
TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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20p



It's that time of year again!

Picture: Simon Deeks

More Road Woes!

First we had the long closure of Mickley Lane, which meant a drive of what felt like twice the length of Mickley Lane to get to Dronfield Woodhouse and points south. The closure was due to the developers of the new housing estate at the top of the Lane needing to run foul drainage down Mickley Lane to join the Sheffield system at the bottom of Queen Victoria Road. (That sure is a roller-coaster ride – hope they've thought about what happens when it hits Queen Victoria Road!) To do that, the sewer had to cross the main gas-supply pipeline which crosses Mickley Lane. That needed permits from Transco, the gas distribution company, and the presence of an inspector on the site. Then owing to the fact that no start-date was given by Transco the period needed for the work was extended – hence the continued closure into January 2015 – but it should be open again by the time you read this.

Then we had the changes in the council's gritting policy to contend with. First they announced they were cutting back on the number of roads to be gritted. Grit-bins were to be provided instead for self-help. Then they changed their mind over some roads, which were then reinstated for gritting (for example Main Avenue and Sunnyvale Road, because of access to the school), but not others. So some grit-bins are being removed again as a consequence. Interestingly, the radius of the grit-sprayers has become a factor. On the corner of Marstone Crescent there is a

medical centre – access to which, you would think, would normally merit gritting. But no – it has been decreed that the grit-spray from lorries gritting Baslow Road will reach as far as the roads accessing the medical centre!

Also in January, parking was restricted on Baslow Road to allow work on the central barrier (what a good time of year for re-painting the barrier railings and sealing the brickwork to prevent water damage!) but at least you could drive by in the one lane that was open. That's more than you can do on the road between Winnats Pass and Sparrowpit, a road used by many to get to Buxton. It seems that, shortly after a stonewaller had finished rebuilding a wall, it collapsed, and a huge sink hole appeared (see picture page 28). The hole was into a mine-working tunnel. The road was closed off using barriers, but drivers carried on using the road until more effective barriers were erected. Confusion arose. Was it closed or not? Derbyshire County Council dumped waste material to bar the road, so with barriers also in place, it is inaccessible. The word is that the County Council have to do major work on it – the whole road is unstable. At the moment it is closed until at least March. Alternative routes are via Rushup edge, to the A6, or via Brough and Bradwell. And 2015 has only just begun!

Still – don't forget that the days are now getting longer!

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Become a Friend of Totley Library

It is now over four months since the local community charity, Totley CRIC, took over the running of Totley Library. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from the community with over 90 volunteers who have given up their time to work in the library. We are very proud of what the volunteers have achieved together. The library is open for the same number of hours as before and the service is running smoothly. With everyone pulling together we have been able to keep our valued local library doors open – and by the way, we don't close for lunch!

We are also very proud that all the community groups that use Totley Library are continuing to meet. Two of our volunteers, Sarah Leckenby and Jill Hnat, have taken on the running of the Toddler Craft and Storytime on Wednesday mornings from 10.30-11.30. The group will run during February half-term and we have another event for school children, run in conjunction with Sheffield Children's University. Come along to our free Imagination Gaming session on Friday 20th February from 10am-12pm – an opportunity to play some cool and imaginative card and board games from all over the world.

To run Totley Library costs over £20,000 per year and the grant from the council only covers this in full for the first year. To raise funds for future years we will be holding fundraising events in the library and in other venues. For details please check our website at www.totleycric.org.uk. We will also need help from volunteers to help with fundraising initiatives. If you don't have time to volunteer in the library, this is a great way to get involved. If you can help with fundraising please get in touch via email savetotleylibrary@gmail.com.

Please consider becoming a Friend of Totley CRIC. As a Friend you make a small annual donation to help ensure the future viability of Totley Library. You will receive discounted entry to our fundraising events and regular information updates. The minimum annual donation is £5 per year, but if you can pay more than this, it will really help fill the funding gap! Application forms are available from Totley Library or you can join via our website www.totleycric.org.uk.

Natasha Watkinson, Trustee, Totley CRIC



Transport 17

We closed the year with everything reasonably intact and just solvent (the gospel according to John Savournin!!). It was a horrendous year and we are all hoping that 2015 will be considerably better for us all.

Thankfully the first snow of the season arrived whilst the

clubs were closed and we sincerely hope that none of you had falls on the ice. The Americans are suffering badly with lots of snow and major sub-zero temperatures – let's hope that it isn't going to hit us. Fingers crossed!

One of our clubs has had to close temporarily because it doesn't have a cooker hood over its gas cooker. We are hoping that this will be resolved soon to enable the members to resume their activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2015. Let's hope it will be an improvement on last year.

Felicity Revill

Another Totley Yard Sale!

Sunday 19th April - 11.00

The Totley Yard Sale will happen again this Spring, to raise money on behalf of Totley Open Gardens, and all takings from Open Gardens go to various local organisations and charities.

It is easy to take part, as you just sell things from the front garden (or pavement if you're careful). It's so much easier than doing a car boot sale, and it's at a civilised time – you don't have to get up early to pack the car and trail out to some damp field.

Email me to book your pitch, and bring me £5 in an envelope with your name and address on it. When your £5 is received your address (no name or other details) will be entered on the map. This will be sold to punters on the day for 50p.

Last year loads of buyers came from all over Sheffield and people were queuing to buy maps an hour before we started! Everyone who had a pitch did well, some VERY well.

I will advertise it with posters around the area and in supermarkets and other locations, and also on local websites and social media.

Ask for a poster if you know places to put it up, and anyone else who knows other websites to advertise it on, please feel free to promote it yourself!

Jennie Street

Contact jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk

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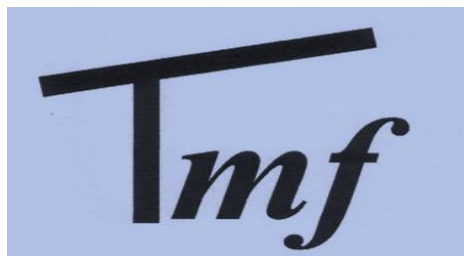
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Totley Music Festival 2015

Calling all music lovers far and wide!

Totley music festival will be different this year. It will take place throughout July instead of one week so that more people can have opportunity to attend. Even if you are on holiday during the month there will be times when you can come along to enjoy the sound of music and good company. We already have some fabulous and talented performers and events lined up – some new and some who are regular contributors.

We thank Totley Open Gardens, Totley 'Independent', Totley Residents Association, and of course your donations – but it is getting harder to pay the costs of the Festival, which is of course non-profit-making. For most events this year, therefore, there will be a reasonable ticket price aimed essentially at covering costs. Any profits will go to support local voluntary activities.

The Programme is being put together now, and will be in the next issue of the 'Independent'. You'll be able to buy tickets in advance or at the door, and we're hoping that most events will take place in Totley Library. Look out for information about the festival when you are out and about, visit www.totleymusicfestival.co.uk, email us on totleymusicfestival@talktalk.net, call us on 07956 858944, ask at the library and so on.

Contact us if you'd like to perform. We want this festival to be a great success in bringing people together to enjoy one of the great gifts we all have – making and enjoying music.

On The Right Lines at Dore and Totley

The Friends of Dore and Totley Station is up and running. At a meeting in Dore, local users and supporters of the station agreed to form a "station adopter" group – an initiative supported by Northern Rail which is responsible for the station and some of its services.

The station has a long history. Opened in 1872, it served as the gateway to Sheffield from the south. Since 1894 it's also been the gateway to the Hope Valley and the stop for local attractions such as Ecclesall Woods, Abbeydale Hamlet and numerous local walks. It also has increasing commuter and leisure traffic from an area much



wider than Dore and Totley. Passenger numbers have more than doubled in the past ten years and in 2014 around 130,000 passengers used the station.

FODATS wants to ensure that current levels of services are maintained and increased, and to see the station facilities improved. The refurbished station building is now the Rajdhani restaurant. But passengers need seating, lighting, information, shelter and a pleasant waiting environment. Safe and secure facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers need to be maintained to meet demand. There needs to be a stronger link between local bus routes and timetables. These issues are all on the list for FODATS.

As Coordinator Dawn Biram explains, "We want to bring 21st century rail services and facilities to our 19th century station, while respecting and keeping its character."

