. Anyone heard this one?

The wild honeysuckle or woodbine has greened up inside the wood. Outside, in a boggy patch by a stile between Gillfield and Storth Farm, was the usual March cheeriness of marsh marigolds. Other names for these are kingcups, mollyblobs and water-bubbles. Don't you just love these old regional and folk names?

GS

BULB PLANTERS

Please could I use the pages of the Totley Independent to say "thank you" to all the people who have given their time to plant bulbs in Totley.

The corner by the Co-op is full of colour and the daffodils along Baslow Road are just coming out and promise to be spectacular in another few days. It looks as if spring is on its way and I'm sure it makes us all feel more cheerful. Thank you very much everyone who was involved.

Ann Powell

John Campion Barrows

One of Totley Independents long serving contributors passed away after quite a long illness John (Campy) Barrows who wrote stories about his walks and his beloved music for many years

He has contributed to our magazine since about February 1989 issue no 120 for a good 20 years his stories will be sadly missed by many.

He passed away on 12th March and his funeral took place at Hutcliffe Wood on Thursday 19th March We extend our condolences to his wife and family

A floral date for your diary

It may seem a long way off now, but it will not be long before Totley Open Gardens takes place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July from 1-5pm.



Have you never been round the Totley open gardens before? Well, try and make it this year – we have some lovely gardens, with a variety of flowers and vegetables, and cream teas in some, refreshments and plants for sale in others. You'll be surprised at some of our secret gardens right round the corner from you! Programmes will go on sale in Totley Library a

month before the event, and will be on sale outside 170 Baslow Road (the old Busy Bee, now Stablemate Equestrian) on the weekend of 11/12 July. More information nearer the time.

Totley Residents Association was one of the first communities to organise an open gardens event in Sheffield and this will be our eighth year. We have raised over £10,000, mostly for Transport 17 and some for the proposed community building in Greenoak Park.



We would also be very pleased to welcome new gardens, so if you would like to open your garden too, please don't feel shy, just contact Jennie Street Tel. 236-2302 email jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

Coffee Cakes and Cuttings

This is a preliminary notice to say that this annual event will be held at English Martyrs Church, Baslow Road on Saturday, 16 May 10 am to 12 noon. Any donations of plants, cakes, books and bric-a-brac will be most welcome. The main beneficiary as usual of this event is Transport 17.

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

The View from KES

I am delighted to be able to contribute to The Totley Independent again with news of events at King Egbert School. From next month we are hoping to be able to provide contributions from our A level English students to give a real flavour of the pupil view of our school.

This has been a very busy term and, despite the disruption caused by the snow before half term, we are heading towards the exam season in buoyant mood and confident of more pleasing exam results for our students, enabling them to move onto futures of their choosing.

There have been a number of high profile activities this term, but the high point for many pupils and staff has been the sold out production of "Blood Brothers" by Willy Russell which was performed in late February. A cast of young, but extremely talented actors put on a performance to rival the professional production that was taking place at the Lyceum and this was the judgement of a number of the audience who had seen both. There were many notable individual stars and also a huge number of younger pupils who will, I am sure, continue to be involved in drama and develop their talents over coming years. This was new head of drama, Cheryl Bartlett's, first production here and people are already asking how she will manage to match it. But seeing as it will be a musical next year, there is a good chance. However, buy tickets early next year because many people were disappointed this year. The middle of March saw our bi-annual "International Evening" staged. This is an opportunity to celebrate the wide range of cultures represented by our pupils and share an evening of music and dance. Again it was sold out and the Indian food that was served in the interval added extra spice to the event.

All the audience were wowed by the talented display that the pupils put on, with only a couple of weeks of planning and rehearsal. It was great to see our community policeman, PC Tom Goodhill, fully involved and working with the students to produce high quality dance routines. The event was ably co-ordinated by Jenny Choudhury.

After Easter the summer term is always very busy as many departments make use of the hopefully more reliable weather to take pupils beyond the classroom for their learning. A highlight for our school is the Year 8 residential when all Year 8 pupils are offered the opportunity to stay in the Peak District for three days and get involved in a range of outdoor pursuits and activities. Students working towards Duke of Edinburgh awards from year 10 onwards will also be in the countryside for their expeditions.

So watch this space for more news from King Egbert School in future editions. If you have any suggestions of anything you would like to know more about within our school or to visit us, then please get in touch.

Jackie Arundale Deputy Head 250 6855

Totley Townswomen's Guild

We have an interesting list of speakers for the coming year and a celebration in October marking the 80th anniversary of the Townswomen's Guild movement.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding August, at the Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall at 10.00 am until 12 noon. After a short business meeting we break for coffee and biscuits, the speaker on 21 April will be Judy Colby "The Wardrobe Mistress's Sale".

Do come along and see what we are all about, visitors are always welcome.

DOG FOULING IN OUR PARK

Whilst assisting with the Tree planting in Green Oak Park together with children from both County and All Saints School, Local Councillor and Director of Parks. Although it was a lovely day for the planting, lots of sunshine and very excitable children the event was spoilt by the amount of Dog Faeces which was all over the grass, we were asking the children to keep to the paths so they did not tread in any. Do dog owners not realise the dangers of not picking up? Dog fouling is very offensive and could cause serious health risk.

Dog faeces could spread infection by a parasite worm called *Toxacara canis*, to help eradicate this is to worm your dog regularly every 3 months is recommended this will kill any worms and help to protect your pet, if you are a responsible dog owner you will already be doing this.

Below are a few general questions and answers to show the dangers.

How many parks are infected with Toxacara Eggs?

Random soil sampling shows that the majority of the parks in the UK are contaminated with *Toxacara* eggs in various stages of development.

If Parks are disinfected would that eradicate Toxacara?

Toxacara eggs are resistant to freezing and disinfectants and can survive for two years or more.

Are all dogs infected?

It is reasonable to assume that all puppies are infected with *Toxacara T. canis* and produce larger numbers of eggs than an adult dog. However the prevalence of *Toxacara* diminishes as the dog grows older.

Are there many eggs in dog mess?

A single dog mess can contain approximately 1 million microscopic eggs.

So for the irresponsible Dog Owners who do not pick up, like the person who is allowing their dog to mess on the bowling green for which someone else has to remove the faeces. Think about the general public health issues, also we would like to keep our Park and the environment clean and free from Dog Mess.

Any person found not picking their dogs faeces up can be reported either to the 101 Police line or the Animal Wardens.

Marlene Marshall.

THE JOURNEY

I've travelled widely
Here and there
(I started out in Exeter).

South to north
North to south
I even went to Edinburgh.

I rested on a quiet sojourn
And caused quite a lot of concern
In case I became a resident
In a conservatory, sunny and pleasant.

I was transported out once more
And found my desired residence,
I now stand to attention, strictly,
At the corner of Baslow Road and Mickley,
Doing my duty proudly,
As a **NOTICE BOARD** for all to see.

