

# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY THE TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1977

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15p.



Standing on the corner of Baslow Road and Hillfoot Road was a small cottage community housing some 50 people. Some years ago most were pulled down. Totley lost a number of valuable buildings including this one which was used as a post office for many years. Brian Edwards

## Totley Residents Association Update

### Let's start with the good news.

Totley Show was a great success this year, not only because of the wonderful weather, but because so many people came. It was great to see so many children and their parents. A wonderful community event bringing everyone together to join in the fun, meet friends and have a chat over a cuppa.

A big thank you to the Show Committee for all their hard work, to the helpers on the day, to Rony for opening the Show and running the auction and to you for turning up, without you there would be no show.

This leads me to the Festival. It takes many months to organise and needs a team of people willing to help. **We need people to come forward and take responsibility for part of the organisation.** I know many people work, don't have much spare time but think about Totley, your children and grandchildren, just a small amount of time would make a difference to everyone in the community.

I am supposed to be retired but work far harder now as a volunteer than when I was at work! You would be amazed at the things I have to deal with from bus shelters to drains and everything else in between. I am bombarded with information, questionnaires from the Council and every other organisation you can think of. They all need a response!

TRA Committee work very hard, but it is your community, we need your help, otherwise events like the Festival and the Show will not take place in the future. This would be a great shame, but we cannot do it without more help. PTO

## BULB PLANTING DAYS 2008

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov, meet at Cross Scythes 10.30am &  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov, meet at Ironing Parlour 11am

## **BULBS**

We now have 2000 crocuses, 1000 daffodils and 500 trial daffodils to plant. **Please come along and help and have fun on the following days.** Don't forget to bring trowels and spades.

*Saturday 8th November.* Meet at Cross Scythes at 10.30am to plant the Trial Daffodils.

*Sunday 16th November.* Meet at the Ironing Parlour 11.00am to plant Daffodils

The crocuses will have been planted at Mickley Lane and the bottom of Topley Rise by the end of October.

## **Green Oak Park**

Over 60 people looked at the Master Plan at the Show. Everyone was enthusiastic and looking forward to the plan being put into action. The Action Plan, the way forward, will be decided at the next public meeting.

**This will be held at the Heatherfield Club on November 11th at 7.00pm.**

Please try to come along and help us decide what needs to be done first.

It will take a long time to do all the things we want doing in our park, but we must make a decision where to begin.

## **History Group**

The Group continues to flourish, thirty people came in September with interesting photographs, pictures and artefacts, which we passed round and discussed.

We are looking forward to hearing Professor Mel Jones, who broadcasts on Radio Sheffield. He is coming to tell us how a History Society should be conducting its meetings.

Wednesday 19th of November 7.30pm in the library is the date to remember.

## **Topley Conservation Area**

The concept of conservation areas was initiated in 1967, through the Civic Amenities Act. This placed a duty on local planning authorities to designate areas of special architectural or historic interest.

Planning has a duty to periodically review historical areas and to publish proposals for preservation in the future.

The Topley area was designated on 19th April 1973 and has not been looked at since!

People living in the conservation area have been contacted by the Council and asked to fill in a questionnaire.

Residents were able to attend a drop in session in the library, look at maps, and read details of the present conservation area and put forward suggestions.

We were amazed to see that The Cricket Inn, Lower Bents Farm and Topley Bents were not in the area. We proposed that the Topley Bents area has special character and needs its own conservation area. This is for the future.

The maps are available in the library. The History Group will be looking at them and sending comments to the Council.

## **More Good News**

Kathie from the Post Office has been nominated for Sheffield's Best Queen of Customer Care Award, by a customer.

Sheffield's Night of Honour is an awards ceremony that celebrates the unsung heroes of our city. It is being held at Ponds Forge on 30th of November. Will Mellor, Dickie Bird, The Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire will be presenting the awards.

The short list and eventual winner for each award will be announced on the night.

We wish Kathie all the best and hope she is a winner. Jennie Street has also won an award. She was nominated for the Telegraph Environmental Awards, and won the Community Category, beating Green City Action.

Congratulations to Kathie and Jennie for putting Topley on the map.

We are still waiting for the bus shelters to be turned round and the double yellows to be painted. Christmas will soon be here!

Avril Critchley, Chairman TRA

## **Green Oak Bowling Club**

The bowling session has now ended. It's been an enjoyable season, the weather hasn't been perfect but we haven't had to cancel any matches.

The ladies Thursday afternoon team have won the Justice Burdall Cup, well done to all concerned.

There was a nasty incident on a Monday in July when one of the senior ladies had her bowls bag snatched off her shoulder, the bag contained 2 bowls and a white jack. The lady is partially sighted and was sat waiting for her friend to arrive to play a game of bowls and was obviously very shook up by the incident. A white jack is unusual, so if anyone sees or hears anything please inform the club.

The outside of the bowling hut was painted this year unfortunately the week after graffiti appeared, this has now been cleaned off but if you know the names of the culprits please inform anyone at the club.

## **Junior Bowling Club.**

The junior club meets on a Tuesday evening, and plays its matches on a Saturday morning. The juniors have played in a new kit this year that was sponsored by Chesterfield Special Cylinders, thanks go to them. Although the team has not done as well as it could, it is a very young team and we are very hopeful that the players will go from strength to strength. The teams best player is James Higgins who has played for Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

James won the Junior Team Trophy for achieving the most points throughout the season, well done to James (see photo). Cameron Ford, Emma Cheatham and Christie Ford are just some of the clubs hopes for the future.



The junior club gives their thanks to all the support given by parents and grandparents.

The bowling green has been well maintained this year, thanks goes to the green keeper. Vandals are still about so the club asks that everyone remains vigilant and reports any misdoings.

Sylvia Ruddle



## **Transport 17**

We were very pleased to receive a grant of £2000

from the South West Area Panel. It is gratifying to know that our work is acknowledged.

We will be having a Mince Pie and Coffee or Tea morning on Saturday 29th November. This will be from 10 am until 12 noon, once again in our office. We will be selling Christmas cards and paper and new items as well as our usual bric-a-brac. We would be most grateful for any new items to sell but we are knee deep in bric-a-brac at the moment. Do come along. We will be pleased to see you.

We send our best wishes to Lorna Baker who used to escort for us. She is having a painful time at the moment. Our passengers often ask about her.

As Christmas approaches, most of our clubs have special lunches or trips out. It is a very busy time for us with extra events. Please give Michael as much notice as you can. It takes a lot of time and effort to make sure that the buses are available, with the necessary drivers and escorts. Don't forget we are selling the Rotary Club Christmas Draw tickets. Make sure your name or 'phone number is on every ticket stub. It is easier for your prize to be delivered.

I mentioned in last month's Totley Independent about our collection day at Sainsbury's, Archer Road. This took place on Sunday 19th October and the amount raised was £205.10. Michael Finn, our Manager and his Mum, Jean (who is 83), Felicity Revill and Wendy and Jim Trotter, amazingly collected all day. That's after working on the buses etc during the week. I can't thank them enough. Danny and I were in Devon on Grandparenting duty. I must also thank Marie at Sainsbury's for all her help and encouragement. It has been very much appreciated.

Take care.

Margaret Barlow

## **Shrewsbury Terrace Footpath**

With reference to the pathway (we called it a genel) from Baslow Road to Shrewsbury Terrace as highlighted by Tony Reynolds (no relation) and the person who says it is private, namely the person who lives in the first house in a row of 6.

I was born in No 5 in 1910 and at that time the genel was closed for a week every 2 years, what I mean by closed is that it was boarded up at Baslow Road to height of around 7 feet.

My parents lived there till about 1930 and during that time I only remember it being closed around 5 times, failure to close the genel meant that it becomes public (quoting old laws). So the solicitor was ill informed and Tony, keep using the genel, this is your right. Regarding the owner of the genel, when the house was built it would appear a walled garden was the ultimate, so the big wall side of the genel was built inside the boundary whether or not this was a footpath I do not know, but it is public.

D Reynolds

## **Greenoak Park Entrance**

This is to let everyone who uses Greenoak Park know that the path on Mickley Lane that leads to the House in the Park is a public access path, which can be used by anyone who wants to at any time. It is not a private road, nor for the exclusive use of the people who live in the house. Do not be put off using it as it is part of the public park.