The present line, reduced to single track in 1985, is due to be redoubled, thus reducing the "bottleneck" effect on all rail services to the south of Sheffield. The second platform taken away in 1985 is to be reinstated. A new ramp and/or lift will lead to a new footbridge for the new Platform 2 for the Hope Valley, Chinley, Stockport, Manchester and Liverpool. These developments are part of the government's Northern Hub programme. Dore and Totley station is an historic building in a semi-rural setting. Over the line is Ladies' Spring Wood which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We want to ensure that all these developments respect the building and its surroundings.

FODATS has already joined the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACORP). ACORP is the national federation for station adoption groups which supports the government's Community Rail Development Strategy. In time, FODATS volunteers will receive training from rail operators to work on improvements to the station environment. It's not all about flowerbeds – it's about the overall station experience, involving the community and getting problems and service opportunity issues dealt with by those responsible. There's a success story at Dronfield where the station closed in 1967. A limited service was reintroduced in 1981 and the station now boasts a regular service used by 160,000 passengers in 2013. The Friends of Dronfield Station Group planted an award-winning wild flower meadow, won a station gardens award and now involves local schools and the wider community in projects connected with their station.

FODATS now needs your support and enthusiasm. If you're a commuter, shopper, holiday-maker, walker or occasional rail user we just want to get you on our list of supporters so that we can keep in touch. If you can offer practical support then so much the better.

Please let us know of your interest by getting in touch with Dawn Biram at Dawn.biram@btinternet.com or by phone on 0114 235 6907, or Nick Barnes

by email to nj-barnes@outlook.com

The Shepley Spitfire, Totley



*Firstly, we hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
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Valentine's Day



Romance is upon us at this time of year so why not spoil your special someone, book a table with us. You will receive full table service and you can even pre order your champagne ready to be popped on your arrival for that added special touch. Every table will be dressed for the occasion, with the perfect love songs in the background and we will be having a fantastic set menu available!

Mother's Day



*Every mother needs their day to rest, sit back and enjoy their family so book a table with us and we will do all the running around for her and the rest of the family, of course. We will have everything in hand to make sure she is spoilt on her special day as this happens only once a year.
Lets make it one she remembers!*



*Take a look at our full menu on the
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and we will gladly send one out to you.*

Myself and all the team look forward to serving you soon!

A Little Piece of England

Fancy helping to be part of a performance out in the Totley countryside? I've been commissioned to write a short show about St George's Farm and its legacy. I'm envisaging at least two performances, provisionally on Midsummer's weekend – 20th and 21st June. These may be part of a walk along the lane by the Shepley Spitfire and up to Woodthorpe, meeting characters as we go! The Totley History Group, who are helping with research, would welcome others. I'm on the lookout for a small cast of local people to perform in it. Great fun!

Why St George's Farm? John Ruskin, the popular Victorian art critic and social reformer funded an argumentative and ill-fated farming and boot-making colony here – at the farmhouse above Mickley lane allotments - in 1877-79. He saw it as 'a little piece of England given into the English workman's hands, and heaven's.' It was a funny old time – of a utopian 'communism' not influenced by Marx, but more by ideas of the dignity of communal hand labour in opposition to a Britain increasingly in thrall to mass industrial production. But the colonists all fell out with Ruskin - and sometimes with each other.



These ideas of craft, agriculture, the beauty of the rural landscape, collective working and social reform, even revolution, didn't go away however. We can see them taken up right here in Totley and Holmesfield - for example by the sexy sage of Millthorpe, Edward Carpenter, growing potatoes and making sandals in his quest for the simple life; by the curmudgeonly Clarion Rambler GHB Ward from Moorwoods Lane and by Kinder Mass Trespasser Bill Keane from Green Oak Road, campaigning to open up the moors to ordinary people. The work of Ward and Keane helped the formation of our beloved Peak National Park. Ward also helped set up the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Sheffield's Green Belt – the first ever in the country and still one of the best protected. We hope the early colonists and their families, Carpenter, Ward, Keane and others will all make an appearance in the show. Perhaps even the utopian artist William Morris and the inventor of stainless steel Harry Brearley – yes, they both admired Ruskin and came to Totley too!

The performance will be part of a big programme of events taking place all over the city to celebrate 'Ruskin in Sheffield' and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other events to celebrate him and his relevance to contemporary life will include exhibitions, talks, walks, performances, land based workshops, research and even a pop-up museum. A friendly launch event where you can find out more will take place at Ruskin Hall, Walkley Community Centre, 7a Fir St, S6 3TG on Sunday 1st February, 4 – 7pm. Details at: <http://www.ruskininsheffield.com> and all are welcome. In Totley, we invite you to perform, research or help with the

show – costumes, props, refreshments for example. For more information and/or to offer help, contact me at goldsally@googlemail.com or phone 07887 383 282

Sally Goldsmith



It was all go leading up to Christmas! Events started on November 28th with our Christmas Fair led by our PTA – the Fun-d Raisers! We enjoyed our Christingle Service and took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church, went on a 'Journey to Bethlehem' at Totley Rise Methodist Church and then put on our amazing productions - the Nativity with the infants, plus an afternoon entitled 'Christmas Cracker Selection' with the Juniors. We had parties and presents – and had a visit from a man with a white beard and in red suit! Finally, we enjoyed a Carol session on the yard at 3.00pm on the very last day and parents had mulled wine and mince pies. It was a great end to the year!

Y5 Enterprise Project With YMCA White Rose: For the second year, we have been fortunate to work in partnership with YMCA White Rose on an Enterprise Project which seeks to develop entrepreneurial skills amongst our children. This is a not-for-profit charitable organisation which provides children, young people and families in South and West Yorkshire with a range of dedicated services. The Y5s have been looking at what the Bible teaches about poverty and justice, and how individual Christians and Christian charities have stood up for justice, such as William Wilberforce and George Williams of the YMCA. They have also looked at the work of many charities and how they help others. From this research they then had 'Dragons' Den' style pitches in order to see which charity they should work to support. The children eventually decided on 'The Yours Project' which works with young people coping with disabilities. During our Christmas Fair, the children sold toys, books and games, and donations were collected as part of the Christingle Service and Christmas Productions.

Visitors and Extra-Curricular Activities: We like to provide our children with a wide variety of experience and as a result have various visitors and extra aspects to really get them engaged. Visitors this last term included: Mike Warren, a Christian storyteller, and Saints Alive Puppet assemblies. Our after-school and lunchtime clubs included: Mad Science, Mad Maths, Chess, Art, Hockey, Football, Cricket, Athletics, Orienteering, Cross Country and Pyjama Drama.

So what now? Well, we're getting ready for our TASS Aspire day when we will have visiting University students as well as professionals in the community to come and talk about what they do and how they got there. This is to inspire our children and make them think about how they will get to their chosen line of work. If you want to find out even more of the exciting things that are happening at our school, then please visit our new website or email us at: enquiries@totleyallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk. We'll be so happy to let you know!

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Improvements to Longshaw Visitors' Car Park

Longshaw Estate was handed over to the National Trust in 1931. Since then Longshaw has become renowned as a well-loved venue for fresh air and exercise and as a hub to access the wider spectacular landscape of the Peak District National Park. Visitor surveys tell us that recent developments like the boggart-themed natural play and recent toilet refurbishment are warmly received.

We still need to deal with some longstanding issues and also plan carefully for the future to try to make sure Longshaw is a great place to visit for everyone. One such issue is that on busy days Woodcroft car park becomes full very quickly and visitors to Longshaw have to find other places to park. The car park was originally constructed by National Trust wardens in the 1980s to accommodate numbers of visitors travelling by car. While appropriate at the time, the size and layout can't cope with the ever-increasing demand for visits to the Longshaw Estate over the intervening years. Also the surfacing is wearing down and there are now many large puddles on wet days.



We have been seeking to develop the car park recently and submitted plans to the Peak District National Park Authority to improve and extend Woodcroft car park. The plans have been consulted on through the planning process and we are pleased to say we have been granted planning permission to extend the car park.

We are now preparing for the construction works which we expect to begin in late February 2015. The improvements will include parking for more cars in demarcated bays, safe coach access, particularly for visitors to the Moorland Discovery Centre, and the provision of bicycle and motorcycle parking. We will also be applying to Sheffield City Council to restrict parking on the A6187 (Owler Bar Road), but this process may take six months to complete.