Pauline

TOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Winter hit with a vengeance and for only the second time in my seven years at Totley Primary School we had to close due to snow. During the same week the children had been celebrating the Chinese New Year and cooking traditional Chinese food. A big thank you to those who came and helped out.

On 10th February Y5 along with their teacher and Deputy Head Mr Stewart dressed in Egyptian clothing. I am getting more than a little concerned about Mr Stewart's tenancy to wear dresses!

This year we are entering the Lord Mayor's Award plus Yorkshire in Bloom with the help of our trusted garden committee, Tom, Christine, Chris and Carol.

Every Friday afternoon this term between 1.20 and 2.20 we hold an enrichment class. Every member of staff takes a mixed age class in different topics. Mine is animal welfare. In five-week sessions I have six children (one from each year group) and we look at taking care of animals, i.e. feeding and cleaning my hens, rabbit, fish and dog. We hope to have a trip to Edwin Pocock's farm to see how sheep and lambs are looked after. I also have a promise of two ponies being brought to the school. Sadly this had to be put on hold during the snow and ice. If

anyone reading this has a pet they would like to bring into school and talk to my group you would be most welcome. Contact me on 236 4482.

HELP, HELP, HELP can anyone make a cold frame or two in order for the children to grow plants from seeds. We would be very grateful and would be happy to mention your name in despatches.

Allen Miller Building Supervisor

THE ULTIMATE MEMENTO OF YOUR WEDDING



Your own dedicated website - capturing your most special day.

Photos, video, audio, messages....whatever you and your guests record on the day.....all presented together, and shared with family and friends - wherever they live - for as long as you wish.

Contact:

John or Jennie on 2362302 or 07795 280 603

www.silverserviceconsultancy.co.uk/memento.htm

Peak District Planning Issues

Residents, visitors and businesses are being asked to comment on options that will be used to decide whether future planning applications in the Peak District are acceptable or not.

The Local Development Framework will be the master plan against which all planning applications in the national park are judged from 2011 to 2026.

The legal document will affect everyone who makes a planning application, whether they want to alter their property, build a new home, add an extension or create a business.

It will also look at issues like:

- how much affordable housing should be built
- the impact of climate change on the Peak District landscape
- how many wind turbines or other renewable energy schemes should be allowed and
- how much tourist accommodation should be allowed.

The public consultation runs until 10 April and can be seen by visiting www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ldfconsultation and following the on-screen instructions, which allows comments to be made online.

Summary and full-length versions of the consultation document have been produced. Both have seven sections with different options to consider. The sections are:

1. landscape
2. climate change and natural resources
3. housing
4. settlements
5. transport
6. economy
7. minerals.

Responses to the consultation can also be made by email to policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk or by writing to Brian Taylor, Policy Planning Manager, Peak District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Derbyshire, DE45 1AE.

Details of how to read or get paper versions of the consultation can be obtained from the authority's customer service team on 01629 816200 or by emailing customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

All the comments from the consultation will be used to produce a final draft version of the Local Development Framework by the end of the year.

A further public consultation will then be held before the document is sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to approve. The plan is expected to come into force in 2011.

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 2366891. 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!

PUZZLE CORNER

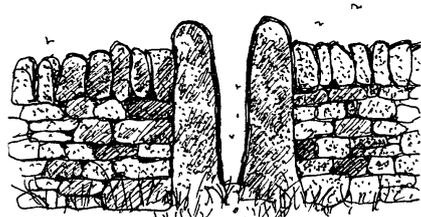
Anagram Town

Find an anagram in each clue so that, taken in order 1-9 the first letter of each solution make the name of a Derbyshire town.

1. OCEAN
2. SITTAR
3. RATTLES
4. SHATTER
5. SOLVER
6. REAGENTS
7. HECTARE
8. TONES
9. TRANCE

STOOPS AND STILES AROUND TOTLEY AND DORE

When ancient man created fields, stones were piled up to create enclosures in order to keep livestock under control. He then made primitive pole gates. The Romans appear to have introduced swinging and hinged gates. Pole gates were used too whereby openings in the walls had substantial stone pillars with slots to take the poles and the Totley area contains many examples. Footpaths were created between settlements or, for example, to gain access to water. When a wall (or hedge) was encountered then methods of passing over or through that obstruction were created. It was okay for pedestrians but kept the animals from passing through. There are many examples incorporating different solutions. Large projecting 'through' stones were passed through the wall enabling pedestrians to step over. These were called stiles and there is an Anglo Saxon term stig (or stigel) which refers to climbing up or down and this term led to the word stile. In some cases instead of stone, the stile may be made of wooden or iron steps and there must be hundreds of different designs, some dating from the middle ages. Several places have 'stile' as part of their name and there is a Styal in Cheshire. Constructions were developed whereby people could pass through a narrow opening whilst proving too difficult for animals to pass through. So vertical pillars of stone were introduced on either side of a narrow opening rather like a smaller version of the pole gates mentioned above, but sometimes known as a 'vee' or 'wedge' openings. These pillars are locally called 'stoops' and where there is a pair they are called squeezers or 'belly squeezers'. At a lecture I was giving in Preston recently I was informed that in Lancashire they were known by the wonderful name of 'fat man's agony', a term also used in the Bath area. On occasions where larger pillars are not available the wall on either side of the opening is terminated in stonework called cheeks. I have no doubt that there are many other versions around the country. Many examples of squeezers have one or two low steps between the stoops and others have an additional stoop positioned centrally but set back. Look around and you'll be surprised how many varieties there are; if you see something special do a quick sketch (or even a beautiful drawing) and send them to me at (appropriately) Two Stones, Mires Lane, Great Longstone DE45 1NP. Please give the location.



A PAIR OF BRISTOL STOOPS OR POSTS - SOMETIMES CALLED BELLY SQUEEZERS OR FAT MAN'S AGONY.

There are one or two surviving examples of wrought iron wicket gates in the Dore and Totley areas and are known as 'kissing gates' for obvious reasons; they provide a fine excuse for coming face to face with your partner, planting a kiss on his/her cheek. Sadly, very few examples remain in entirety and replacements are rare. Great Longstone, where I live, has recently had a complete replacement kissing gate installed on the approach to the church; the graveyard also has a fine example of squeezers.

BRIAN EDWARDS

Green Oak Bowling Club 2009

The bowling season begins in April 2009 and finishes at the end of September.

Club membership is £16.00, casual players pay £8.00 to pay all season. New members are always welcome, bowls can be hired, for details call 0114 236 5499. Any Sunday afternoon members are always available for a chat or for a game.