## **FIREWORK FEAR**

As we near to that dreaded time of year for our pets (yes) Bonfire Night or Bonfire fortnight as seems to be the norm, we need to start to prepare early. If you have a nervous dog a few tips to consider which may help when the fireworks start:-

- Try shutting the curtains, playing loud music and allowing your dog to find his or her own safe place, let them hide anywhere in the house this will help them settle.
- Reassuring a frightened dog can encourage anxious behaviour so in some cases it is best to ignore them (I know this is very hard to do but they are in a safe and comfortable environment.)
- If you are not sure any of the above will work you may need to contact your Veterinary Clinic and ask their advice, they may advise a program of noise desensitisation this is in the form of a C.D. but start early.
- A short term treatment with medication would help reduce anxiety on or around Bonfire Night, but do start preparing early and help your pet have a more comfortable few weeks. Also a good idea is to take your dog out on the lead in the garden at night when it is dark and fireworks are being set off as I know of cases where dogs have bolted out of secure gardens and scaled a 6ft fence to escape.

**SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR PET AND KEEP THEM SAFE.**

Marlene Marshall.

## **Don't stick it, stop it!**

**Mencap's campaign to stop the bullying of children and young people with a learning disability.**

8 out of 10 children and young people with a learning disability are bullied. They are bullied at school, at the park, on the street, on the bus and at youth centres. This wrecks lives.

We want children and adults to take action to stop disablist bullying - when children and young people are bullied because of their disability.

What we are doing

- We have published our report 'Bullying wrecks lives'.
- We called for the Government to publish guidance on preventing and tackling disablist bullying. We are lobbying Government and local councils to take action to stop disablist bullying.
- We have produced a website, 3 short animations and campaign materials to help children and young people take action to stop bullying. Visit [www.dontstickit.org.uk](http://www.dontstickit.org.uk)

Mencap are undertaking an anti-bullying week from 17-21 November 2008. The theme is 'Being different, belonging together'.

Mencap can be contacted on 020 7696 6952 or [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

## **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](mailto:keith.hill@sheffield.gov.uk), [colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk) or [mike.davis@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:mike.davis@sheffield.gov.uk)

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

## CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH ABBEYDALE

These are the special services that are taking place in the weeks between now and Christmas. Everyone is invited to join us at St. John's for any of these services.

**November 2nd. - 6.30pm. A Service of Remembrance/Thanksgiving for the departed.**

This is a special service for anyone who has lost a loved one or a dear friend during the last year. Do come and feel welcome to light a candle in their memory.

**November 9th - 10am. Remembrance Sunday**

A Family Service with Church Parade by uniformed organisations with an act of remembrance by the cenotaph outside church (if fine).

**November 30th - 6.30pm. Advent Carol Service**

A special service of readings and Advent carols by the choir and congregation. This service has become very well loved since it was started a few years ago.

**December 10th (Wednesday) 2.30pm. The Deanery Mother's Union Advent Carol Service**

Everyone is welcome to come and join in this service - you don't have to be a Mother!

**December 21st. - 6.30pm. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE BY CANDLELIGHT**

Our traditional service of 9 lessons and carols for the whole family and friends with carols for all to sing plus a few specials by the choir.

**December 24th - (Wednesday) 5.30pm. Christingle Service.**

With well known carols, the blessing of the crib and the distribution and lighting of the Christingles. What is a Christingle? Come and join us on Christmas Eve and find out about them.

**December 24th 11.30pm. MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST**

The first Communion of Christmas with-carols and full choir EVERYONE WELCOME.

**December 25th - 9.30am. CHRISTMAS DAY. FAMILY COMMUNION.**

A shortened service for all who were in bed at 11.30pm. get out of preparing the Christmas dinner and bring the young people and Grandpa & Grandma to Church

Normal services will take place between the special services and from January 4th at 8am and 10am.

St. John's offers a warm welcome to everyone at any of our services and we wish everyone in and around the parishes in S17 a very happy and blessed Christmas.

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

Well, this is your last chance to buy tickets for our next play - a comic murder Mystery entitled "Dying for Dinner" by Paul Beard. It takes part on a not quite completed set of a Dramatic Society, who are holding their social evening on the stage. The Chairman has decided that he will organise a Murder Mystery Dinner and has already notified the members of the parts they will play. O.K. so far? Things don't exactly go to plan, but you will have to come and see for yourselves as I am not allowed to say anymore!

The dates are Wednesday the 26th November to Saturday 29th November, 7.30pm at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South.

Tickets are £3.50, or £3 concessions, available from any member or from me, Kate Reynolds, on 236 6891. Don't miss it.

## Walking Your Children to School

**QUESTION:** Does it really make much difference if I drop my children off by car at school? It's so much quicker to take them the mile or two to school than to walk with them.

**ANSWER:** Tony Armstrong, Chief Executive of Living Streets, the charity which organises Walk to School Month, says, "As a parent it often seems like the easy solution to drive your children to school. Yet studies show that people consistently underestimate how long it takes to get there by car, and overestimate how long it takes to walk.

New Living Streets research published in time for Walk to School Month has highlighted a direct link between parental behaviour and childhood activity levels. Children who have 'active' parents (those that say they try to walk where they can) are 86% more likely to walk to school than children of 'inactive' parents (those who rely on their car at all times), demonstrating the role parents can play in influencing their children's activity levels.

The majority of school children live around a mile from their school and yet at peak times of the day, one in five cars on the road are doing the school run.

...We're calling on all parents to try walking with their children to school. We think you'll be amazed at how enjoyable a regular walk can be - it's a chance to spend real quality time together and reap the health rewards for all the family."

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*Totley Residents Association endorses this and would urge all Totley parents to allow a little bit more time in the mornings and evenings to leave the car at home, and walk the children to and from school, for everyone's benefit.*

## Local & Live Theatre

I have written about this group before, and praised their efforts for putting on a good show, but their latest offering was a cracker! Very up to date material, with lots dreadful puns and oblique references to every day happenings. They have experienced a phase that happens to all groups at some time - an exodus of cast, through illness, changing jobs, moving to live the length of the country away, which reduced their playing strength to 4 female and 2 male members, plus 1 non-acting male, who did everything else!

The theme was an early morning TV "Breakfast" Show, which is fairly static for the two Presenters, with visitations by their "guests". It treated us to the infighting and ego massaging of the Principals, with many barbed, snide remarks, and the versatility of their many guests. These ranged through the Weather girl, Sporting news, Gardening, Cooking Tips, and Roving Reporter. The two link Presenters were so convincing staring at the autocue, that I went at the Interval and made certain that there wasn't one!...Honestly!

This group usually visit Totley on a Friday night, but this time it was a Wednesday, and together with it pouring with rain, resulted in a low turn out for them. However, I have to say that those who were there were attentive, supportive and appreciated the enthusiasm of all the participants Thank you!

I can only repeat what I have said in the past. For a good, clean, enjoyable night's entertainment 'Go and See 'em!!'

Tony Reynolds.

## BUXTON POETRY COMPETITION

The Peak District's major literary competition – supported by the UK poet laureate Andrew Motion – was launched on National Poetry Day, Thursday October 9.

Poets of all ages have until April 1 2009 to create poems inspired by this year's theme, 'stone', which is intimately connected with the competition's beautiful Peak District origin. The White Peak's stunning limestone landscape and the dramatic gritstone edges that shape the Dark Peak, form some of Britain's best-loved countryside.

Winners of the Buxton Poetry Competition will have their work displayed in the spa town's Devonshire Dome and read at an awards event during the Buxton Festival. The poet laureate Andrew Motion and Lady Jasmine Cavendish, daughter of the Duke of Devonshire, are the competition's patrons.

The competition has three categories:

- Open Poetry for the over 19s
- Young People's Poetry for entrants aged between 12 and 18
- Children's Poetry for the under 11s

Entries will be assessed by a panel of distinguished judges including the award-winning poet Fleur Adcock OBE and Michael Schmidt OBE who is professor of Poetry at Glasgow University. Five finalists drawn from each category will feature in an exhibition held during the Buxton Festival, July 10 – 28 2009.

Writers may enter up to three poems. Entry is free for the Young People's and Children's categories and £5 per poem for the Open category. First prize in the Open category is £300, second prize £200 and third prize £100. The Children and Young People's winners will receive book token prizes.