During the works, which we anticipate will take three months, Woodcroft car park will be closed. Alternative parking will still be available at Wooden Pole and Hay Wood car parks. The tea room and shop will remain open as usual during this time as will the rest of Longshaw Estate. There may be some changes to our events and activities so please see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/longshaw for updates and information.

We hope all this work, when finished, will provide a great welcome to visitors. In the meantime if you are visiting Longshaw please be careful around the Woodcroft car park area but otherwise enjoy the delights of Longshaw Estate.

If you would like any further information about this project please contact the Project manager, Sophie Milner on 01433 631757 or Sophie.milner@nationaltrust.org.uk

A Wildlife Dilemma - continued!

The weasel has not been seen again, and an email to Sorby Natural History Mammals group, seeking advice, brought no response. The wildlife camera also brought no results. Rat holes were found in neighbouring gardens, but no more activity has been seen since a poisoning regime, using professional gear, has been used.

The total number of squirrels in the garden is now nineteen. Even the Forestry Commission are encouraging farmers to kill grey squirrels by paying them, as they breed so quickly and cause so much damage – an example is one lady's broadband cable being eaten. Anyway, the answer to the question set in the last edition of TI is that rats are omnivorous, whereas weasels are carnivorous and eat rats, so it was safe to use poison to kill the rats, using a grain based poison. Three were despatched, with the possibility of other young ones going the same way.

Roger Hart

Councillor Surgeries

Liberal Democrats:

2nd Monday in the month 6.00-7.00 pm, Totley Library, Baslow Road and 2nd Saturday in the month from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon, Dore Old School Hall, Savage Lane, Dore. Contact details: Colin Ross 235 1948
Email: colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk
Joe Otten 230 3290
Email: joe.otten@sheffield.gov.uk
Martin Smith 0781 205 5346
Email martin.smith@sheffield.gov.uk

Women's World Day of Prayer

This will be held at the English Martyrs Church at 10.30am on 6th March. Everyone is welcome.

The service this year has been prepared by the Women of The Bahamas. If you have any enquiries, please phone 236 3027

Calling craft enthusiasts!

I gather that there are a lot of craft enthusiasts living in the Totley area. I'd like to arrange a get-together of people interested in crafts of any sort, so that we can contact others to offer help and support, share ideas and materials, inspire and encourage each other - and share the fun.

Totley Library seems to be a possible venue for such a gathering, and a good time for me would be any time during the first week of February.

Will all those interested please contact me on hilaryblythesings@yahoo.co.uk with your availability for that week and how to contact you, and I'll try to arrange a session.

Hilary Hall

Sally Goldsmith

Between Times *by Sally Goldsmith*

filled with rubble – where once the sweet silage
 piled up and up now the brooding
 ground of toads. And then the barn
 began to buckle like an ancient mule falling
 first to one knee, then both,
 rear haunches still bravely, barely aloft.
 Whatever hay left huddling in corners
 more fossil than vegetable.
 This landscape exists – in many
 places – and is almost lovely,
 even in, even in spite of, its decay.
 It endures in histories
 and in fiction: the crabapple, the gray
 pastures, the dried dung
 how many years old? – And atop the barn
 a weather vane knocked askew by a rifle shot,
 pointing straight up, as if all the winds
 were going to heaven.

Please send your entries to Sally Goldsmith, goldssally@googlemail.com by Wednesday 11th March. I'll choose one to publish and comment on.

Sally Goldsmith is a prize winning poet, script and songwriter. You can order her collection of poetry, 'Are We There Yet?' through www.poetrybusiness.co.uk

Eastern Moors Partnership

Part of the Peak District National Park, the Eastern Moors sits on the fringes of Sheffield, England's fourth largest city. Boasting a diverse mix of heather moorland, acid grassland, blanket bog and woodland, the entire site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Home to an abundance of wildlife species, the Eastern Moors is well known for its population of adders and herd of red deer, and is also home to the elusive water vole and nationally scarce golden-ringed dragonfly. Its designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) reflects the presence of bird species such as short eared owl and golden plover. Its dry heath, blanket bog and sessile oak woodland habitats have resulted in a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation.

With 5700 archaeological sites recorded across the Eastern Moors, including medieval guide stoops, industrial millstones and WW2 mortar scars on the rocks, the site is of significant historical interest.

Most of the Eastern Moors is under open access, with a network of bridleways and footpaths as well as internationally renowned climbing edges. Appreciated by many, the site entices wildlife enthusiasts, adventure sport seekers and those looking for quiet enjoyment of the landscape.

The Eastern Moors Partnership is part of a wider vision for the area under the Sheffield Moors Partnership (SMP). This enables joined up thinking

between adjacent land management, benefiting wildlife and people on a greater scale. The Partnership is a joint venture between the National Trust and the RSPB, managing the Eastern Moors on behalf of the Peak District National Park Authority.

As the UK's leading conservation charities, the National Trust and the RSPB has a combined national membership of 4.6 million and a reputation for excellence in upland land management, management of historic environments and quality visitor enjoyment.



The Partnership works under a Partnership Board made up of key representatives from the National Trust and the RSPB, working in consultation with site staff. The Partnership has developed its own brand and culture to support its identity as a new organisation, with staff jointly managed by the Partnership.

In January 2011, after detailed negotiation, the Eastern Moors Partnership signed the lease to manage the Eastern Moors on behalf of the Peak District National Park, with whom we retain a key relationship.

Find out how you can get involved To find out more about Youth Rangers, adult volunteering or family friendly Muck In Days, call Katherine Clarke on 07738 738844, or email katherine.clarke@easternmoors.org.uk.

Is This Soldier One Of Your Ancestors?

Mr Roy Ward, a former Totley resident, has donated several photographs of WW1 soldiers to Totley History Group. All were friends of his parents, Jack and Norah Ward, but Roy hasn't been able to identify all of them. We would love to be able to put names to the photographs and wondered whether any TI readers might recognize an ancestor among them. These are the first two photographs and more will appear in future issues of TI.



Please contact the Editor or email me at:
apple-garth@supanet.com - if you can help.

Dorothy Prosser

Bird Nest Boxes

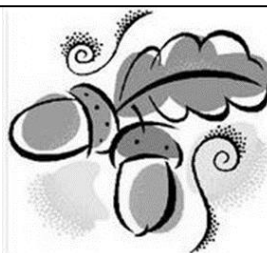
If you are out walking through Gillfield Wood you may notice that a number of nest boxes have been erected at the east end of the wood. Most of these boxes should be visible to anyone walking on the main footpath into the wood from the Scout Hut near Mickley Lane just behind the houses on Green Oak Road.

Friends of Gillfield Wood approached Sheffield Council and a Council Ranger kindly delivered planks of wood to the Scout Group to build 15 nest boxes. With the appropriate design and measurements the planks were cut to size and under guidance the Cubs expertly made the boxes. It is hoped these boxes will accommodate nesting Blue Tits and Great Tits and possibly other species including the scarce Tree Sparrow which overwinters in small numbers in this area. Tree Sparrows can also be seen here during the breeding season though they can be quite elusive when they hide amongst the hawthorn bushes with the House Sparrows

During one morning in September a team of Scouts eagerly erected the boxes on trees by the brook, as well as near to the main path to the wood and just inside the wood by the little bridge and metal kissing gate. Mr Shepley of Woodthorpe Hall kindly gave his permission for the nest boxes to be attached to trees on his land which runs across the brook from the Hall and up the sloping field to the gardens of Rowan Tree Dell. Mick Hollindale, Scout Leader, had overseen this whole nest box project. And together with him, parents of the Scouts helped on the day when the boxes were being erected, and they even added a few extra inches in height when getting some boxes that little bit higher up the trees.

An excellent team and community effort all round! Well done to the Cubs and Scouts. We hope residents and local walkers will get a great deal of pleasure watching the comings and goings of any birds that use the boxes, but PLEASE don't stand too near if the birds are carrying nest material or food. At the time of writing at least one of the boxes is being used as a roosting site, so that's a good start. Here's to an interesting and successful breeding season this year.

Chris Measures



Friends of Gillfield Wood

Saturday 7 Feb - 9.00am
Morning Bird Walk with Chris

Measures. A gentle walk through Gillfield Wood and local fields to identify birds wintering in our area. Meet by the Scout Hut, Aldam Road. All welcome, no experience necessary.