Junior Bowls

Junior club is held every Tuesday evening 6.00 - 7.30pm, throughout the season. Young people aged between 6 to 15 years old are welcome to come at any Tuesday for a game and there's no need to stay for the whole hour and a half. Parents are welcome to stay and watch or can leave their child and collect them later. The junior club is **FREE** so why not come along and give it a go. The junior team plays their matches on a Saturday morning (school term times only), the team of 5 is chosen on a weekly basis and they compete in the Parks League. For further information contact Sylvia Ruddle 0114 236 5499

1st Totley Scout Lottery

Lottery draw for February 2009

1st Prize No 19
Mr and Mrs Willis
Totley Grange Road
Kenwood Stainless
Jug Kettle 360

2nd Prize No 42
Mrs Bevan
Totley Grange Drive
£10 Voucher

Lottery draw for March 2009

1st Prize No 44
Mr and Mrs Newbould
The Quadrant
Theatre Tickets

2nd Prize No 11
Mr and Mrs Rolfe
The Grove
£10 Voucher

Peter Casson

GLOVER ROAD

Will the person whose dog keeps defecating on the pavement in Glover Road, please come and clean it up and also take the dog elsewhere. When I find out who it is, I shall make sure similar deposits are placed outside his or her home.

Steve Wiles

A True Story

This slug wandered into a different garden and after a few minutes munching away he was set upon by 3 snails that attacked him, beat him up rather badly then left him.

He managed eventually to make his way to the Police Station and made a statement regarding the mugging. At the end of which, he was asked if he could give a description of any of the assailants, to which he replied, "not really, it happened so fast!"
Anon

Bulldoze the Homes

I cannot believe that the company Hazel Holmes are not complying with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 over the buildings near Green Oak Park. The homes look like long stay hospitals in the area. Mencap says that housing must be accessible for people with a learning disability. You can log on to Changing Places website www.changing-places.org or National Mencap website for further information, www.mencap.org.uk.

Paul Savage

Farming Scene

Here we are in the middle of March and the sun is getting warmer, the grass fields are beginning to look green and there is a whiff of spring in the air. The optimism that this thought brings has to be tempered by the fact that we have yet to see the "May" in flower to celebrate Easter. Both these events are almost certain to guarantee a period of cold and wet, even stormy weather. The Blackthorn that produces the "May" flowers is usually one of the last bushes to break bud and produces flowers first rather than leaves as most other species do. It is the "May" Flowers that eventually produce the sloes (very small plum type fruits) so sought after by sloe gin makers. The few bushes we have on the farm produced no fruit at all last year whereas there was an abundance the previous year. Even so there was no comparison in size or quantity to some we found on hedges growing some 120 yards away from the sea down in Brixham, Devon some 4 or 5 years ago. Perhaps it was just the climate as the area is called the "English Riviera" due to its warm weather, or the sea air, or maybe it was just a better, more productive type of plant or soil. However, the sloes were as big as small damsons or greengages. Needless to say we had to bring a bagful back with us to produce bottles of sloe gin. I have to say that it's not my favourite tippie but some people really love it.

Nearer to home, we seem to have a resident pair of herons on the farm. They seem to like the fields on the higher part of the farm near to Gillfield Wood. Presumably they are enjoying a few hours a day out in the open before returning to the nearby woods and stream where their real home and food supply is. Just seems very strange seeing them standing in the middle of a grass field with sheep nearby and no water or fish in sight! Due to the amount of "hammering" we have heard lately we must have a few woodpeckers around as well.

We are now planning our grass production for this year and estimating how much fertiliser we will have to buy. Fortunately, the price has now fallen by 15-20% from the highs reached last autumn. Our testing has indicated that some of the fields now require a dressing of limestone to reduce the acidity in the soil. To produce optimum yields of nutritious grass the ph (the acidity measuring scale) should be between 6 to 6.5. Highly acid or alkaline soils give reduced yields and problems with nutrients and minerals which can lead to poor health and death in livestock. We have ordered 60 tonnes of maglime, a powdery form of limestone that naturally contains magnesium, a vital mineral to sheep health to be spread on some of our fields at one or 2 tonnes per acre. This should correct the current deficits and keep the soil at the right ph for the next 5 years.

The ewe and tup lambs from our November/December Dorset lambing that we are retaining for breeding, or sale, are now out in a field at the bottom of Totle Hall Lane. These will gradually be weaned off the 18% protein "rocket fuel" concentrate they have been eating when inside so that over the next 4-6 weeks they will become ever more reliant on a grass only diet.

The others have nearly all gone to Bakewell Market now and have probably ended up as "spring lamb" on restaurant menus.

The Texel flock is due to be brought back to the farmstead this week with an expected lambing start date of 26 March. These should only be inside for approximately 10 days after they have lambed, weather permitting, as there will be grass available for them to be turned out onto. It will look as if spring really has arrived when the fields are full of ewes and new born lambs again.

Warm spring weather also brings the threat of "blue tongue" infection nearer as the midges wake up and start their feeding and travels. We have already inoculated all the Dorset sheep and the Texels will be injected once they have been lambed.

In all we will have to treat some 700 animals at 60 pence per head plus labour costs. It will end up approximately £1.50 per head overall in extra disease prevention costs.

The next big cost increase is the compulsory double tagging and electronic identification of individual sheep. Again this will increase our costs by approximately £1.50 per head plus the cost of the computer programme and tag chip reader at £1,500. This is an EU regulation that fully comes into force in January 2010 but has to be partly implemented this year.

This concept has 2 objectives. Firstly it should make sheep movements more easy to trace in the event of an outbreak of disease like foot and mouth so that contact animals can be isolated or slaughtered to prevent further spread of infection. Secondly, this is an attempt to be able to trace the history of a lamb from birth to plate to give supermarket and consumers the ability to see where it came from how it was reared, how far it has travelled and where and when it was killed. In other words full traceability. This concept will work in theory but practical problems will cost doubt on its ability to give full and accurate information. For many farmers this will be "the straw that breaks the camel's back" as they would rather quit sheep production than have to deal with a further layer of difficult legislation to comply with. This particularly applies to the larger hill farmers where thousands of sheep would need to be regularly identified and recorded. An almost impossible task. I suppose this legislation is indicative of the form based world we live in at the moment. Life was much less complicated when I started farming some 45 years ago, in the "good old days"!

Edwin Pocock



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Alan Faulkner Taylor

Sadly I have to report the death of Alan Faulkner Taylor on 1st March at the age of 90.

Habitual readers of the Independent will recall with pleasure the regular articles on wildlife written by Alan over the years. Alan had a lifelong interest in nature and as a professional photographer, worked with the late Sir Peter Scott on wildlife films for television in the nineteen fifties. Some local residents may have attended lectures and film shows on wildlife given by Alan at Totley library, Dore church hall and other venues. They were delivered with profound knowledge not without humour.

Alan was a native of Sheffield and attended King Edward V11 grammar school. He was a boy scout and retained an affection for the movement. When shaking hands with a fellow scout they would always use their left hands. During the war Alan joined the Royal Air Force as a photographer and, as he once told me with pride, took photographs of Monty and Guy Gibson.

Alan received medals from the Royal Photographic Society for his work being a perfectionist and never accepting second best. He worked for many years at English Steel Corporation and made promotional films for the company. He became a self-employed photographer and author submitting numerous articles and photographs to a variety of magazines and calendars which were invariably published. He also published at least 2 books - Peakland Rockscapes and Naturalist's Third Eye. Alan took great pleasure in painting as an amateur artist.