The contest proved highly popular in its inaugural year, 2008, drawing over 1,000 entries from as far afield as India and the USA.

Buxton Poetry Competition is run in collaboration between Buxton Festival and the University of Derby, Buxton. The competition compliments the Festival's highly successful literary series and the University's range of creative writing courses.

Buxton Festival's chief executive Glyn Foley said: "We hope the poetry competition will inspire many wonderful entries on a par with last year's high standard. Its success strengthens Buxton's position on the UK's cultural map.

"Each summer the Festival attracts the highest calibre authors to speak at its literary series. We hope that through this competition we might inspire, and perhaps discover, a new generation of gifted writers."

To enter contact Claire Rhodes at Buxton Festival:  
01298 70395, [claire@buxtonfestival.co.uk](mailto:claire@buxtonfestival.co.uk)

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH ,TOTLEY HALL LANE

### Services for November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am Morning Family Service.  
9<sup>th</sup> 9.45am REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE IN CHURCH  
11am at WAR MEMORIAL, BASLOW RD.  
16<sup>th</sup> 10am. God so Loved  
23<sup>rd</sup> 10am. Cell - e - bration  
30<sup>th</sup> 10am. God is faithful

FRIDAY, 21st NOVEMBER "ROCK" MUSICAL at the VICTORIA HALL, NORFOLK ST. for enquiries ring 236 4190

## The Life And Times Of Albert Crookes

A new book, The Life And Times Of Albert Crookes, has been launched. The book has been diligently typed by his wife, Janette, over the last two years.

Accompanied by numerous photographs, the book is a captivating history of one man's life in Sheffield from the Depression years of the 1920's, through the devastation of World War 2 and the technological advances of the 1960's and 70's to the present day.

*Janette says that the book; "is the life story of one man. He could have been your father, grandfather, brother or son, but he is very special to me, as he has been my partner for many years. Bert, a man of many parts, explored life and its many opportunities and often took the 'less-travelled road' How many of us have 'sipped the wine of life' and gained such diverse knowledge? I take my hat off to him. I hope that you will find him equally fascinating".*

Janette's son, Stuart, opened the launch garden party by describing the book as much more than just a story about one man's life, but also a local social history that documents everyday life for people living through the hardships of the inter-war years and then having to sacrifice even more with the advent of the Second World War, while also describing the lighter moments during all these times. The events described in the book impact on the rest of the country and contribute to the emergence and advancement of the United Kingdom.

'Bert's book', as it has affectionately come to be known, goes on to record his life following his return from active service in North Africa and the vast diversity of his jobs, knowledge, friends and contacts; 'enough to fill four lifetimes of any normal person'.

Copies of the book are available to order at a cost of £4.50 (+p&p) by either emailing [stuart@adliani.co.uk](mailto:stuart@adliani.co.uk) or by telephoning 0114 236 8817.

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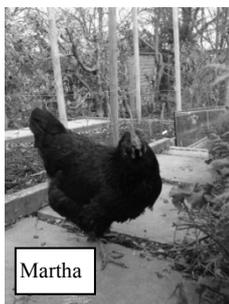
## More housekeeping for Chickens



Martha, Dora and Vera usually lay in the mornings so when they've earned their keep, I clean out their coop. Hens like to lay their eggs in the dark, which is why I wait for my biddies to finish laying. I do a regular clean of all droppings once a week, together with replacing the straw in the nesting boxes. More often is preferable, but realistically in a busy life it's not always possible. It's not good to leave cleaning longer than a week, as the droppings become hard and are difficult to scrape off and the build up of ammonia gas is harmful.

I try to clean out on a fine day, because then I leave the perches, droppings board and nest boxes outside the run to get fresh air, and leave both doors of the coop open for air to circulate. The droppings, paper and straw go on the compost heap. Martha often hops in and out of the pop hole as I clean, inspecting what I do, all the time making constant comments like "Buuuuuk, bucuuuk," and "Caaaaark". She can actually be a nuisance as she prevents me moving things about inside the coop while she looks in every corner.

I use a stiff hand brush to sweep all the dust, dried droppings and feathers out of the coop, usually brushing the walls at the same time. This helps prevent pest infestation in the cracks and corners.



I put the board and nest box back after it's aired, and lay newspaper on the board to catch the droppings. Under the nest box I lay newspaper then a good wodge of straw. The hens will organise it into a nice hollow, spending ages before they lay, moving the stalks with their beaks into the right comfy layout.

In the winter months I lay a thick layer of sawdust and shavings on the floor of the coop as a sort of insulator.

In the summer months I disinfect the whole house with a disinfectant spray to prevent lice and mites infestation – keeping the birds away while I do so.

I check the drinker every day when I go to feed the hens and give them their morning pellets. I clean the drinker out once a week using a stiff washing-up brush to scour off all build up of dirt and then adding a few drops of cider vinegar to the new water to help prevent parasites.

It is also important to check the health of your chickens regularly. Get to know them by watching their behaviour. Combs should be bright red and waxy and their eyes bright. Birds moping in a corner, or with drooping wings or ruffled feathers, a sudden loss or gain in appetite, and loose droppings stuck to the feathers around the vent area should all be cause for concern.

Advice on poorly birds can be got by phoning an experienced poultry breeder, which is why buying from a breeder is always best – you can always refer back to them for follow-up care.

Jennie Street

Next month: report on my 2 new girls and the decision whether to call them Korma and Tikka or Edna and Thora.

## Douglas Turner

### Final Instalment childhood Memories of Totley Bents, as recalled by the late Douglas Turner

Not all memories are pleasant as can be seen on the television programme "Heartbeat" at the time of writing (c 1997). Around this period I am writing about, Hills, of Upper Bents Farm, suffered the scourge of all farmers, which thankfully doesn't occur very often these days. Notices appeared on farm gates and fences - "Foot and Mouth Disease – No Entry". A police guard on the gates, a mat of straw soaked in disinfectant, a trough or bath of disinfectant just inside the gate, no one allowed in and, above all, an eerie quiet where, the day before, there had been the bawling of cattle, squealing and grunting of pigs and the bleating of sheep. Now nothing, except the cackling of poultry, an occasional barking of dogs, or the stamping of a horse. All the cloven-hoofed animals have gone. Destroyed. And in those days taken away, on the Moors mostly, to be burned and buried. No short cuts across fields whether footpaths or not.

The only entertainment at home at this time was homemade. There was no electricity. Dad had an old crystal radio set with two earphones, one of which he used and we kids vied with each other for a turn with the other. Then, Lo and Behold, the miracle of the age! Electricity had arrived at all the houses in the Bents and, believe it or not, street lighting; if I remember rightly - three lamps. And entertainment in the form of radio – wireless it was called in those days.

One chap in the Bents who didn't benefit from the electricity was Jack Fox, uncle of my playmate Betty. Jack was a local character, who lived with his dog in a hut on No1 Tip at the side of the "Pepper Pot" (the tunnel ventilator shaft). He was related to Grandma Fox of Lower Bents Farm. I think a lot of Totley people were a bit afraid of him, but if you were polite to him and didn't try to poke fun at him, or "trespass" on his patch he was OK.

Thinking of the above Grandma Fox, I see the pear tree in the top field is still there. Her granddaughter Betty used to have a swing tied to one of the thick branches; I don't think that's there now!

Another enjoyable time in the summer was haymaking and harvesting, when it was "all hands to the wheel" and no tractors – horses did the hard work. And the children chasing rabbits before the machinery got them, and picking harvest mushrooms before the same fate overcame them. Then came potato picking and turnip picking. There was also the threshing of the corn harvest, entailing the visit of the threshing machine pulled by an enormous steam traction engine which, with flywheels and belts, drove the thresher. This, by the way, came from Barlow. Haymaking and threshing made the men very thirsty and the publicans very happy! Even some of the horses were known to enjoy a drop of beer; one of Slater's could drink straight from a stone one-gallon jar!

## The Childrens Society

I am collecting old mobile phones and used printer cartridges to raise funds for the above charity.(Not Epson, Brother or compatible cartridges)

Please drop them off at 2, Main Avenue or phone me 236 1601 to collect them.