Sunday 22 Feb - 10.00am Practical Conservation Morning with the Council Rangers. Check website for meeting point. Refreshments, tools etc provided. Please wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing. All levels of help required and guidance given. Stay as little or as long as you wish

Saturday 28 March - 10.00am History Walk with Sally Goldsmith. For details see Diary page 30.

Sunday 29 March - 10.00am Practical Conservation Morning - see above for details

The Story Behind.....

Liberty Foods

Liberty Foods was founded in 1999, when 'Over-the-Gate' sales of beef at Broadstorth Farm, Dore, became too much to cope with. The solution was to find a small outlet locally, which could accommodate the beef, and also pull in other produce from various local farms and food producers in the area. 253 Baslow Road (the old 'Avenue Stores') stood empty, and proved to be the perfect location. With ample parking, it had easy access for larger deliveries and customer collections alike. The shop was torn apart, with a large stainless steel industrial kitchen fitted in the back, a generously sized shop to the front, and new walk-in butcher's fridges and prep areas were built on the rear.

The original plan was to create a more exclusive 'top-end' food outlet, with the idea of providing fine-dining dinner-party style catering, speciality cheese and of course, Broadstorth's fine quality, free-range, Hereford Beef.

The business originally employed a butcher, a shop manager and two serving staff front-of-house, to serve from the large cheese counter and array of shelves and fridges. In the kitchen was full-time chef Damian, and a kitchen-hand/pot washer, with a part time delivery driver on the road, four days a week.



After a time, it became very apparent that the business could not afford to sustain such large overheads, and the decision was taken to close the shop.

But Damian had other ideas. He had vast experience in the trade, starting his training fresh out of school at sixteen, learning all aspects of cheffing, butchery and front-of-house service and management, going on to work in the restaurant industry and later focusing on fine dining hotel catering. He did the sums and made the bold step of taking over the business, but decided it could only work by employing just one other person alongside him, and to do all the work between themselves.

Simon was a trade customer of Damian's, buying sides of cattle and other meats, for his local pub kitchen, where he did his own butchery on site. He had just bought a house in Totley and left a head-chef position at a large restaurant after the birth of his daughter. Simon had started as a baker and pastry-chef at the age of sixteen, and went on to work and live in various pubs, managing front of house and kitchen. He then went into the restaurant industry, and his all-round knowledge made him a suitable choice for Damian's shop and kitchen.

Together they moulded the business into what it is today, making honest, everyday, traditional food for their growing customer base, and consciously dropping that 'top-end' exclusive feel, while at the same time, keeping Liberty Foods' original vision of quality, whilst reaching out to a wider market. Together they were able to cover all aspects of the business; home-made pies and pastries, ready-meals and ham, home-made black pudding and

traditional dry cured smoked bacon and salmon, from their purpose built smokehouse. Derbyshire lamb and chicken, and local pork were added to their popular and established Broadstorth Beef in the butchers' counter, with the added bonus of both chefs on hand to give expert customer advice, help, and knowledge.

The boys' reputation went from strength to strength, with other shops, pubs and delis wanting their homemade produce. From making 24 pork pies a week, they now make up to 90 a day, and they humorously admit that, on a good week, almost 20 percent of Bakewell Puddings in Bakewell, are actually made here in Totley, in their busy kitchen! Supplying over 10 pubs in Sheffield with Simon-the-Pieman's famous Pork Pies, and Damian's award-winning Scotch eggs, not to mention their activities in Derbyshire, certainly keeps them on their toes, but they never forget how the business began, and always make time for their regular day-to-day local Totley shoppers.

You may also find them on Sundays at Sheffield and Derbyshire Farmers' Markets, or at one of the many local Pie and Pea Suppers, another successful string to their already very large bow.

Liberty Foods will always be grateful to the local community for their continued support, and is proud to be one of Totley's unique and flourishing businesses.

Opening times are 9 - 5.30 weekdays and 9-4 Saturday - apart from Christmas when you may just see a pork pie being made, or a turkey being tied at the ungodly hour of 2am!)



Damian and Simon wish their customers and friends, and the other businesses of Totley, a very happy 2015 and they look forward to seeing old and new customers throughout the coming year. It really is one of those places well worth a visit, if only for the smell of the roast pork sandwiches! So if you are passing and haven't already popped in, give it a try and celebrate a real gem in Totley's colourful crown.



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GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

The sun is shining, the snow has gone, and I will be able to get into the garden to survey any damage done by the snow and wind we had a few days ago. I've noticed that a small pine tree is leaning against the barn wall - it will probably need a drastic prune.

The onion seeds I put in just after Boxing Day are putting up little shoots, and hopefully by the time you read this I will have them potted up into individual pots or fibre containers for them to grow into sturdy seedlings (about the size of a good spring onion) ready to plant out in April, and with a lot of TLC and sunshine (we hope) they will be ready for the Topley Show. I know I keep going on about the Show, but there would be no Show without people taking part, so please try your best to get your various talents into gear and ready to show them off in September.

February to March is a busy period in the garden, with clearing and digging plots to enable fresh air and frost into the ground - and adding a bit of compost or fertiliser to boost fertility would be an added benefit (watch the PH value and adjust to suit the plants you are going to grow). Keep a wary eye on the weather! Don't plant things out too early. It's best to be a bit late than having to plant more bedding plants due to losses caused by frost. I don't plant anything out before early- or mid-April - they soon pick up and grow well given the right conditions. During fine spells, tackle the tidying up - clear leaves, level flagstone paths (especially the wobbly ones - health and safety and all that) etc. Have your fleece ready to cover any vulnerable plants that might be coming through a bit early.

We have a few spaces in the garden where plants have outgrown their welcome or have died of old age, so we will be visiting the garden centres looking for replacements or new varieties. We will be looking for plants which won't require a lot of work after they are established. I remember an old customer, Mrs Bridges, saying to me that her garden was getting more geriatric-friendly and therefore easier to cope with as she got older. She managed a small garden until she was well into her 90s. I think we will have to do something similar, although our garden is quite a bit bigger than hers was. I wonder what the garden centre people would say if I asked for some geriatric plants.....though on reflection some of the plants I see in the supermarkets do look a bit past it.

The pond had a tidy-up just before Christmas, as one or two edging stones had fallen in. I will have to get cracking with the fountains and filters when we have a clear spell. I'll have to wait until the worse of the frost is past before a permanent switch-on. I look forward to that, and so will the fishes who are in their dormant stage at the moment.

February

Flowers: Clean up borders, and work in a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore. Clean up rockery and add a topping of potting compost and chippings. Plant out herbaceous perennials if the weather permits. Plant out (if the weather is kind) anemones and ranunculuses about 4 to 5 cm deep and about 15 cm apart. Prune back hard hydrangea paniculata similar to the way you prune buddlia. This will encourage strong growth and larger flower heads. Remove any rose leaves which may be lying about and burn them, especially if they have a touch of black spot. Spray the areas around them with fungicide. Fill in any gaps in the wallflower beds before the plants begin to grow more actively, and firm in any which have been loosened by frost. Check dahlia tubers in store for signs of mould, and treat with flowers of sulphur if mould is seen. Trim back winter flowering heathers and jasmine as soon as flowers have finished.

Vegetables: Firm in spring cabbage which may have been loosened by frost and give them a quick acting fertiliser, such as nitrate of soda. Slugs are starting to get active this month, so watch out for them and deal with them in your favoured way - I use beer traps, but if you use slug pellets, use them sparingly and pick up dead slugs as soon as possible, before the birds get them. Autumn-sown onions should be transplanted carefully to the place where they are to mature. This should be in an open position, in well-manured ground. Later in the month shallots and garlic cloves can be planted. Divide and re-plant chives.