On a personal note as a neighbour and friend in King Egbert Road Alan introduced me to the beauty of Snowdonia, the Lake District and Scotland. Nearer to home he organised trips once a week into the Peak District with a few friends including myself, entertaining us with a delightful and knowledgeable commentary. This contact led to a large increase in my personal collection of photographs as Alan never travelled without his beloved camera. One of these, taken with the help of a passerby, shows us celebrating his 80th birthday on Kinder Scout with a bottle of wine.

Alan was always pleased to share his experiences and helped me with my own writings - in particular he persuaded me to buy a word processor to type and print my articles for the Independent.

Alan continued to attend meetings of Dore Probus Club until his final illness. He was a regular worshipper either at the United Reform Church on Totley Brook Road or, if transport was available, at Beauchief Abbey. I shall remember him with affection and with gratitude. My condolences go to his widow Rose and to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Rose tells me that Alan always wished his ashes to be scattered on Kinder Scout. Dominic, his eldest grandson, is to gratify this wish together with the rest of the family on an appropriate day.

Hugh Percival

PUZZLE CORNER

Solution to Anagram Town

1. CANOE
2. ARTIST
3. STARLET
4. THREATS
5. LOVERS
6. ESTRANGE
7. TEACHER
8. ONSET
9. NECTAR

Town: CASTLETON

Don Ashford

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

Tuesday 14th Fleur Folk Group

we have stopped serving food for the time being

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THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

Many Christians believe that divine healing takes place today through the power of Jesus Christ and there is a lot of evidence to prove it. Healing prayer is offered regularly at All Saints Parish Church, Totley, with some success.

All Saints Parish Church, along with friends from other local churches have decided to offer divine healing, to the public at large in a public place.

If anyone has an illness or situation affecting their emotions, their mind or their body, they are welcome to come for divine healing prayer, without obligation.



This will happen at the Fleur de Lys Public House, Totley Hall Lane (function room, entrance at end of pub near main road A621 Baslow Road).

Every TUESDAY in APRIL, 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

For information, email contact: missionbritain@aol.com OR tel Brian on 07877303709

Abbeydale Picture House

Another successful year at the Abbeydale has gone and we now look towards the bright year ahead. 2008 saw a new website, a new campaign (Raising the Rafters), a musical farce by Actability, the modern version of 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' titled 'Dream On' by the PHYT (Picture House Youth Theatre) Juniors, a hit musical 'Me and My Girl' by the PHYT Seniors, a Christmas extravaganza and many musical performances by some of Sheffield's talented musicians and singers.

Since Christmas we have been organising upcoming shows and events like 'Copacabana' and 'The Rocky Monster Show', we have started our Saturday Coffee mornings and have finished off some alterations to the building.

First our Coffee Mornings. These started in January and have been a massive hit, we have even been running out of hand made treats to sell. Every Saturday morning you can meet up with friends and family for a coffee and some treats in the foyer of the Abbeydale Picture House. Sit in the foyer of this beautiful 1920's cinema and watch the morning drift past as you sip some coffee with your friends. These are held every Saturday 10:30-12:30 in the foyer of the main theatre.

Our stage and auditorium have recently seen some changes which have been made possible by the Wednesday club, the Hallam University students and everyone else who gave up their time and money. Art Deco lighting has been fitted in the auditorium to brighten up the theatre when the audience are finding their seats and moving around. The wings (sides) of the stage have been widened to allow for smoother transitions for both performers and scenery; these wider wings allow many more performers to go on and off the stage as well as having more space to house the scenery and props when they are not needed. Parts of the auditorium have also had a lick of paint to freshen it up.

At the moment rehearsals are under way for the upcoming shows and plans are underway for more events. Hopefully with your help 2009 will be the best year yet for the restoration. Don't forget you can still donate to our 'Raising the Rafters' campaign as we need to try and make the building water tight before the winter comes again and damages more of the interior. Simply pick up a form when your next at the Abbeydale, you could also pick one up for becoming a friend which only costs £12 a year and runs from October-October.

I hope to see you all at the Abbeydale this year and join us for more fun and entertainment in the main house or Bar Abbey which has events most weeks of the year.

We would like to apologise for those who have experienced problems with our website, we are trying to rectify this problem

Still to come in the main house:

'The Rocky Monster Show' performed by the PHYT Juniors- April 3rd (7:15pm) and April 4th (2:15pm and 7:15pm). If you loved the Addams Family, Frankenstein or Rocky Horror you'll love this spectacular, freakish show. Join our cast of little horrors for a ghoulish night of family fun and gothic proportions at the Abbeydale. Join us at just £5 per ticket. Call 07759 66106 to book.

Don't forget to keep a look out for more upcoming shows and events like 'Copacabana' in July.

Still to come in Bar Abbey:

Northern Soul, Abocom, Jazz and much more.

Ben Miller

Earthworks

The frogs have appeared in my garden pond. They arrived unobtrusively in ones and twos until, after a few days, it was as though there was a many-limbed monster just under the surface. The swirling and the occasional shiny black head breaking cover betray the real source of the rumpus though. When they feel themselves unobserved, the frogs rollick around, thrashing and fighting. But if I walk down to take a closer look, they all dive down amongst the weed, out of sight. I have to sit still for a good five minutes before they relax enough to show themselves, but they always seem to sense they are being watched and never quite relax until I'm well out of the way.

As the full moon rose luminous on one of my evening walks a couple of weeks ago I was anticipating a whole load of frog spawn in the water the next morning. Surely, what better time to lay eggs than at a full moon? So momentous and significant. But none appeared. They waited another three days to lay. Do frogs know the best time to lay their eggs or is it all just a mad game of hit and miss? Are they as well tuned to nature's rhythms and cycles as I imagine them to be? Every year hundreds of tadpoles emerge into the pond from their goo and by midsummer have transformed themselves into cute little replicas of their parents. It seems to be a very successful system of reproduction. But who knows how many of those little wigglers never get to grow legs?

As with so much else, it all seems to hang on timing! At this time of year any conversation with a gardener will involve much verbal circling and brinkmanship; sussing out the other guy's progress without revealing any of your own planting plans. Growing vegetables is a hit and miss business even in the best of seasons and there is a lot of gardener's pride riding on the decision about when to sow. Despite all our huffing and puffing about gardening skills, all we can really do is sniff the wind, watch the sky and take a chance that we have sown the right seeds at the right time.

It was so wet last spring that had a fellow gardener told me during March that they had planted their potatoes, I'd had sucked in my breath and made admiring noises about bravery, at the same time congratulating myself on my own good sense for not having planted mine. But this spring has been so dry and warm that I'd be more likely to react with panic at the same conversation if I'd not already planted my own potatoes.

There is hope though for gardeners who want a definitive guide to the timing of sowing and tending their crops. The Bio-Dynamic system of gardening maps out each day of the year as being auspicious for particular crops. Leafy crops, roots, flowers and fruit all have their days linked to the starry constellations through the movement of the moon across the heavens. This system makes for a very rigid framework for the care of crops and although I know from years of experience that working with Nature is the best way to grow great vegetables and flowers, the authoritativeness of Bio-Dynamics is a step too far for me. I want to take the chance that I might get it wrong, because it is so satisfying when I don't.