Many Thanks

Pauline Perkinson

## Ramblings

Mid October: away for a week and in my absence, the fields on our usual walk have been ploughed. One day, waves of rolling brown, the next, harrowed to a fine tilth in fading light by one man and a tractor, reminding me of the Hardy poem:

*Only a man harrowing clods  
In a slow silent walk  
With an old horse that stumbles and nods  
Half asleep as they stalk.*

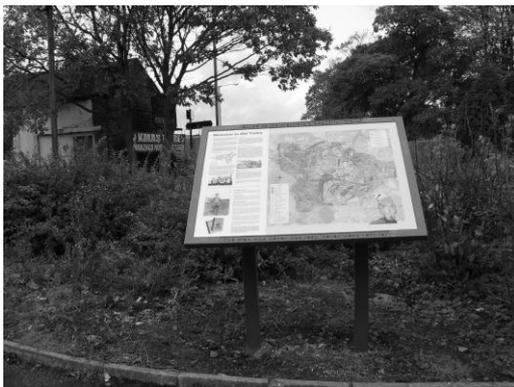
The tools may have changed but the lonely beauty is still there. Perhaps the farmer would disagree!

GHB (Bert) Ward - "The King of the Ramblers" - was a man who liked poetry with his countryside. Living up at Storth Lodge off Baslow Road on Moorwood Lane, he produced, each year, a marvellous little book for the Clarion Ramblers, the group he started (and which still exists) in 1900. Tardis-like, these tiny books, contained the walks for the year (Sunday March 20th, 1927: Hutcliffe Wood, Beauchief Abbey, Upper Bradway House, Farm and Cross, Cherrytree Orphanage, path to Totley Hall, Gillfield Wood and Fanshawegate Hall, Lidgate (lunch), Horsleygate Hall, bridleway to Bank Green, Fox Lane (roadside crosses and guide stone), Ramsley Reservoir, Curbar Lane and Gap, Froggat Edge, Wooden Pole and Totley Moss. 16 miles. Fares, 10½d. Leader H. Holmes) but interspersed with Wordsworth, Browning, Emerson and Whitman as well as local poets like "Miss C. A. Renshaw - "Up to the Hills" and "Mrs. E. B. Gallimore - Kinderscout." At the back of the book were reports of footpath committees and carefully researched articles on old crosses, place-names, ancient byways.

Also in my absence, our regular path to Woodthorpe and on up to Holmesfield had been waymarked as a "GHB Ward Walk." In the little garden next to Holmesfield Church a fine new information board commemorates Ward, his trespassing and campaigning. Cast into the metal of the frame is the little aphorism, always on the front of the Clarion books: "The man who never was lost, never went very far." I'll remember that next time I'm stumped up on Big Moor.

GS

We've got our own information board in Totley, giving some Totley historical information, it's in the 'front garden' of the Fleur de Lys.



Duncan Froggatt compiled most of the words.

## Vandalism at the Fleur

In the last few weeks 2 cars have been vandalised in the Fleur de Lys car park using paint stripper. If anyone hears or know who has done this a reward will be offered; contact Wayne on 0114 236 8491 or the local police on 0114 220 2020.

## BUXTON FESTIVAL WINS REGIONAL TOURISM AWARD

Buxton Festival will go head-to-head with the country's finest tourism businesses at the Enjoy England Excellence Awards' national final.

The opera festival was crowned Best Tourism Experience in the East Midlands at a prestigious awards ceremony on October 8, for 'going the extra mile' to give holidaymakers an exceptional visit. It will now compete to become 'England's Best' at the final in April.

Top quality opera, music and literature; a warm welcome; passion for the Peak District and providing excellent information for people planning trips were just some commendations for the 30-year-old Festival.

Buxton Festival's chief executive Glyn Foley said: 'This award reflects what the arts can do for tourism, especially when backed up by the beautiful surroundings of Buxton and the Peak District. We are thrilled!

'The Festival attracts faithful audiences from all over the country, so it's great to be recognised as playing a leading role in bringing people to the region.'

The award was presented by Dominic Littlewood [The One Show] and Ruth Hyde, chief executive of East Midlands Tourism.

The event, held at the East Midlands Conferencing Centre, was attended by 360 representatives from the region's tourism sector. Just 16 of the 56 short-listed entrants received gold awards and five of these were from Derbyshire.

Buxton was pitched against Cooadance and Launde Abbey in their category. Other entrants included hotels, B&Bs, activity centres and restaurants.

Ruth Hyde said: 'Buxton Festival should be proud of their achievement as they have shown that they are offering a great experience to visitors and are willing to adapt to changing customer demands.

'What particularly impressed the judges about the Festival was the significant boost it brings to the visitor economy in the Peak District, generating regional and national press coverage, and also the excellent working relations they have developed with local tourism businesses which has helped spread the benefit of the event throughout the area'

This summer Buxton Festival sold a record 41,500 tickets. Sales have tripled over the last seven years.

The Festival specialises in producing rarely performed opera uniquely for the 19-day event. 2009 will see three Festival operas, plus three touring productions in rotation at the spa town's beautiful opera house. It will also offer a morning literary series featuring the finest contemporary authors and a high quality and eclectic afternoon concert series.

The gorgeous settings of Buxton and the Peak District are an added draw for the music lovers who flock to the Festival each July.

Next summer's Festival will run from July 10 - 28.

## Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair on 15 November at 10am to 12noon at Dore and Totley URC Church, Totley Brook Road, S17 Refreshments available, stalls to include cakes, china, glass, fancy goods, toys, books etc.

All proceeds are to go to St Lukes Hospice  
Sharron Goldie  
Church Fund Raising Committee

## Farming Scene

We are going through a fairly relaxed and quiet work period on the farm at the moment. Not growing cereals means that we have not been stressed out by the unfavourable harvesting weather or the sodden ground conditions that have delayed the planting of next year's crops. We are currently cleaning down, greasing up, and putting away our silage and haymaking machinery ready for the winter snows etc, if they do come this year! How we, the land and the environment generally could do with a really cold winter and a hot summer to get us back into a good healthy condition. This continuous damp muggy weather is neither good to man or beasties as the saying goes.

As we get into November so our workload will gradually increase till by Christmas Day we will be well and truly shattered!! The Texel ewes have now been weaned and the last 18 of their lambs should be ready for a trip to Bakewell shortly. The ewes are gradually being given better grazing followed by a 1lb per day of high protein nuts, ready for the tups to go on 1 November. Hopefully the combination of anti-abortion vaccines, tail shearing, mineral drenching and high protein nutrition should result in very few barren ewes and a high lambing percentage. Say 1.80 lambs born per ewe. Similarly the tups have been given the full treatment over the last 6 weeks and should be fit and raring to go!!

Our Dorset ewes are now beginning to look very pregnant and are due to start lambing on 14 November. The week before this they will be brought from the fields to the farmstead and housed inside out of the weather. This is better both for the sheep and the shepherd. However, it signals the start of much hard work feeding and bedding them down not to mention midwifery and postnatal care operations. This year we have a contractor coming to ultrasound these ewes pre-lambing to tell us which are having singles, twins and triplets or indeed empty. Any not in lamb will be put in with Texel ewes and tups so that they lamb at the same time as the Texels in the spring.

After a week's preparatory work setting up the stall scene, Santa's Grotto and the refreshment area our nativity plays start on Tuesday, 18 November. This is a week earlier than last year, but already the weekdays up to Christmas are nearly all fully booked by School visits. Along with many regular visitors we have a lot of new school customers this year.

Our Christmas trees arrive on 26 November which again adds to the workload. For the next month we shall be flat out day and after night as well!!

Like most businesses we have seen our costs rise rapidly this year. Costings experts are now telling us that farm input costs have risen by 36%, yes 36%, over the last 12 months. A lot of this is due to increased fuel and energy costs but one of the main drivers is the 3 fold increase in fertiliser prices. Most grades are now quoted in the £400-£430 per tonne range. This has caused farmers to quickly re-evaluate the amounts used in relation to their cost effectiveness in increasing production yield of grass and cereal crops. We ourselves have used much less fertiliser this year. Partly due to the cost and partly as a result of it being a good grass growing year and partly because we have been relatively low on stock numbers. We are also gradually replacing our old grass lays with high clover content mixtures that after initial establishment produce a lot of their own nitrogen to promote grass

growth and reduce "bag" fertiliser requirements. The high protein content of the clover also stimulates good growth rates in the livestock.