Trees Shrubs and Fruit: If pruning has not been completed, do so now. Fruit trees grown in grass can be starved of nitrogen. This can be remedied by feeding now with sulphate of ammonia or nitro chalk, using about half an ounce per square yard. The planting of fruit trees and bushes is best completed by the end of February if they are to get a good start. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: Ventilation needs careful attention. February can see warm bright days and cold frosty nights - extremes which the majority of plants hate - so it's up to you to balance these temperature changes by ventilation etc. Bear in mind also that fresh air is a vital factor in the health of your over-wintering plants, especially if they are heated by paraffin. Gradually increase watering, and increase humidity by standing plants on moist pebbles or grit. Starting planting seeds of summer bedding plants, snapdragons, fibrous rooted begonias, busy lizzie, verbenas in warmth, water seedlings with cheshunt compound to prevent damping off. Plant indoor gladioli corms. All the above should be maintained at a minimum temperature of 50-55F. If you cannot do this then wait a few weeks. Prick out those onion seedlings which were sown earlier if you are showing at any of the shows, then they should be planted into 6 cm pots at this stage (I use fibre pots). This helps to prevent any check in growth, and will give a fine healthy large onion ready for the Topley Show in September! Make ready chrysanthemum stools for cuttings. Re-pot fuschsia, shake away all the soil from the roots, then place them in the smallest pots that will take all the roots comfortably - they can be potted on later as growth develops. Plant sweet pea seeds for a show in late summer. Pot up rhizomes of achemenes which have over-wintered in dry soil, 6 or 8 to a 12 cm pot, and place them in the warmest spot in your greenhouse. Dahlia roots from which cuttings are to be taken should be started now. They need a warm, humid atmosphere. Although I like to keep my greenhouse reasonably tidy most of the time, they do need an extra fettling now and again, and February is a good time to tackle this job before it gets too overcrowded with new vulnerable seedlings.

Lawns: Tidy up any leaves and debris that may be on your lawns, weather permitting. Keep off when frost is on the

grass. You could apply a top dressing of sand if you haven't done this earlier.

March

Flowers: Prepare vacant ground for planting and seedbeds. If possible cover seedbeds with cloches to warm them up. Harden off plants which have been overwintering in frames or indoors, including seedling herbaceous perennials and rock plants. Work into the soil well-rotted manure or compost, or a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore - or both to give the ground and plants a treat. Keep elementary weeds down - nobble them whilst they are young. It's a good plan to get into a regular hoeing routine, to prevent them getting established. Water newly planted perennials during dry spells. Deadhead flowers as they fade. Keep checking for slug damage, especially around young plants and lay slug bait or beer traps as necessary.

Plant lily bulbs. Plant gladioli corms in trays; start them off in slight warmth for planting out in April. Lift and split up over-crowded snowdrops. Sow hardy annuals like larkspur, clarkia and love-in-a-mist either in the garden, under cloches, or indoors to plant out later. Take cuttings of early flowering chrysanthemums and dahlias and root them in warmth. Lift and divide over-crowded herbaceous perennials such as Michaelmas Daisy, Golden Rod etc. Sow sweet peas 2.5 cm deep and 6 -7 cm apart, Plant out indoor bulbs which have finished flowering - they will give a show next spring. Remove shoots that have no live buds from summer flowering clematis and cut back late flowering varieties hard.

Vegetables: Dig up vacant plots and test soil for Ph (adding lime if necessary). Sow cauliflower, broccoli and other brassicas in a frame. Brussel sprouts must have a long steady season of growth to be really successful. Sow now in boxes and germinate in a heated frame or greenhouse.

If you also want a supply of cabbages in midsummer (butterflies love them) sow an early variety now in the same conditions as sprouts. Sow spinach in a sheltered spot, they love a bit of sunshine. Sow broad beans in boxes for planting out later.

At the end of the month sow culinary peas outdoors, scooping out a trench the width of a spade, about 23cm, not more than 7.5cm deep, and place the seeds singly in two lines one at each side about 7.5cm between seeds, cover with 2 cms of soil - the depression left will provide the tiny seedlings with a bit of protection, and putting a few in every two weeks will give a nice succession. Plant early potatoes, and have cloches or plastic ready in case of late frosts. Sow spinach beet, a very useful form of beetroot grown for its leaves, which are used like those of spinach.

Try growing a few French beans in the greenhouse - they make a nice early change and they don't take up a lot of room. Make a sowing of turnips or swedes. These need a rich but not newly-manured ground. Plant onion sets, using a trowel to set them rather than a dibber - they are then less likely to push themselves out of the ground as the roots develop.

Trees, Fruit and Shrubs: Prepare ground for new shrubs or trees. Plenty of organic compost and well-rotted manure will give them a good start. A dressing of sterilised bone meal will give them a real treat and pay dividends by way of healthy plants and trees. Firm in newly-planted shrubs and those loosened by frost. Feed established plants with a balanced fertiliser. Apply mulch, especially round new additions. Watch out for aphids and caterpillars, and spray as soon as they are seen. Prune autumn flowering shrubs which flower on the tips of new growth i.e. butterfly bush, blue spirea and hardy fuchsias. Prune hybrid teas and floribunda roses. Cut out any dead or diseased shoots or branches from all trees and shrubs around the garden. Feed cane fruits with balanced fertiliser, feed black currants with nitro-chalk. Firm in newly planted fruits, mulch and keep well watered.

Greenhouse and Indoor Plants: This is a busy time for greenhouse owners with seedlings and young plants to watch over, and all the dormant plants coming into bud. Watch carefully the ventilation and humidity - young seedlings need plenty of light and air if they are to develop into strong sturdy plants. To avoid the deadly damping off fungus, spray as the plants show through the potting compost with cheshunt compound. Take cuttings as soon as they are large enough and place in propagator; geranium, fuchsias etc. will give you added stock for hanging baskets and tubs next year.

Plant some schizanthus (poor man's orchid) seeds; these germinate readily and give a lovely colourful show in the early summer months. You need to keep a steady temperature of around 65 - 70F for all seed and cuttings until they are established. Re-pot foliage plants and ferns, using a pot one size larger, or on some varieties reduce the root ball size. Try not to damage the roots as you do this and do not remove all the soil - just enough to get a reasonable amount of new compost into the new pot.

Syringe or spray every morning for at least a week and shade from direct sunlight. Pot up tomato plants. Sow seeds of outdoor tomatoes - these should be ready to plant outside in June. Pot up begonia and gloxinia, which were started in February.

Take leaf cuttings of African violets and Cape primrose. Houseplants like maidenhair fern, button fern, and spider plant can be divided and re-potted. Sweet peas which have been raised in the greenhouse should be hardened off.

Hydrangeas growing in pots should be fed from now on with a weak mixture of liquid manure every 10 days or so, watering the ordinary way in between times.

Lawns: Start a regular cycle of cutting. If you didn't give an autumn feed to your lawn, give a spring one now. Spike, scarify and top dress with old compost, with a little balanced fertiliser or lawn food mixed in. You will soon have a green sward. Check over your mower! Oil all moving parts ready for the hard work ahead. Don't forget to trim the edges to give the finishing touch and be the envy of your friends.

Cheerio for now,

Tom.

Totley Rise Methodist Church

Winter/Spring Events

Messy Church

Come and enjoy watching your children enjoy crafts, games and friendship. Share a light meal together and learn about God and the amazing stories in the Bible. Suitable for pre and primary aged children.

Saturday 7 February – Love

Contact Rachel on 07912 352 543 or racheltrm@yahoo.com for details and how to book and with any special dietary needs.

There is a small charge of £2 to cover your meal and craft supplies

Quiet Garden

A lovely space beside Totley Rise Methodist Church which is always open for meditation, peace and tranquillity.

Easter in the Quiet Garden Good Friday April 3 to Easter Monday April 6: The Quiet Garden at Totley Rise Methodist Church will be open from Good Friday to Easter Monday for an 'Easter Trail' for children and adults about the Easter Story.

Please check our website, www.totleyrise.co.uk for all the Church Services over Easter.

Ongoing Events

Knit, Natter, Craft and Chatter. Every Tuesday 12.00noon -3.00pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Centre

They may natter and chatter but they are certainly productive. This busy and friendly group has been a great success.

They aim to include more people from the area, even the housebound. Housebound does not mean isolated. The group will happily provide wool, needles and a chat for those who cannot travel to the church. Young people are also welcome as part of our community. There are skilful, lovely ladies ready and willing to help those new to knitting and sewing.

Many charities benefit from the groups' work: Butterfly Wings (stillborn babies), Sheffield premature baby unit and the Christmas shoebox appeal. Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind have adopted knitted Ellie the elephants as their mascot and have given a certificate of grateful thanks. Members can knit/sew (a sewing machine is available) for their chosen charities.