Even though I trust in my gardener's instincts and the power of the gardening genes I inherited from my Dad, right now I am quacking in the face of the awesome decision about when to sow my parsnips!

Gardening Tips for April

I think April is one of the best months for gardeners, the bad weather is almost over (I hope), the seeds are germinating; the perennials are putting new shoots out giving us something to look forward to.

The frogs are at it again, I hope they are a bit less fertile this year than last. I spent quite a long time clearing up frog spawn after they filled the pond with their efforts. The school gardening club started this week (11 March), we did a soil testing exercise on the 7 plots and found the soil was a bit acidic so some lime will have to be added especially where brassicas are to be grown, manure will be added a bit later on as lime and horse or farm manure are not very compatible. The children found the exercise interesting.

Our garden is just starting to show some spring colour primulas, daffodils and crocus looking well. The witch hazel is in full bloom with its whisky flowers giving a yellow splash of colour near the pond, the old oak tree has had a short back and sides trim; it was leaning over my greenhouse rather precariously so the tree surgeons removed it with their chain saws and it was quite denuded when they had finished, it will be interesting to see how it recovers from this drastic prune. There will be a lot less leaves to clear up this year in Rosie's (my neighbour) and my garden. The soil should be warming up soon so that we can put out the tender plants that have been overwintering and we will be able to start planting out the flowers and vegetable plants which are waiting anxiously in the greenhouse and cold frames. Christine has been tidying up the paths etc; it makes the garden look less neglected and helps to keep the weeds under control. The lawn is looking good; the autumn/winter fertiliser I applied in October has certainly paid dividends. I will give it a spring dressing soon, this will give us a super sward for the summer so that we can sit in the glorious sunshine sipping our tea or soft drinks and nibbling on our BBQ sausages (we hope). We did not do much of that sort of thing last year. I see that Vivien Filleul's résumé of the weather in last month's TI confirms this. She pointed out that the hottest day was 26.5C; I do not remember that it must have been a real flash in the pan, the rain I do remember. Though her record shows not a lot of different from the year before, that is British weather for you. I hope you are beavering away at all these things you are going to put in The Totley Show, the photographs, paintings, tapestry, woodwork and practicing making those lovely cakes and apple pies so that you have the perfect product on the day. I look forward to receiving a few samples so that I can give you my expert opinion (I am certified you know). I won't hold my breath.

FLOWERS

Plant out Sweet Pea seedlings, there's still time to sow hardy annuals, the sooner the better. Clematis can be planted now, if possible obtain pot grown plants, place a stone or gravel over the root area to give shade. It's a good time to take cuttings from choice herbaceous plants, Delphinium, Phlox, Lupins etc. they will grow well from young shoots. Cut off below ground level, close to the crown of the plant, plant in peat or sharp sand mixture and place in a coolish propagator and shade from bright sunlight. Gladiolus planting should be completed this month. If you have not tried them before, try a few. Chinchinchees make a nice show; they must be in a sunny spot. As Daffodils and other bulbs finish flowering, remove the dead flowers, this will encourage bulb growth for next season. Take advantage of any warm spells to harden off any summer bedding plants. Plant up alpines & rock plants. Plant up Dahlia tubers at the end of the month. Apply Tonks or a good fertiliser to roses, finish pruning them. Sow hardy annuals, protect from frost. Sow Delphiniums, Lupins and Rock plants under a frame or indoors.

VEGETABLES

Prepare the ground for sowing and planting, harden off plants such as cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce etc. which have been grown indoors. Plant broad beans. Watch out for aphids, caterpillars and spray or dust with insecticide. Use your favourite slug eradicator. Plant early and maincrop potatoes, onion sets and shallots.

Plant out rooted cuttings of herbs, such as Bay, Mint, Rosemary and Sage. Sow all salad crops now, cover if frost is forecast. Cucumbers, Marrows, Outdoor Tomatoes, Runner Beans and Sweetcorn can be sown in warmth under a frame or indoors. Your sprouting Broccoli should be giving a good harvest about now. Put up your Runner Bean supports. Keep the weeds down, a good clear up will pay dividends later.

TREES, SHRUBS & FRUIT

Check all ties, wires and supports. Give established trees a good feed and mulch around the roots to prevent drying out. Spray with insecticide as soon as

any signs of aphid or caterpillar appears. Put cloches over selected strawberry plants to encourage the ripening of a few early fruits, barn cloches are best. Spray gooseberries with a solution of washing soda to prevent mildew. Make sure that all newly planted trees, bushes or canes are well watered, particularly in dry spells. Water round Rhododendrons and Azaleas with iron sequestrine. If you want to move them, now is the time. Prune spring flowering shrubs as the flowers fade. Prune shrubs such as Buddleia & Lilac. Cut back straggly lavender and flowered shoots of heathers. Plant out container grown conifers and evergreen.

GREENHOUSE AND INDOOR PLANTS

The sowing of half hardy annuals should be completed and seeds planted earlier will need pricking out. Fuchsias need to be potted into larger pots as the roots fill the smaller pots, rooted cuttings of outdoor chrysanthemums should be transferred to a frame and hardened off as quickly as the weather will allow. Sow seeds of melons and cucumber, best method is to sow 2 seeds in 3" pots and reduce to 1 plant if both germinate, selecting the stronger of the two. Further batches of Achemenes can be potted for succession. Shade seedlings and tender plants from direct sunlight. Keep a close eye on ventilation, automatic opening lights are a good investment. Gradually increase watering and give cacti their first watering of the year, feed established house plants.

Gently wash the leaves of foliage plants and stand them outside during a warm rain shower. Plant tubers of tuberous begonias and hot water plants.

LAWN

Keep lawn areas clean and aerate by spiking, apply lawn dressing or liquid feed. Treat patches of moss with moss killer and rake up dead moss, patch any damaged areas with turf or seed. Seed new lawns and keep well watered in dry weather.

GENERAL

Watch the weather, April can be very unpredictable with dry sunny spells and then icy conditions, so delay any planting out if it proves to be a cold spring.

Cheerio for now, Tom

OLD TOTLEY by Jo Rundle

During the break between lunch and tea on this my first day at Totley Hall, I had time to look around the other rooms that were going to be my responsibility. The kitchen, with its beautiful red-tiled floor, was about 15ft. square, one wall being furnished to within 2ft. from the ceiling, with large oak cupboards in which all the dry goods necessary for cooking were stored; the bottom row housing large utensils, chopping boards, and other equipment used during the process. The right hand wall was almost obliterated by the huge 8ft. high black Yorkshire range that housed two large ovens under a long wide shelf overhead, and one at floor level on one side of the largest fire-grate that I had seen, the other side being filled with a large water-boiler on which stood a huge black kettle that tomorrow morning I would have to fill for morning tea. On first sight I wondered whether I would be able to lift, empty or full! The shelf, and a second one above, were filled with brass and copper pans of all sizes, two copper kettles, and an assortment of smaller utensils from bygone days, a collection that would keep me busy every Friday from now on.