We will shortly be having soil samples from our fields analysed to see what the residual phosphate and potash levels are. If they are as high as we would like them to be we will be using only nitrogenous fertiliser in our fields this next year. This could save us £60 per acre or £6,000 in total of our growing costs. The cost of sampling, some £150, looks very small compared to the potential cost savings.

Finally, the allotments issue. Consideration is being given to providing 40 allotments on farm for the use of local residents. To enable us to evaluate the viability of this proposal and to drive it forward we need to establish a list of people that are genuinely keen to take on and pay for a plot. If such a list already exists perhaps it could be forwarded to us. Alternatively, individuals could contact us (236 4761) to register their interest in either 100 or 200 square metre plot. If there is sufficient demand to make the project financially viable, plots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

So get your name down now!

Edwin Pocock

## 1<sup>ST</sup> Totle Scout Group

### Scout News

1st Totle Scouts are holding a sale of books, CDs, DVDs, toys, games and videos to be held at Scout Headquarters on Aldam Road, Saturday, 15 November 2008 at 11 am to 1pm, Entrance fee only 20p

We shall also be sending out the Totle Scout Lottery forms very soon, delivered to your home. We hope to have the 1st draw for December, the Christmas Hamper. If you can fill in your enrolment form and return to one of the names on the list.

Best Wishes

Peter Casson 0114 248 9854

## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

TOTLEY RISE METHODIST CHURCH, GROVE ROAD

Everyone is warmly invited to take a special Journey to Bethlehem, to trace the events leading up to the birth of Jesus during the very first Christmas over 2000 years ago. Free 30 minute tours will begin on **SATURDAY 13TH AND SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER between 4-15 and 7-30pm**. Visitors will be met by a Roman Centurion, who will guide them through scenes from the Bible telling of the birth of Jesus, take them on a visit to the Inn at Bethlehem, and to the village market place, where local crafts will be demonstrated, and visitors will be able to sample food of the time. Having visited the shepherds in the fields, the tour ends at the stable, where a real baby Jesus is cared for by Mary and Joseph.

The tour, in small groups, lasts about 30 minutes and is **free**, you are invited to stay for refreshments afterwards. Come warmly dressed, as the shepherds,(and their sheep!!) are outdoors. If you have been before, you are most welcome to come again, and bring along your friends, for many people, it has been said that Christmas starts here!

Around 900 people journeyed last year, and now, as then, it is essential to book your time slot in advance: you can do this from 17th November onwards by calling **0114 236 8726**.

All of us at Totle Rise Methodist Church look forward to seeing you, as we prepare together for Christmas 2008.



# SANTA SPECIALS

Abbeydale Miniature Railway

## Sundays 7th & 14th December

First Train 11 o'clock  
Last Entrance 3.30 pm

### Admission £7.00 each on the gate

Admission price includes train rides, tea/coffee and mince pie for the grown ups, and for the children a visit to see Santa in his grotto, a quality present and a drink.

We are on Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield S17 3LA (opposite side to Abbeydale Garden Centre and in Ecclesall Woods) Look for the yellow notice board on the grass verge.

[www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk)

Warning - Steam locomotives may emit sparks, ashes and oil which could result in injury or damage to clothing  
Steam and diesel locomotives get very hot. Do not touch them!  
Passengers travel at their own risk

Sheffield & District Society of Model & Experimental Engineers Ltd.

# The Fleur De Lys Totley Hall Lane



Home Cooked Food Served

Tuesday-Friday 12-2 & 6:30-9pm

Closed for food on Saturday

Sunday Roast 12-3pm

(New chef Isaac Stone will be creating a new menu including a 2 for 1 from 1st Nov)

We have 4 real ales London Pride, Ruckles, Deuchars IPA & Guest Hobgoblin

### Quiz Night

Thursday 10pm start followed by Play Your Cards Right  
Winners of quiz win beer vouchers

### Entertainment

Every Saturday from 9pm

### Celebrating?

We can cater for any occasion i.e.  
Birthdays, Weddings, Funerals etc

### Speciality Nights

Wednesday Curry & a Pint or glass of wine £6.00

1st Tuesday in the month Chinese night

Come and join us on Wednesday 5th for our bonfire, fireworks & BBQ

Christmas Fayre Menu available 1st - 23rd December

0114 2368491

Teachers and Group Leaders - please note we can put on performances for groups of 30 to 70 from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm daily from Nov. 18th.  
Ring for details of options and charges

### 2008 Booking Form

Please tick first and second choice dates.

To: Totley Christmas Festivals.  
Please send tickets for:

.....no. of adults @£9.50 = .....  
(price includes mulled wine and mince pies for adults)

.....no. of children @£9.50 = .....  
(3-16)

.....no. of children @£4.50 = .....  
(aged 2 and under)

(prices include a good quality, age appropriate present, drink and christmas biscuit for each child)

TOTAL = .....

Date	1.30	4.30
Sat 6th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat 13th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mon 15th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tue 16th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wed 17th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thur 18th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fri 19th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat 20th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mon 22nd Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tue 23rd Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wed 24th Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Tel. No.....

Names of children:

Name.....

Age.....Boy/Girl

Names of children:

Name.....

Age.....Boy/Girl

Names of children:

Name.....

Age.....Boy/Girl

### What some of our visitors said about us last year:-

Excellent and very good value.

Fantastic, not just great for kids, thank you so much.

An absolute winner! For both kids and adults.

The most wonderful Santa outside Lapland.

Our 2nd year, absolutely brilliant again,

A wonderful experience, I cuddled a lamb!

The Christmas story beautifully and simply told.

Fantastic. Can I have a lamb to take home please.

It was brilliant says an angel and an innkeeper.

Sam had a lovely chat with Santa and enjoyed dressing up as a king.



For further information or to book your places using our credit card hotline, please call Jenny on 2364761.

# Live Nativity Plays

with the Animals & Father Christmas

6th - 24th December 2008



Totley Hall Farm  
0114 2364761

# GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

The Totley Show was a great success, the atmosphere was really pleasant, and everyone looked to be taking a real interest, especially the children, and the volunteers old and new had pulled out all the stops to create a lovely fast moving and entertaining afternoon. The entries in the various categories were up in most sections and the domestic entries looked really well and the judges had a hectic time selecting the winners (I won the savoury scone section!!) My fruit sank in my Dundee Cake so failed miserably though the people who bought it at auction said it tasted smashing. The children's section was really something with record entries, it looked as though a lot of work and encouragement had gone into all the exhibits and I know the judges had a really difficult job selecting winners, they all deserved a medal, well done!

Well done also to Kate Parkin who won best in show with a lovely white on black delicate tracing of sculptured paper. The attendance was up on last year, the weather was very kind, the sunshine came out just right and everyone enjoyed the finale with Rony and his daughter making the auction one of the best and funniest we have had for some time, a big thank you should go to Jennie Street for pulling everything and everyone together to make a very memorable Totley Show, I look forward to next year. Work has already begun on organising it. So get cracking with your photography, artwork, knitting, woodwork etc so that next year's show will be even better and be enough to make all the work the volunteers to do worthwhile.

Back to gardening, you should by now have put the insulation into the greenhouse to keep the overwintering plants nice and cosy. Tidy up flower beds, remove old bedding plants and give the beds a topping of well rotted compost and fork into the soil. It is time to make sure all the tender plants are protected from the frost. Wrap them loosely in fleece or take them into the greenhouse. Do not overwater them. Do as much digging as possible before the frosts make it too difficult to work the soil. The seed and plant catalogues will be dropping through your letterboxes soon so you will be able to plan your schemes for next season, do not forget to bear in mind what you are going to include in The Totley Show.

## FLOWERS

Clean up borders removing leaves and debris from the beds. Take up any vulnerable plants before the frost starts in earnest; store them carefully. Dust dahlia tubers with flowers of sulphur, cut out any soft or rotting parts first. Dig up and divide any perennials, which have outgrown their space, saving the newer outside growth for replanting. You could also pot up some of them for the charity stalls etc. Wrap up carefully any plants which might be damaged by frost and cannot be taken indoors, use straw or bubble wrap, old sacks etc.