Maxine, the organiser, says that all the ladies love coming. Men are also welcome. You can stay for as

long as you like up to three hours. We offer tea, coffee, biscuits and, most importantly, friendship.

Beginners Group

Every Sunday 10.30am-11.45am
A weekly children's group for 3-6 year olds, with bible stories, songs, games and a simple craft plus a drink and biscuit.

Tuesday Ladies 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm, Totley Rise Methodist Church Lounge. About 35 ladies consisting of both church and non-church members meet to enjoy speakers or a quiz or beetle drive. Sometimes the evening includes food eg salmon and strawberries or cheese and biscuits.

If you would like more information please call Janet Savage on 01142369002. For other events see Diary, p.30 of this issue.

Totley Residents' Association

A Happy New Year to all the residents of Totley!

We had a lovely end to 2014 with the Christmas Lunch successfully hosted at the Shepley Spitfire by Mike and Lisa and their excellent staff (see picture page 28). We have received many kind messages of thanks from guests and we are delighted that the event was so much enjoyed. Our thanks to the local businesses, organisations and individuals who generously donated raffle prizes. Your support is invaluable.

The next Market will be held in May (date to be confirmed). If anyone would like a stall, outside or inside, please email me (see below).

There have been a number of complaints regarding dog faeces in Green Oak Park. The majority of dog owners are responsible and caring folk, but unfortunately there are some owners who, without thought, spoil it for the rest of us. Please, if you are using this lovely local facility, clear up anything your canine friend may leave behind. They can't do it themselves, intelligent as they are.

On December 26th I managed to have a 'Big Adventure' in the snow with a dear friend. We would like to thank Stephanie and her son for being so public spirited! Without them we would never have got out of Mickley Lane onto Baslow Road.

On a more serious note the same evening we witnessed the most appalling and dangerous driving. Vehicles being driven on the wrong side of the road up Baslow Road between Grove Road and Marstone Crescent, round the blind bend and with total disregard of the lights. Madness or what?

If you have any concerns don't hesitate to contact us at totleychair@gmail.com

Have a super 2015.

Hetty Moran, Chairman, TRA

Puzzle Corner

I recently wondered if I could think of 50 everyday words containing the letter Q in the spelling. Here are the clues! Answers p.24.

1. Fish tank
2. Figure of four equal sides
3. Fanciful, slightly odd
4. Anti-malaria drug
5. A spangle
6. Old, maybe valuable
7. Damaging natural movement
8. Decorated glass, often collected
9. Satisfy set requirements
10. Imaginary line around the earth
11. Measure the amount
12. Watery
13. Needs oiling
14. Small sailing vessel
15. Common silica material
16. Mathematically equivalent
17. Slanting
18. Figure of four sides
19. Look cross-eyed
20. Card game for two players
21. Argue
22. Bushy-tailed rodent
23. When the sun crosses the equator
24. Food feast
25. RAF group
26. Wood block flooring
27. Need
28. Ask
29. A ring-throwing game
30. Knight's attendant
31. A share
32. Ill feeling
33. Someone known to you
34. Monarch
35. Fabricated water channel
36. Ten-armed sea creature
37. Stone hand grinder
38. Not transparent
39. Throw out in a jet
40. A follow-on
41. One fourth share
42. Arrow case
43. Savoury pastry tart
44. One who aids the enemy
45. Sound of walking in wet mud
46. Trifle in argument
47. Compress
48. Writing tool
50. Game of questions

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FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD

BIRD WALK - 15 November 2014

The forecast had been dry for our walk, but what we did not realise was that visibility would be down to the length of a small field. The early morning fog was not clearing and a quiet grey stillness lay over Gillfield Wood and enveloped the surrounding fields and hedgerows.

At 9 am on this Saturday morning, eleven plucky souls met the leader at the metal gate at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane. The usual "morning" and smiles were exchanged amongst the group, but these greetings were accompanied by that slight look of surprise that others had turned out for this event.

This was not a morning for standing around so within minutes we were strolling across the first field with only the ticking call of a Robin breaking the gloom. A Carrion Crow was then heard calling from an adjacent field and another responded but neither came into view. Was this the shape of things to come? The conditions were certainly going to test our skills when it would come down to recognising the various bird calls we were likely to hear, without seeing the bird.

Earlier in the week Starlings, Magpies and four Mistle Thrushes had been together atop an old Ash tree on the edge of this first field before a Sparrowhawk flew over, but today only a solitary Wood Pigeon kept watch from that tree. In the damp atmosphere the bird was not standing upright but was hunched in appearance, appearing to be focused on just getting through the day. It was interesting, as we walked along, that Wood Pigeons continued to appear in singles sitting out the weather in the branches of leafless trees; normally there are small flocks of twenty or more in these fields. Wood Pigeons have really done well nationally in recent years, a once shy bird now confidently visits our gardens, some even to nest.

As we progressed along the footpath to Gillfield Wood, badger diggings along the side of the hedge were pointed out and some of these had been used as a latrine by the mammal. Badgers often mark their territory with their loose dark brown droppings, which are left uncovered in these small excavations. Engrossed looking at badger poo, we nearly missed the arrival overhead of five Greenfinches, now perched at the top of a nearby Silver Birch. This corner spot, where four fields meet and there is plenty of cover in the form of hedges, ditches, shrubs and trees, is where a male Greenfinch regularly can be found singing in the breeding season. Today however, these birds, with no sunlight to accentuate their colours, do not make a sound and do not even call as they leave their temporary resting place to continue their flight through the area.

Edging nearer to the wood a Magpie is heard rattling away and then a Nuthatch calls briefly from behind us. It must have been quietly working one of the old Oak trees near to the stile we had just climbed over.



Greenfinch

Entering the wood and walking the main path we immediately heard small birds calling and with eyes scanning the tops of the larches we managed to see a small flock of Coal Tits seeping and feeding as they flitted from one tree to another. Certainly not easy to see when they are so high up but you could occasionally see the flash of white on the back of their heads if you were lucky. The accompanying Long Tailed Tits were a

little easier to identify with their characteristic shape and long tails as they hung upside down at the end of some of the branches. It was also here that we managed to find a male Great Spotted Woodpecker edging its way up the side of a tree; not only high up but amongst the tangled branches made it difficult to see, especially as it moved around the blind side of



Nuthatch

the trunk as they do all too often when you are trying to get good views. And then just as you "get on to the bird" it takes to flight, undulating its way to another part of the wood. At least most of us saw it even if it was only a glimpse.

A little further along a Jay was heard to call and was then seen to fly along the edge and outside of the wood. Despite a quick search we could not locate this particular bird again. It is however noticeable how many more Jays are about this autumn; even if you don't see them, you certainly can hear their raucous

call in various parts of the wood and around our village. More birds were then heard calling, this time Chaffinches, Blackbird and at least one Nuthatch. It was noisy, a concentration of calls. Sometimes this can indicate the birds being alarmed that a Tawny Owl or Fox is present, so we edged forward carefully and quietly. Even a Buzzard can be seen these days perched quietly in the lower branches of a tree in our wood but unfortunately despite carefully scanning the area, we did not find anything to cause great excitement. Nevertheless we did have a male Blackbird fly out of the area, a number of Chaffinches were also seen and pleasingly two Nuthatches put in an appearance, one even obliged by coming down the bark of a larch next to us so we had much better views and were not straining our necks quite as much as before.

Our walk then took us out into the fields on the south side of the wood and here we found a number of different fungi including



Waxcaps such as Meadow, the green stemmed Parrot (picture left) and the red with yellow edges of Honey. Indicators of an old pasture. It was a special treat to see the different species, some in small clusters, brightening up with their lovely colours this fog hugging autumn morning. As it started to drizzle some of the party started to depart but a few brave souls remained for the final leg of the walk and they were rewarded with views of two male Bullfinches together with a female, all feeding in a Hawthorn bush near Woodthorpe Hall. Always a good area to see these birds but the views today were somewhat restricted as the drizzle started to fall more heavily onto the lenses of our binoculars. At least we added Mistle Thrush to our short list for the morning when two of these birds flew across our path emitting their rattling call.