Standing out from the top of the topmost shelf the fireplace still boasted an ancient roasting spit with its turning mechanism and pulley wheel still attached, yet high enough not to be in the way. In the far right-hand corner of the kitchen a door led to the scullery, which had once been the carriage-room until a Crossley car replaced the Carriage, when benches were installed and it became an addition to the kitchen. One of the benches held a large iron coffee-grinding machine on which, every morning I had to grind coffee and make morning coffee, after lunch and dinner for the mistress and guests, with plenty left over with milk added to be heated next day for servants morning break, and anyone else who happened to be visiting i.e. chauffeurs, ladies maids, or Mr. Lewis the Head-gardener.

The scullery was, in effect, the vegetable room, where, not only coffee, soups, and sauces were made, but also all vegetables were cooked on the gas rings or in the large oven, an extra facility that was able to roast all the potatoes or other vegetables on the menu when there was an influx of visitors for a dinner party of eight or ten guests. I soon understood why Mrs. Milner had been so particular about the dimensions of the sink, much more so than some of the employers that my Father had criticised, for it was high! I was not a little girl by any means, but I was grateful for the duck-board already in position, with a second one standing by in case it was needed, for two hours of my working morning was spent at the sink preparing all the vegetables that were required for lunch and dinner for the whole household.

With this responsibility during the first month I was very happy in the knowledge that there was cook next door if a calamity was to be avoided, which fortunately never happened. That was not quite true, there was one evening three months later when things went 'bottom-up' but that's another story! The room next to the scullery and the last in this block that had originally been the stable for the carriage horses, had converted into the garage for the new car. However, it still had remnants of the stable in the abundance of rats in the loft, whom I was to hear more on the first night in my new bedroom over the scullery. The area at the top of the corridor from which rose the stairs to the back landing, also led to the still room where wide stone benches held large bowls of milk delivered every morning by Connie, daughter of Mr. Tym of Totley Hall Farm. In one corner stood a six-foot square, floor to ceiling, cold room that was used for setting jellies, partly-made puddings and delicacies, and for storage of meat and other vulnerable foods delivered from the grocer and Thompsons the butchers of Totley Rise.

Although shooting-parties were not held at the Hall any more, pheasants, grouse, and partridge were often sent by friends and Mrs Wilson (daughter) of

Horsleygate Hall and as fridges and freezers, as we know them today, had not yet arrived in England, meat such as large whole legs of mutton and game were hung in a meat-safe, a huge cage with all sides made of strong steel netting, that was attached to the outside wall of the main bathroom from where meat and game could be retrieved when required in the kitchen.

Lily now explained what my full weekly work routine consisted of, at first a little daunting, for I would be responsible for keeping clean the servants hall, lighting the fire every morning, dusting and tidying after each meal in case there were unexpected visitors, and a complete turn-out on Tuesday, including black leading the fire place, and cleaning the window. The scullery must have a thorough clean on Monday, when the gas-stove top, and oven, must be cleaned, all benches scrubbed, and stone-flagged floor scrubbed or swilled as necessary. On Wednesday the stone benches in the pantry must have a thorough clean to clear any spilled milk or cream, and, with the aid of cook the milk bowls must be assessed, removed and washed when necessary, a task that should be repeated each day to avoid danger of infection. Cleaning the still room will be at the advice and help of the cook when necessary. As Thursday is the kitchen-maid's day off no work will be scheduled after breakfast. On Friday the kitchen stove must be black-leaded, the boiler drained and filled with clean water and the usual preparations for breakfast. After breakfast when all dishes and pans have been washed and put away, the floor must be scrubbed and left to dry. As this is cook's day off, lunch and dinner, or high tea, which will have been partly prepared by cook before leaving, will be finished off by the kitchen maid, and supervised by the parlour maid at the appropriate times. After breakfast all copper pans, bowls, and other items will be polished and replaced in their original places. In between cleaning when cook is preparing meals cook may call for assistance, or wish to explain a method e.g. making a sauce, icing a cake, and it is the duty of the kitchen maid to learn and thereby help the cook in her work. I must rise at 6am each morning, when daily work will begin by clearing out the ashes from the fire grate left from the previous day's fire and, after rubbing down the huge fireplace, lay and light a new fire with sticks and coal brought in by the boots-cum-garden boy the night before. The kettle must be filled with water and set to boil and be ready at 7.30am for Mary, the head house-maid to make morning tea for everybody. The kitchen floor must be swept; all cupboards dusted; and table scrubbed, with boards, utensils, tools and cutlery laid out, and porridge and frying pans on the boiler top of the stove, all ready for Lily to prepare breakfasts. Mary will take a glass of hot water to the mistress's bedroom and a cup of tea for the master. I

must take a cup of tea and call Lily, who will prepare breakfast for the master and mistress and Staff, whilst I dust and light the fire in the servant's hall, and lay the table for breakfast. Note. Mr. Milner died on the 21st January 1931, when, for a short time we had only the mistress to serve. Unless there were visitors, dinner was served at 8pm and this was my first opportunity to work with a cook, her right hand man so to speak. Much of the preparation had been done in the morning before I arrived, but there was plenty for me to gain my first insight into the routine of preparing and serving dinner for the mistress, and I eagerly looked forward to my first full working day.

After dinner on the first night we all relaxed in the Servants Hall when the clock chimed 9pm "Bed time Joss" said Lily, "you have to be up early, say good-night". I had already seen my bedroom, but now had the first opportunity to appreciate what it really meant, and huge in relation to those in our cottage, and comfortably housed the two beds, wardrobes and dressing tables, leaving plenty of room between for a certain amount of privacy, and through my eyes, sheer luxury. It didn't matter that I had nothing to put on my own dressing table, it was mine, my drawers, my mirror, and I was rich, if not in money certainly in stature and a new-found confidence. Undressing leisurely and savouring the moments, I had just fallen into the luxury of my new bed when Annie, the under-housemaid, with whom I was to share the room, burst in, quickly undressed, put out the light, and dived into her bed, and for a few moments was silent.

It started with a faint shuffle, then a definite rumble, and soon the intense noise of running feet. Annie, silent throughout, turned over and in a matter of fact voice said "Don't worry Joss, it's only the resident rats having their village sports, they can't get through and they'll soon stop, so get off to sleep". After such an exciting day it didn't take me long to do just that, and it seemed to be but five minutes until the little alarm clock that I had found on my side-table, burst out with it's warning notes, 'get up, get up, it's time to get up', and I did so willingly, eager to start my first day of independence, but not for the scene that met me when I opened the kitchen door. Right there in front of me about a dozen young mice, surprised by the sudden light, were frantically scuttling back to their holes somewhere behind the fireplace. Even a quick dash for a poker wasn't quick enough to catch even the last one, and there were tense moments until a roaring fire gave some comfort against their return.