## VEGETABLES

Remove yellowing leaves from around all crops; give brassicas a dressing of vitro chalk or high nitrogen compost, dig over any vacant plots. If you have a bit of room in the greenhouse try growing a lettuce or two, choose a hardy variety such as May Queen or similar. You should be enjoying the fruits of your labours, sprouts; cabbage, spinach, carrot, parsnips etc should be ready; if you have taken care of your veg. plot. If you haven't you don't know what you are missing, there is nothing to beat the flavour of homegrown produce especially if it's as organic as possible, there will be no chemicals interfering with the natural flavour. Lovely grub. Try a small plot next season.

## TREES FRUIT and SHRUBS

Prepare ground ready for any trees; shrubs etc plenty of organic matter dug in, add a dressing of sterilised bone meal. Cover a crown of rhubarb with a straw filled bucket to bring it on early. As soon as fruit trees etc are dormant (no leaves) give them a good tar oil wash to help control pests and diseases. If you have not given your apples and pears a dressing of superphosphate or lime for a year or two, then give them a treat this year at the manufacturer's recommended dosage or use the organic alternative, a good mulch over the root area with well rotted compost, make sure it's not over acid.

Prune newly planted apples and pears and bush and cane fruits. Look up the correct procedure in a good gardening book (the library has one or two). Winter prune established apples and pears and bushes (it will be explained in the same book). Do not leave the planting of summer fruiting strawberries any later

than November. If you have some lovely conifers, which might get spoiled by snow, then wrap them with plastic netting not too tightly, but just enough to stop snow bending the branches down. Move container grown specimens into a sheltered position, Bay and Camellia are particularly vulnerable. Plant roses, deciduous trees of all kinds.

## GREENHOUSE and INDOOR PLANTS

Water sparingly any plants that are resting or going into that stage. Dry off any summer flowering bulbs, corms or tubers and store in a frost-free place. Move any seedlings you have grown into a place where they will get maximum light; this will prevent them getting "leggy" and weak. Pot on any cuttings taken earlier, if you have a heated greenhouse (or spare bedroom) take more cuttings of fuchsia, geranium etc. If you have too many they will be well received by the charity stalls, at the cakes and cuttings morning in May, at the RC church just up from the shop. Cut down late chrysanthemums after flowering. As I mentioned last month ventilation in the greenhouse and conservatory must be carefully monitored to prevent a build up of moulds and mildew, don't splash water around willy nilly it does not help, close doors and vents by mid afternoon even on sunny days. You should have checked your heaters by now, most good DIY Stores will have wicks and paraffin (if you use it). Move indoor plants away from radiators which will possibly be working by now and spray them occasionally, perhaps standing them on a damp pebble filled tray will help to keep them happy. There's not much point in trying to keep late grapes hanging on the vines any longer. Cut each bunch with a 9" (23cm) or more of stem from which it is hanging, insert the lower end of this into a bottle filled with clean water and containing a few pieces of charcoal, stand the bottle on a shelf in a cool, dark, dry room, tilting it until the grapes are not touching anything. Earlier vine can be pruned now.

## LAWNS

Cutting lawns at this time you should have your mower set high, trim the edges to keep it looking smart. If you ignored last month's tip then you should spike, scarify and top-dress your lawn if you want a lovely green sward in the spring.

CHEERIO FOR NOW, TOM

## TOTLEY SHOW REPORT

This year's Totley Show in September was a great success and described by several people as having a real "buzz" to it. We had queues to register, queues to get in, 356 entries, and crowds at the auction. This year we also had 11 stalls including 4 new Totley sellers – Liberty Foods with their delicious food products, Elaine Wallis with her lovely jewellery, Margaret Baker with her display of digital art and artwork that she has done with child cancer sufferers, and Angela Harpham with her fabulous art and paper sculptures and products. The other old Totley stalwarts were the Transport 17 stall and the Cheshire Homes stall.

Our local hero Rony Robinson opened the Show and conducted the auction in his usual zany style, with lots of verbal backchat and repartee. A good laugh was had by all!

Holding it all together with his usual aplomb was our MC Mike Williamson.

Giving the Show an upbeat feel, Escafeld Brass Band's music was well received, and the children enjoyed the inimitable Scout Trolley and games like Splat the Rat.

Parks and Countryside brought the Greenoak Park consultation stand and lots of people made comments about the draft Master Plan for the Park.

The Tombola organised by Ann Capper, the Raffle organised by Dorothy Firth and the Cake Stall organised by Pam Voice and Kerry Clarke were all as full and popular as ever.



Angela Grayson, Rita Garnett and Pam Mettam having fun in the cafe!!

The cafe organised by Betty Higgins and Rita Garnett was also a great success giving people a chance to sit and chat with friends and neighbours over a drink and a cake.

A special mention has to go to Totley Primary School's Allen Miller whose

good nature and patience helps us get through all the little glitches that occur on a day like this. Glad you won some prizes for your veg too Allen!!

37 volunteers helped in the preparation and on the day of the Show and that says a lot about Totley spirit. You all know who you are and that you made the Show a really enjoyable day and that's what matters – we all had fun.

The details

For the 135 people who put entries into the Show it was a memorable day. The average of 2 entries per person, though, is not the real picture. Some people and families excelled themselves and put in lots of entries, with the Bridgens family topping the list at 22 entries between mum Sue, Charlotte and James! They also carried away 4 firsts, six seconds and seven thirds between them – well done the Bridgens! In all, 95 people won at least one prize, so it shows you have a good chance of winning at least a little of your 50p entry fee back!!

The most popular class, with 24 entries entered by 63 people was Class 50, Colour Photography. Carol Munday put in just one entry in the whole Show and won first prize in Class 50 with her Colour Photo as well as winning the cup of Best in the Photography Section. That's a good record Carol!

The next most popular classes were Class 43, Acrylic or Oil Painting, with 19 entries, Class 16, Jam, with 13 entries, Children's Class 57, Vegetable Animal, with 11 entries, and Children's Class 58, Miniature Garden, with 10 entries.

As in every previous show, the 5 tomatoes and 5 runner bean classes were popular with 9 entries, but

the surprise of the Show was the new Eggs class which also attracted 9 entries. It seems more and more people are keeping chickens in Totley! Let's see even more next year.



Rony conducting the auction

If we pay out prize money for all the 70 classes it costs us £420. Our entry fees brought in £178. We operate a rule that if there are less than 3 entries per class only first prize is awarded, except in the Children's Classes) but nevertheless you can see there is a shortfall.

So this year we called for people to sponsor the Show classes at £6 per class, which is the cost of the prize money. We were delighted to get 42 of the 70 classes sponsored, raising a wonderful £252, which topped up the entry fee money. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a class or two – you know who you are.

Hopefully we can get more classes, if possible all of them, sponsored next year, and if more people enter and there are lots more entries we will do even better!

In total we will have made a profit of about £750, which will go into the fund for a new community building for Totley.

This year, also to our surprise there was not a single apple pie for Class 14. By contrast last year there were about 10 apple pies! How do you account for that?!

The only other classes with no entries were Class 36, 3 courgettes, (explained by the terribly wet weather we've had in August & September), Class 48, Reclaimed Art/Sculpture, and Class 59, Computer Art for under 8years.

To see some of the "buzz" at the Show go to [www.totley.org.uk](http://www.totley.org.uk) where the photos of entries, winners and people just generally enjoying themselves have now been posted. See if your photo is up and who you recognise.

We would love to welcome some more people to help on our Show Planning team – it doesn't involve a great deal, but every little helps. If you can help, please contact me.

Jennie Street

Tel. 236-2302

[jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk](mailto:jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk)

## NEARLY NEW SALE

Totley All Saints Toddler Group are holding a nearly new toy and clothes sale on Sat 15th November 11am-1pm at Totley All Saints Church Hall, Totley Hall Lane. There will be good quality childrens winter clothes, toys and equipment.

For more details and a sellers number please contact Sally - 2351651

## Abbeydale Picture House

August and September were extremely busy and exciting months at the Abbeydale. We had 3 major events including the first films to be shown at the Abbeydale in 33 years, we had an exciting opportunity working on a musical number from 'The Likes Of Us' written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice and we also had the launch of our new fundraising campaign 'Raising the Rafters' and a new website.

In this issue I'll be talking about the 3 events that happened in September which were the first films to be shown since 1975, the heritage open weekend and the Picture House Youth Theatre's performance of Me and My Girl.