Despite the weather and despite only a few birds putting in an appearance, everyone enjoyed the walk and the companionship. There was plenty of good discussions and general chatter and we now look forward to our next Bird Walk in February which is scheduled for Saturday 7th and there is another Bird and Butterfly Walk in May. Do come along if you can make it, no experience necessary and if you do not possess binoculars it does not matter, just bring your eyes. Look out for the group's adverts and posters and check out its website www.friendsofgillfieldwood.com/

Chris Measures

The 70, 97 and 98 Bus Services

Over recent months we have received an increasing number of complaints about these services. We have had numerous tales of unreliability, buses not appearing, two or three then coming together (particularly on the 97/98 route) and whilst people have been waiting at stops in town for a missed service, seeing five or more 120s in that time. Indeed "Sorry not in Service" has become such a common sight on our buses that it's like a fourth bus service for Dore and Totley!

These routes are vital to us. The 70 serves the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the University, schools and the City Centre. We have had examples of missed hospital appointments as well as the usual frustrations of waiting for a bus that doesn't arrive. Likewise the 97/98 runs to the Northern General and appointments have been missed there as well as people being late for work.

Following a Public Meeting in November at Totley Library on transport issues at which much dissatisfaction at the bus service was expressed the Councillors undertook to take up the issue with First and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe). We met with them on 27th November and laid out the numerous complaints and examples of poor service. They were aware of the issues and they take note of the number of complaints. Interestingly the 70 service has had more complaints than the 97/98 so it is worth writing in.

The First management cited staff shortages as one reason for the poor service but claimed that these have now been resolved. They also said these two cross-city routes present particular challenges in terms of traffic congestion and time-keeping. The 70 service was more reliable when it only ran to the City centre, but its extension to Catcliffe since July has made it much more unreliable. Consequently they are seeking to invest additional resources in the 70 and modify the route at the Catcliffe end in an attempt to speed it up and make it more reliable. They are also looking to see if the 97/98 could be split so it does not run across the city but this presents "challenges"! We also raised the quality of the buses on these routes and they said that newer buses were going to be introduced.

Needless to say we are a little sceptical of these assurances and so we have arranged another meeting in March to see if there have been any improvements. Doubtless readers will keep us, First and SYPTe informed of progress. You can contact First South Yorkshire at their address at Midland Rd, Rotherham. For SYPTe, Clare Cocken is their Corporate Communications Manager and can be emailed at communications@syppte.co.uk, or telephone on 0114 2211452. Or please tweet problems with the service using the hashtag #97busTotley and Cllr Joe Otten will collate and take forward.

Councillors Colin Ross, Joe Otten and Martin Smith



Totley Tunnel East Signal Box

This well-known local landmark is the last survivor of four railway signal boxes in the Dore area. There are plans afoot to extend its life after closure. It sits on the Hope Valley line between Grove Road and Totley Brook Road.

As the railway around Dore changed during the 1960s, the signal boxes at Dore Station, Dore West Junction and Dore South Junction closed and were demolished. There was no longer a need for them as Dore station had become unstaffed, main line services ceased to call there and the layout of lines and points was simplified. Bear in mind that Dore and Totley station once had four platforms. There was also a five track carriage siding to the north of the station which was used to store carriages for extra trains at peak periods: this area has now been totally reclaimed by nature. Incidentally, if you stand on the footbridge by the signal box and look towards Sheffield you will see three "countdown markers" with red diagonal stripes at 100 metre intervals. These are to show train drivers the distance before the stop signal before they enter the stretch of curved single line by Poynton Wood through Dore and Totley station.

Totley Tunnel East box in railway terms is a Midland Railway Type 2B signal box. It was built in 1893 and has twelve signal and point levers mounted in a cast iron "tumbler" locking frame. Levers are painted in red, yellow, black and white to show their particular function. The black-painted frame stands out from the floor and makes the levers easier for the signaller to pull. This was especially so in the old days when pulling a lever meant getting many heavy yards of signal wire or metal point rodding to work properly to move the signal or points correctly. In extremes of hot and cold weather signal wires expanded and contracted so they had to be adjusted either to slacken or tighten them. The "tumbler" part of the description refers to the mechanical equipment which ensures that levers, points and signals controlled from the box are "locked" until they are released. This makes certain that conflicting train movements are impossible and that trains are spaced apart, don't meet head-on or end up on the wrong line. It also ensures that when the signal boxes on either side ask if a train can be allowed through, once permission is given the locks are released so that the levers work. They also have to be pulled in a particular order. Any old order won't do and traditionally signallers always used a duster to grasp the shiny steel handles of the levers. There was always pride taken in the cleanliness of the

box and its equipment and there was usually a smell of black lead, floor polish and metal polish in the air. In days of old, the box relied on an impressive range of polished wood and brass block signal instruments with dials and block bells which rang with codes to describe particular trains. The instruments and bells were mounted on the "block shelf". The block shelf still exists but now it holds more modern electronic equipment and an illuminated diagram showing the position of trains on the lines controlled from the box. These are from Grindleford, through Totley Tunnel to beyond Dore and Totley station and round the Dore curve through the short Dore Tunnel to join the main line to Chesterfield and beyond. Wherever you are on the railway, the lines are usually described as the "Up" and "Down" lines. In our case, the "Down" direction is towards Manchester and the "Up" direction is towards Sheffield. The single line through Dore Tunnel is both "Up" and "Down"!

Signalling today's railway is being revolutionised with the introduction of about a dozen Rail Operating Centres (ROCs) which will in time signal all of Britain's railways. Signal boxes started to be used in the 1860s and by 1900 there were 13,000 of them. By 1978 there were 2,400 and the figure fell to 800 in 2013, 500 of these are so-

called "mechanical" boxes like ours. Totley Tunnel East is expected to close within the next eight years as a result of the improvements and re-signalling of the Hope Valley line. Our signals will then be controlled from Derby and those on the Grindleford side of the tunnel from Manchester. At this point the box will become redundant and in normal circumstances would be stripped and demolished. It is not a listed building so there is no pressure to retain it.

However, it features in an English Heritage booklet about railway signal boxes where it is pictured before and after renovation. There is considerable community interest in Dore and Totley to negotiate with Network Rail to keep the box as a community resource. The Friends of Dore and Totley Station (FODATS) have already approached Network Rail to log their

interest in a new future for our signal box. Let's hope there's enough local "leverage" to make it happen.

If you support this aim and wish to be kept in touch with progress then please contact FODATS by email at dawn.biram@btinternet.com or by phone on 0114 235 6907 or Mike Peart by email at m.peart1@gmail.com or on 0114 236 8100).



Walking the Dog....

They Used to Have Long Gardens

My niece Steph was boasting about how, once upon a time, her house had a garden that went half way across the Main Road, and a tennis court, and how Laverdene Close was obviously the best road on the whole Laverdene Estate.

I said I wasn't, being from Laverdene Drive, so sure.

Oh, I agreed that Laverdene Road wasn't the best road, being mainly fishmongers and women who were no better than they should be.

And I agreed Laverdene Way wasn't necessarily the best way, with its scoutmasters and other paramilitaries who'd liked being so naughty in the blackout.

And of course Mickley Lane was half council and dead common, except for Mrs Capill, who kept a husband in her kitchen.

Glover Road was mainly Bill Glossop, Mrs Sharp, and some policemen who tried to look in your bedroom even when they were off duty.

Laverdene Avenue was just postmen, amateur dramatics, and girls who got themselves into trouble in the chemical yard.

But, as I told Steph, don't forget Laverdene Drive, because Laverdene Drive was best.

We kept our curtains closed, and we called each other Mr and Mrs. We were teachers and town hall wallahs, and Dad was a mason, and the Turtons had a Standard Vanguard. We never went in each other's front rooms, or used our own front doors, hardly ever had fish and chips, or washed ourselves in the kitchen sink, or, frankly, let ourselves and the whole estate down by doing some of things they did, and still do, on Laverdene Close, and think we don't know about, just because they used to have long gardens.

Walking the Dog

'Why's it called walking the dog?'

'Because I do the walking Jack, and you do the dog.'

'Yes, but isn't walking-the-dog also something you played at with a yo-yo in your lost Totley childhood?'

'Not lost. And in those days, Jack, we played all the long year long. Sometimes it was salt vinegar mustard pepper and...'

'That's skipping but -'

'-yes. And sometimes it was conkers and... '

'- you had to say jags but...'