Mary's appearance at 7.30am was a relief and surprise when she asked if I had seen any mice and, on hearing my affirmative, she had the solution. "Before you go to bed leave an oven plate reared-up just inside the kitchen door, and in the morning, open the door just enough to grab it before you put on the light, then make a dash and drop it on top of them, and you'll catch at least one every morning". Following her advice I soon got used to the routine and after a couple of weeks they had all disappeared. I finished the first tasks of the morning with little trouble and finished well in time to deliver cook's cup of tea, and make a start on the servants Hall.

Weekends were much less hectic than the previous days as the gardeners finished work at 12 noon on Saturday, and all indoor servants were allowed a weekend off every six weeks, as well as Sunday morning to attend church if requested; a concession of which only Lily took advantage. Instead of the

usual breakfasts of porridge, bacon, eggs, and toast, both mistress and servants had the same; grilled sausages and gravy on Saturday; boiled eggs on Sunday, and only essential jobs were carried out, allowing me two days of reflection, and preparation for the following week's work.

My job so far had been housework only, and Monday followed the same routine, until 8.45am when Mr. Lewis, the head gardener (David, whose photograph was in the Totley Independent no 306) appeared at the kitchen door to inform Lily as to what vegetables and fruit were available for meals that day. At nine o'clock the Mistress could be heard calling "cook cook" on her way to the still room, and Lily, now in clean apron, and with a final pat to her hair, followed. The list was discussed, from which both cook and mistress designed and planned the menu for lunch and dinner that day, including any items that were left from the previous day for, contrary to what is generally believed, all aristocracy are very particular, and clever in the practice of economy and, in my own experience, is sometimes a practice that results in some unusual and delicious recipes. Although, sometimes economy resulted in more time-consuming practice as when the 2ft by 4in bars of soap were delivered every three months with the grocery order, to be cut into 4in. squares and tossed onto the top of the kitchen cupboards, there to dry out for three months before use. When trying to raise a lather in the pancheon full of hot water for dish-washing it was time consuming, and very difficult.

Discussion over, Cook returned to the kitchen and told me what had been arranged, and what I had to do. I was delighted, nay overjoyed, to hear that I was to be the vegetable cook, and must learn to prepare and cook all vegetables and fruit that the gardens produced. I wasn't worried, after all I had grown-up with a gardening father, and a cooking mother; until I was confronted by Chinese artichokes; little, one inch long, corkscrew shaped things, more like the 2oz of creamy whirl sweets that we could buy with our Saturday penny, than vegetables that needed the bristles of a tooth-brush to tempt every grain of soil out of the spiral grooves. Sea kale, asparagus, spinach, globe and Dutch artichokes, salsify and beetroot; endive, lettuce and all the other salad crops and herbs, forced or natural, arrived in their seasons, whatever was ready to harvest had to be cooked, or used in salads, not only the basic tea-time or lunch variety, but those for dinner parties, or when special guests were invited to high tea instead of the usual dinner.

These were usually on the occasion when Mr. Eric Roberts was appearing in a play at the Playhouse in Sheffield where he was one of the permanent members of the cast, and often chosen for a particular part in a play. The guest list always included his mother, Lady Roberts (Mrs Milner's sister-in-law), Sir William Ellis, and The Hon. Violet Warde Aldam, cousin of Mr. Milner, Mr. Billy (son) and family; Mrs Wilson (daughter) and family, usually about 12 persons in all who left for the theatre after the meal to show appreciation of their talented relative. The lobster mayonnaise produced for this high-tea was a complete meal in itself, hence its suitability for the occasion. Designed and made on a 24" circular silver tray in patterns designed with cucumber butterflies, radish lilies, or carrot roses, outlined by borders of finely chopped chives, the smallest leaves of mint, or the orange petals of calendula. All to enhance the

flavour, and sight of the huge cooked lobster prepared by Lily and displayed in the centre of the tray, its eggs arranged in small heaps, to titillate the appetite.

Eventually, it seemed that at least half my time was spent in the scullery for, as well as preparing and cooking vegetables every morning I ground coffee in the machine that was fixed to one of the benches to make morning coffee, after lunch and dinner, for mistress and guests, with plenty left over to which milk was added and served next day to the servants and anyone who happened to 'pop-in'. A regular visitor was Mr. Rowlands, Mrs Wilson's chauffeur, a lively, handsome, friendly man who, although harmless, had the eyes and smile that, as my Great-Grandmother used to say, "Could fetch the ducks off the water" Sometimes the kitchen was full with chauffeurs, ladies' maids, visiting friends of staff, or Mr. Lewis who managed to hit on coffee time to deliver the vegetables. Much news was exchanged and stories told, including also a great deal of 'banter' when I, the latest and youngest member of the household made a hasty retreat to the safety of the scullery, there to continue with my daily chores. It was on such occasions when Nurse Forbes decided to have coffee with us, as a change from her own room, the old day nursery, times when we could escape into the servants' hall, or she would follow me into the scullery. It was during these special moments that I learned about life at the Hall when the children were young. About the Christmas parties arranged especially for both indoor and outdoor staff and their families, and those held earlier every year at the end of the shooting season when members of the shooting party and farmers who had helped, or had been invited to join in the shoot, with their respective wives. The new dining-room was alive with merriment, its huge dining table decorated with pheasants laid head to tail down the centre of the table, with more on top, and on top again, forming a chevron of pattern in celebration of a successful 'shoot'. Sadly these occasions came to an end in 1929 when my Great Uncle Arthur Bradley, forester and deputy head gardener, had a stroke and died in the Old Schoolhouse, bringing an end to the breeding and shooting of pheasants. There were stories of the times when Mrs. Milner played the harpsichord, or grand piano in the drawing-room, and sang out with great gusto her favourite song, 'Cockles and mussels alive, alive oh' It was surprising that I still got through all my chores when listening to Nurse Forbes.

To be continued.

A TALE OF A BATH AND A LINEN BASKET

We moved into our new house in Doncaster in 1953 complete with young baby. Young babies need bathing so we purchased a baby bath from Cole Brothers in Sheffield when the store still occupied the celebrated 'Coles Corner'. This single inexpensive item was delivered on the agreed day by one of the store vans.

Late last year (2008) we had our bathroom refurbished. On the 6th December we ordered a small pedal bin and a linen basket from the John Lewis store in Barkers Pool which we paid for by 'switch' from our joint account. We were told that although the linen basket was on display in the store, they didn't have any in stock. However other branches of John Lewis

did have it, so one would be obtained and delivered for us. Naively I had expected that the small bin would be popped into the linen basket and the two items would be delivered together by the John Lewis delivery van. Obviously in this high tech age, that has become too complicated and other procedures have to be followed. The young assistant who served me was not wont down by years of experience so I can only assume she had the gift of second sight, as before I left she gave me a computer printed form with a reference number to be quoted "if we had any difficulty".

Within a week the small pedal bin arrived, not in a John Lewis van but by Parcel. Force! No linen basket or news of it, so I anticipated it would come later by John Lewis van.