On September 6th history was made as the audience sat down, the projector was turned on and the lights dimmed ready for the first film to be shown in the Abbeydale since the picture house closed in 1975. In the afternoon families enjoyed the comical adventure of little red riding hood in 'Hoodwinked!' which was enjoyed by all. In the evening the Front Of House staff donned their Hawaiian skirts and shirts along with the audience as South Pacific took to the silver screen. The auditorium filled with applause as the Overture to South Pacific started and once the musical numbers started there was no stopping them from singing along. Thanks to the kindness of 'Reels On Wheels' who donated their time and equipment to help us raise money for the new fundraising campaign. We managed to raise £1700 to go towards Raising The Rafters.

A week later all the volunteer staff were back to help with the heritage open weekend. As the Abbeydale is part of English Heritage, we opened our doors on this weekend along with every other English Heritage building in the country. We welcomed hundreds of visitors to plunge into over 80 years of history on one of our free, guided tours. The tours were once again very popular with tour groups varying from 5 to 25 people. For some people it was a fantastic walk around a working entertainment venue but for others it was the chance to relive memories of the past and to see what has changed since they sat in the auditorium watching their favourite movie. This was also the weekend that we launched the new campaign 'Raising The Rafters' which I will mention in my next article.

To finish off the month we had the annual performance by the Picture House Youth Theatre Seniors. The audience reaction was staggering as they watched these youngsters performing the



musical comedy 'Me and My Girl'. After just under a year of

rehearsals the youth finally got to tread the boards and walk under the proscenium arch in this family show full of laughter with fantastic costumes and toe-tapping songs. The production was enjoyed by all and proved extremely successful; some even said it was the best show they had seen the Youth Theatre Perform.

September ended up as the busiest month that the Abbeydale has had this year so far but the work is still continuing as we have a long way to go before the restoration is complete. In the next few articles I will write about the new campaign and website, the exciting project that the Youth Theatre were involved in and many more up and coming projects and events at the Abbeydale Picture House.

Still to come: December 5th -Dick Whittington the family Pantomime performed by Chaplin's Gold Pantos. Take your little ones on your annual Panto trip to the Abbeydale Picture House to see what happens to Dick Whittington when faced with King Rat. Performances at 10:00 and 14:30. All tickets £5, special offer to schools-3 free teachers per group booking. Box Office: 07775966106

December 19th -Christmas Showtime featuring the Picture House Youth Theatre and other star performers. Get into the Christmas mood with this magical, family variety show. Performance at 17:30. All tickets £10. Box Office: 07775966106 [www.abbeydalepicturehouse.co.uk](http://www.abbeydalepicturehouse.co.uk) - new website. Click on our 'restoration' button to find out how you can help and find out about our new raising the rafters campaign.

Ben Miller

## Totley Primary School Update

Well another summer has been and gone. The floor in the Hall and Dining Room has been polished but unfortunately no new junior toilets or office thanks to the local education authority who seem to me to be dragging their feet. The Totley Show, or as I call it the Tom, Jennie and Liddle Show, has come and gone. The Miller family only managed a 2nd and a 3rd place this year out of the many items entered. Oh well, there is always next year, that is if the price of the school hire does not go up too much (black mail)! Every one had a great day. The sun shone and the band played, what more could you ask for? The standard of entries was extremely high, thanks to the TRA for leaving the school clean and tidy.

On the Sunday the school P.T.A. held a car boot sale with over 30 cars selling, and again the sun shone. My wife Leigh did a roaring trade with Totley Lodge branded Jams, Pickles and Chutneys.

We have another 1,000 daffy and 1,000 crocus bulbs to plant around the school grounds. The school gardening club has started again with 14 pupils on the books and 4 helpers who, thank goodness, know a thing or 2 about growing produce and flowers properly unlike me, I am a stick it in the ground and pray kind of person. My thanks to Chris, Tom, Carol and Christine who have helped me in the past with words like 'You don't do it like that ' and Tom's 'I grow bigger weeds than that!'

We had to have a tree taken down by the wall on Baslow Road but thirty trees are on order. Plus Andrew Clayton our tree surgeon (0114 2014687) will plant a replacement.

If anyone out there has any breezeblocks, sand or general building materials the chair of Governors and myself are trying to make an outside classroom. The blocks will make a seating area for the children to sit with a tree and shrubs in the centre of the square-seating quad. All donations welcome.

That's all for now.

Allen Miller, Building Supervisor

## MULTICHOICE TESTS

Recently I heard a news item about a medical student who suffers from dyslexia, suing the medical fraternity claiming that multichoice examination questions put her at a disadvantage. For any readers not familiar with the term "multichoice" test, it's the same as some of the -TV shows where contestants have to select the correct response from four given choices. This type of test became more common during my time as a lecturer from 1957 to retirement in 1982. It can form part of the claim that school, college and university examinations are easier than they used to be. This can be illustrated by the following example:

1. Name the capital of Denmark.
2. Choose the capital of Denmark from (a) Copenhagen, (b) Helsinki, (c) Oslo, (d) Stockholm.
3. Choose the capital of Denmark from (a) London, (b) Paris, (c) Rome, (d) Copenhagen.

In 1 the student has no help, 2 more help and 3 the correct response is fairly obvious. Multichoice questions can still be very difficult dependent on the responses offered. However they still have the potential for guessing with a one in four chance of selecting the correct answer - better odds than the lottery! I am NOT using my illustration to denigrate students' attainments. During the summer I have glanced at some revision papers for GCSE pupils and been pleasantly surprised at the depth of knowledge required and the scope of the subject studied.

I would suggest it is useful to discuss whether or not the multichoice type of test should be scrapped but NOT on the basis of being a disadvantage to dyslexic students.

Of course I could make the case for my own disability, just to illustrate how silly things could develop. I have macular degeneration so cannot read bus route numbers. Now that bus stops are used for several routes I am lost. It becomes even more difficult when buses have to queue at the bus stop and waiting passengers surge forward to board when they see it is their bus. The newer bus route names and numbers are much improved but I still can't read them. Now I play devil's advocate. I take the bus company to court claiming I am not given an equal opportunity to read the bus route, and win my case. The company has to make the letters and numbers brighter and bigger until I can read them. Mr X comes along, sight worse than mine, so the buses have to be fitted with audio announcement of routes. Then Mrs Y. complains she cannot see nor can she hear the announcements. At this point the managing director resigns, the bus company goes out of business and hundreds of people suffer.

Ridiculous isn't it? Is it too far fetched from the suggestion that all multichoice tests may have to be scrapped,

dependent on the outcome of this one complaint by a medical student? If it is deemed she has a case why not get over the difficulty by having an exam invigilator read the questions to her?

There is of course a downside to any simple solution. The legal gentlemen (or women) wouldn't get their fat fees arguing the case!

Don Ashford

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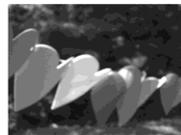
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## In search of Edward Carpenter's Totley

When Rony and I met over seven years ago, we were delighted to discover we shared a long obsession with Edward Carpenter. Carpenter - the Victorian gay anarcho-socialist, vegetarian, feminist, simple lifer, nude sunbather, pagan and sandal wearer who wrote more books and pamphlets in his lifetime than most of us have had hot dinners; who lived his eccentric life at Millthorpe, entertaining not only a host of working class scythe makers, stone masons, grinders and lovers, but also many of the prominent thinkers of his day - George Bernard Shaw, E.M. Forster, William Morris, Olive Schreiner for starters. Indeed, as a little girl, Rony's mother was taken by her father to meet Carpenter along with a bunch of Sheffield socialists. We have a signed photo from that trip on our wall. Carpenter's utopian hymn, "England Arise," was once as famous and as often sung as "The Red Flag."

Sheila Rowbotham has just published a biography of Carpenter. We'd both separately encountered Sheila, now a giggly academic in Manchester, back in the 1970's. She'd re-discovered Carpenter as a sort of role model for all the anarcho-socialist, vegetarian, feminist simple lifers etc then coming out of the woodwork.