To cut a long story short, no linen basket appeared so after a fortnight I phoned John Lewis and quoted the reference number. The answer I got - "Once it has gone into the system there is nothing we can do". More time passed and still no linen basket so I phoned again. This time a helpful young man promised to look into the matter and to telephone me as soon as he could find out what was happening. Less than an hour later, he telephoned to say the branch in Newcastle had the item and it would be sent from there. Ah, the end of our troubles we thought.

By now we had reached mid January, (the item having been ordered on 6th December). On the 19th January my wife took a phone call from John Lewis, Newcastle letting us know that they could not despatch the basket until it was paid for. She pointed out that it was paid for when ordered. However they asked for her to pay them and they would arrange for a refund from Sheffield. Within a few days Parcel Force delivered a large box containing our new linen basket (about six weeks after we ordered!).

You will be aware of two well used sayings: "don't count your chickens" and "troubles never come singly". Hardly had we put any clothes into our new linen basket when Parcel Force delivered another one! This had to stand in the hall as Parcel Force could not take it back to where it had come from. More phone calls to John Lewis to arrange for this second basket to be collected.

Parcel Force did not collect the basket on four separate occasions which had been arranged, one of us having to stay in on each occasion. After this my wife telephoned John Lewis, she had more success than I had had four times previously. She was told "as you've had so much trouble we will send one of our vans to collect the basket instead of Parcel Force" It so happened the arranged date was Tuesday 3rd February, the day of the recent heavy snow. Needless to say the driver couldn't get the van to the house, but he did walk up the road and duly collected it.

In my dodderly old age I cannot expect things not to have changed during my life time. However, would it be going too far to invite large organisations to have some regard for their customers 'convenience instead of just their own when they make changes?

Some days as I dose in my chair, instead of doing something useful, I think of the past - days when we could telephone our bank branch in town. Now we have to ring some remote call centre, press 1 for this, press 2 for that or press 3 to join a queue "because all our lines are busy".

I suppose "the good old days" are different for each generation.

Don Ashford

**DORE MERCIA TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
RAISES £2000 FOR TRANSPORT 17**

Over the last year Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild members have raised £2000 by various means. The Guild has an excellent choir and in conjunction with Totley Guild choir held a concert in May which raised over £900. The remainder the money was raised by other members selling plants, jams, and holding a cream team afternoon. The rest of the Guild contributed by the regular purchase of raffle tickets and by supporting functions.

We raise money each year for a local charity and this year it gave us great pleasure to support Transport 17.



Janet Hewitt

**Seed sowing for Totley
plant tubs**

If you would like to take part in the seed sowing and plant raising for the Totley plant tubs, come along to one of the seed sowing events to be held in Green Oak Park. We will be based in the park building so that we can still get the seeds sown even if it pours with rain.

There are two events and you can come to either or both. They will be on

Wednesday 15th April from 3.30 to 5pm

Saturday 18th April from 11.00am to 12.30pm

Flower pots, compost and seeds will all be provided. You can sow your choice of the seeds we will be using for the planters and can take them home with you to care for them until it's time to plant them out in the planters on the last weekend in May.

Gardening experience is not necessary for you to take part as there will be plenty of gardeners there to give you advice.

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TUESDAYS	COFFEE MORNING . Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am-noon WOODSEATS ADVICE CENTRE . Drop in service, free, impartial, and confidential. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am-noon CRAFT GROUP . Totley Library, 2pm
WEDNESDAYS	COFFEE in the LIBRARY . 10am-11.30am TOTLEY RISE METHODIST PLAYGROUP . Grove Road 9.30am-noon, Phone: Sheila 235 0130 or Janine 262 0773 TODDLER GROUP . 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Mel 236 6300 HEALTH WALKS . 10.30am, Totley Library foyer. Phone Sue, The Health Walk Ranger: 0114 283 9195 MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING . All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm
THURSDAYS	TOTLEY RISE METHODIST PLAYGROUP . Grove Road 9.30am-noon, Phone: Sheila 235 0130 or Janine 262 0773 NCT COFFEE GROUP FOR DORE TOTLEY & BRADWAY , 10am-noon, For mums & babies/toddlers, meeting in various locations, Phone Sally Spearing 236 2604 for further details (email: sally@spearings.me.uk) PUSHCHAIR CLUB . Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 1.30pm-3pm. Tel. 236 3157 for further details CHAIROBICS . Totley Library, 2pm-3pm. £1 PILATES CLASS , United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 6.15pm-7.30pm, Phone Emer Coffee 07792 422909
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APRIL 2009

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SUN 5th SPRING FAYRE, Whirlow Hall Farm, 10am-3pm, adults £2 kids £1
WED 8th SPRING FAIR, Cheshire Home, 10am - Midday
SUN 12th & MON 13th (EASTER) MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES. Abbeydale Road South, First train 1 p.m. - last train 5 p.m.(weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk
TUE 14th FOLK AT THE FLEUR, Fleur de Lys, 8.30pm, all welcome
SAT 18th HOLMESFIELD FARMERS MARKET, the Village Hall, 11.30am-4pm, Local Produce, Cheese, Meat, Hot Sandwiches & Tea/Coffee
SAT 18th SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, Heatherfield Club, Russ Elliot, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.
MON 20th TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AGM, Totley Library, 7.30pm. **All Totley Residents Welcome.**
TUES 21st TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, 'The Wardrobe Mistress's Tale', Judy Colby, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am
WED 22nd TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP, Totley Library, 7.30pm, all welcome
THU 23rd SHEFFIELD FARMERS MARKET, 9am-4.30pm, Barkers Pool

MAY 2009

SAT 2nd SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, Heatherfield Club, Viki France, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.
SUN 3rd CASTLETON FARMERS MARKET, the Village Hall, 10am-3pm
SUN 3rd & MON 4th (BH) MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES. Abbeydale Road South, First train 1 p.m. - last train 5 p.m.(weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk
WED 6th WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP, "National Parks of the American West", Shirley Ellins, Totley Rise Methodist Church, in the Church Lounge, 7.30pm
FRI 8th MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY, Heatherfield Club, Live Night Anniversary, Baslow Road. 8.30pm.
FRI 8th & SAT 9th JOHN WADE SINGERS, 25th Anniversary, performing Verdi's Nabucco, Millhouses Methodist Church, 7.30pm
SAT 9th ART DEMONSTRATION, Trinity Daycare Trust Pie & Pea Supper, Lees Hall Golf Club, 7.30 pm, £10 Tel 255 4077 any Mon Tues or Wed.
TUE 12th FOLK AT THE FLEUR, Fleur de Lys, 8.30pm, all welcome
SAT 16th HOLMESFIELD FARMERS MARKET, the Village Hall, 11.30am-4pm, Local Produce, Cheese, Meat, Hot Sandwiches & Tea/Coffee

THE INDEPENDENT FOR MAY 2009

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

SATURDAY 2nd May 2009

**COPY CLOSE DATE for this issue will be
SATURDAY 17th April 2009**

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