Over the last few years we've entertained Sheila and various friends on their research forays to the Carpenter Collection in the Sheffield Archives. We've conducted little informal trips for them to Dore and Totley Station where Carpenter was first chatted up by his working class life-partner George Merrill. We've tracked down the farm cottage at Fox Farm in Lower Bradway where this gentlemanly ex-cleric lodged with Albert Fearnelyough - a rough scythe maker and his family. And, next door, in the farmhouse, we met a modern day Mr Fox, descendant of the progressive thinking farmer, Charles Fox that Carpenter had known and fictionalised. We've taken them on walks below St George's Farm which was farmed by Carpenter's socialist friend George Pearson (the family are still in these parts) after the collapse of Ruskin's famous communal fruit growing ventures there. We've taken gay fans to lay flowers on the grave of George Hukin, the kind socialist razor grinder, great unrequited love and life-long friend of Carpenter, who is buried in Holmesfield church yard.

However, we'd always known that Carpenter lived in Totley for a short time in the 1880's - before he built the house in Millthorpe and when the Bradway Cottage proved too small to accommodate both the Fearnelyoughs and his writing. However, neither we nor Sheila knew where. In reading Sheila's new biography, I discovered a clue. Carpenter wrote a letter to Walt Whitman, the famous American poet, about his move to Totley. The address was Woodland Villas. I put two and two together, thought about local woodland, surmised that if it was called a Villa, the house was likely Victorian, possibly in Woodland Place. A recent Sunday morning dog-walk up there revealed nothing, but on coming back down Queen Victoria Road, there, sure enough, was a pair of Victorian semis with "Woodland Villas" carved up high, a date of 1871 in Roman numerals. On talking to Sheila, she fished out her records of the original letter. Carpenter describes to Whitman, with some delight, the view over a small wood and the moors. Which of the two houses was the one he rented with the Fearnelyoughs seems impossible to discover.

I now had the history bit between my teeth though. I learned from the biography, that George Hukin lived for a while in Totley, again whereabouts unknown. I looked in the 1901 census (oh, the wonders of the internet) and found him living with his wife Fanny in Brook Terrace. (Hukin had suggested to Fanny that perhaps all three of them - Fanny, Carpenter and himself - could share a bed sometimes! Fanny wasn't too keen). These Victorian cottages were recently featured in a photo on the front cover of the Independent. They were demolished in the 1950's and sat just round the corner from Glover Road, before the bridge over the Totley Brook.

Further on in the biography, I learned that at times life at Millthorpe became so stressful due to the constant influx of visitors coming to commune with the prophet of libertarian socialism in his simple rural idyll, that Carpenter rented two rooms in a scruffy bolt hole - 56 Glover Road, Sheffield. Round the corner from George Hukin I thought! However, after several hours poring over old maps, photographs in Brian Edward's books, taking trips up Glover Road, peering through the trees from Queen Victoria Road, I realised that there had only ever been one more Victorian house than now on Glover Road, these all grander than the rough terrace visitors described. I now think that Glover Road was the one at Lowfield, near the new mosque, which indeed is lined with small terraced houses. Historians beware of jumping to conclusions! Meanwhile, our little Victorian terrace in Lemont Road looks out over St George's Farm and the path up to Woodthorpe and Holmesfield which we walk almost daily with our dog. This was probably the very track Carpenter, Shaw, Forster and all those assorted gays, anarcho-socialists, vegetarians, feminists, simple lifers, nude sunbathers, pagans and sandal wearers must have taken on their way from Dore and Totley Station to Millthorpe all those years ago. Well, we're a bit that way ourselves.

Sally Goldsmith

**Edward Carpenter, A Life of Liberty and Love** by Sheila Rowbotham is published by Verso £24.99. Sally interviews Sheila at the Quaker Meeting House for the Off the Shelf Festival on Monday 27th October.

### CHRISTIANS IN TOTLEY BREAK-OUT

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.



For the first time the members of All Saints along with friends from other local churches have decided to 'break-out' of the confines of the Church to offer divine healing to the public at large, in a public place. If anyone has an illness or situation which affects their emotions, their mind or their body, they are welcome to come for divine healing prayer, without obligation. This will happen at the **Cross Scythes** function room (rear entrance for the disabled): from **2pm to 5pm** and **7pm to 10pm** on Tuesday **25 November**.

It is intended that this will be the first of regular opportunities of this kind.

**For information, email contact:**  
**missionengland@aol.com or: Tel Brian on 07877 303709.**

## TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP

Around 35 souls braved a cold, dark and windy evening at the end of October to enjoy an evening of archive amateur and professional films. Sheffield Archives presented the film show of cine films that have been collected by them – and very entertaining they were too.

Footage was shown of Queen Victoria in Sheffield and also King George V and Queen Mary visiting Sheffield, a family on holiday by the sea at Filey, the Spartan Swimmers in action at Millhouses Baths, the St John Ambulance helping an injured motorist at Fox House, footage of a family enjoying Christmas in 1947, Jack Clare School of Motoring on Abbeydale Road promoting women to drive, the World Cup in 1966 at Hillsborough and trains at various stations including Beauchief Rail Station.

There was no material available for the Totley area. Here's where Sheffield Archives asked for our help; **is there any old cine film that they you can share with them.** They will then digitise them and preserve them for posterity. Should you be able to help, their contact details are on the right.

The next Totley History Group meeting will be on Wednesday 19th November in the library at 7.30pm, when renowned local historian and author **Professor Mel Jones** will be joining us and giving advice on how we can organise our group.

## REGION ON FILM

**Do you have any old cine film in any format?**

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## TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>COFFEE MORNING</b> , All Saints' Church Hall, 10am-noon
<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: Judith 236 3456 or Gill 236 1373 <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: Judith 236 3456 or Gill 236 1373 <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

### NOVEMBER 2008

**SAT 1<sup>st</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Surround Sound, Baslow Road. 8.30pm. Non-members welcome, small charge on door  
**SUN 2<sup>nd</sup> CASTLETON FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 10am-3pm  
**MON 3<sup>rd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER DRESSED FOR CHRISTMAS**, Chatsworth House  
**SAT 15<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS FAIR**, Dore and Totley URC Church, 10am to 12noon  
 All proceeds are to go to St Lukes Hospice  
**SAT 15<sup>th</sup> BOOK SALE**, CDs, DVDs, toys, games and videos, Scout Headquarters on Aldam Road, 11am - 1pm, Entrance 20p  
**SAT 15<sup>th</sup> NEARLY NEW TOY & CLOTHES SALE**. All Saints Church Hall, 11am - 1pm, further details contact Sally 235 1651  
**SAT 15<sup>th</sup> HOLMESFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 11.30am-4pm  
**SAT 15<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Adrian Alexander, Baslow Road. 8.30pm. Non-members welcome, small charge on door  
**TUES 18<sup>th</sup> TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**, 'Lavender', Mrs.B.Poissen, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am  
**WED 19<sup>th</sup> TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP**, Totley Library, 7.30pm, all welcome  
**WED 26<sup>th</sup> - SAT 29<sup>th</sup> T.O.A.D.S. AUTUMN PRODUCTION**, Dying for Dinner, St John's Church Hall, 7.30pm, tickets £3.50 or £3 236 6891  
**THU 27<sup>th</sup> SHEFFIELD FARMERS MARKET**, 10.00am-4.00pm, Barkers Pool  
**SAT 29<sup>th</sup> TRANSPORT 17 MINCE PIE & TEA/COFFEE**, 10am-12pm, Baslow Road Office, Christmas cards, paper, bric-a-brac & new items.  
**SAT 29<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Jon Clifford, Baslow Road. 8.30pm. Non-members welcome, small charge on door

### DECEMBER 2008

**WED 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP**, 'Carols by Candlelight', Totley Rise Methodist Church, 8pm  
**SUN 7<sup>th</sup> CASTLETON FARMERS MARKET**, the Village Hall, 10am-3pm  
**SUN 7<sup>th</sup> MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES, SANTA SPECIAL**, Abbeydale Road South, First train 11am - 3.30pm (weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk  
**SAT 13<sup>th</sup> & SUN 14<sup>th</sup> JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**, 4.15pm-7.30pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church, free 30 minute tours.  
**SAT 13<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**, Heatherfield Club, Ginny Marie, Baslow Road. 8.30pm. Members Christmas Party  
**SUN 14<sup>th</sup> MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES, SANTA SPECIAL**, Abbeydale Road South, First train 11am - 3.30pm (weather permitting) www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk

### THE INDEPENDENT FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

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