'- yes. And sometimes it was no fibs no fads you've lost your mabs and...'

'- and that was marbles. On the Pinfold. With no bottle alleys. But I want to know about walking the dog?'

'Sometimes it was PLP, and if you weren't a PLP, you weren't a proper-looking-person so you got your nose squeezed till you weed. But if you were, you were a public leaning post so you got leaned on till you weed. And we played kiss-catch down Chapel Walk till...'

'- your headmaster old Smellor stopped it in case you all caught poliomyelitis. But what did you do with your yo-yo when you walked the dog?'

'...This.'

'Wow!'

'Then this.'

'Wuff!'

'Then you let it go. Like this. Then you make it do this. And that's when you're walking your dog,'

'...You're amazing!'

'I know. So shall I walk my dog now?'

'... Sigh.'

Perches in a Rood

Shirley Winfield-as-she-was wrote to me about what I'd written about our Geth, and how I'd done my sums wrong in the Totley Independent.

She said she was cackhanded like he was, and he was. But she said I had been a bit cackhanded too, if I couldn't even add up that it was only 74 years since they were both at All Saints School together.

And it was. So soz.

But I'm starting to forget all my All Saints sums, Shirley, 74 years on, even those for-ever Imperial Measurements on the back of Stanley Moffatt's Education Committee's Exercise Book. All those tables of chains in a furlong, and furlongs in a league! And how many gills in a pint, fathoms in a cable, links in a rod, rods in a chain, perches in a rood, and even how many fluid scruples in a fluid drachm.

Still remember them? Our Geth did. Ever any use?

Rony Robinson

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Totley Hall Lane

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February:

1 st	10.00	All Ages All Together
	6.30	Holy Communion
8 th	10.00	Holy Communion
	6.30	Evening Prayer
15 th	10.00	Morning Praise
	6.30	Evening Prayer
18 th		ASH WEDNESDAY
22 ⁿ	10.00	Holy Communion
	6.30	Holy Communion

March:

1 st	10.00	All Ages All Together
	6.30	Holy Communion
7 th	10.00	Holy Communion
	6.30	Evening Prayer
15 th	10.00	Morning Praise
	6.30	Evening Prayer
22 nd	10.00	Holy Communion
	6.30	Holy Communion
29 th	10.00	Morning Praise
	6.30	Evening Prayer

April 3rd GOOD FRIDAY

April 5th EASTER SUNDAY

HOLY COMMUNION every
WEDNESDAY at 10.00am.

AMAZING

O Lord, great God of Glory
Never ceasing to amaze
If only we would look around
There'd be endless songs of praise.

The treats you put before us
If we'd only use our eyes
And stop and look and listen
We'd see the greatest prize.

So many things you give us
That we should be aware
Nothing is too big or small
To prove your loving care.

Designs there are aplenty
So intricate or plain
Our wonder here found in them
Repeat on and on again.

But if we're always busy
We'll be forever poor
Stand aside and stay awhile
And look at God's good store.

May we notice all that happens
Around us every day
In sadness and in laughter
When working or at play.

Things out of the blue that happen
That come with such surprise
The treasures God secreted
He sets before our eyes.

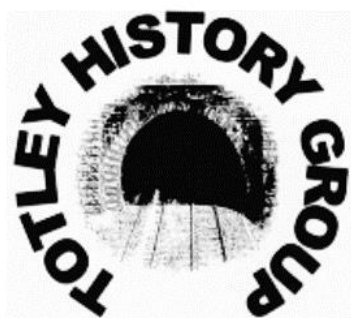
We thank you God of Glory
Our heavenly Father true
Help us then your gifts to see
So we'll be amazed by you.

FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS Psalm 103:2

If you have been grouchy lately, maybe this will help you.

If you woke up this morning, you're ahead of the one million people who didn't make it through the week. If you can sit down, read the newspaper and drink a cup of coffee, you're better off than 500 million men, women and children around the world who are presently experiencing the horrors of war, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation. If you can attend church without threat, you've a freedom envied by 2 million others who've never been inside one. If you have food, clothes and a roof over your head, you're richer than 75% of the earth's inhabitants. If you've money in the bank, you're among the world's top 8%. If you have a Bible, you're better off than the 1.5 billion people who've never seen one. If you can read this, you're ahead of one third of the people on the planet who are illiterate. So if you've fallen into the "grouchy" trap, it's time to gain a new perspective. UCB "Word for Today"

The Meaningful Chocolate Company: Look out for Fairtrade Easter Eggs in the shops, with the true message of Easter. A donation is made to charity from each sale.



Totley History Group Programme 2015

Meetings take place in Totley library at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Feb. 25th Howard Smith - The Story of the Snake Road

Mar. 25th Christine Shimell - The showing of local photographs from the Thompson postcard collection.

Apr. 22nd AGM, followed by Mary Queen of Scots, the captive years 1568-84 - David Templeman.

HOLMESFIELD CHURCH WALKING GROUP

HACKNEY HOUSE WALK

On Wednesday 4th March at 10 am, Robin Greetham and Michael Ibbotson will lead a walk from the Hackney House cafe in Barlow. (Please park round the corner on Wilkin Hill). We will then walk to Wilday Green, then Linacre, and then back to Hackney House where we will have (optional) lunch.

The cost of the walk is £3 and the proceeds will go to Holmesfield Church Restoration Fund. If you would like to come just turn up on the day. The walk is approximately 5 mls long. If you have any queries please phone Robin on 01246 412767.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor.

The WW1 exhibition was splendid - what a collection of artifacts and all so beautifully displayed. Very well done to everyone involved.

My grateful thanks,

Sheila Hobson

Dear Editor,

I am wondering whether anyone can help me trace a fairly well-known person who lives (or lived) in Totley. I now live in Norfolk and so cannot personally look for her in Totley! I am also asking on behalf of my friend Vanessa Hanson who has moved from Totley to Norfolk.

I am trying to contact Mrs Barbara Raven who used to be the General Manager of Mickley Hall Cheshire Home.

I have tried telephoning the numbers we have, and have also tried emailing, but without success. If anyone can help I would be very grateful. Please contact the editor of the Totley 'Independent' on 07956 858944 or email the editor of the 'Independent' at the address on the back page.

Thank you for any assistance you can give,

Sue Hadfield

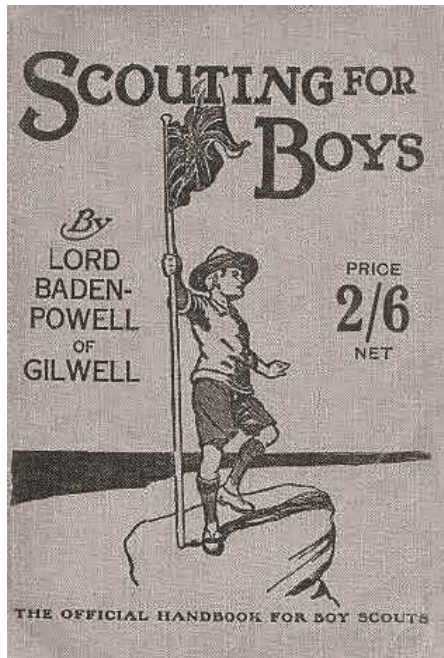
Totley Scouts

A Happy New Year to everyone!

We are celebrating a centenary this year. The 85th Scout Group which started 100 years ago merged with the 215th only 13 years ago. We have put together a potted history of Scouting in Totley - which we think is correct!

Scouting first started in 1907 after the publication of the fortnightly magazine written by Baden-Powell called "Scouting for Boys". The first Scout Troops in Sheffield were at Croft House and Darnall Church. Each Troop officially registered were given a number, in these cases 1st & 2nd Sheffield.

The first registered Troop in the Totley area seems to have been at Cherry Tree Orphanage in 1911, and was the 21st Sheffield. This was followed by the 42nd in 1914 and the 85th in 1915, so it seems that Scouting in Sheffield was becoming very popular. It is not known where the 42nd met until its close in 1922, but the 85th met first at St. Johns Church, Abbeydale Road and then, after the 21st combined with it in 1919, shared its time at the orphanage.



The 115th came along in 1919, based at the URC on Totley Brook Road. It closed in 1926 but was revived in 1962 and continues to this day.

1934 saw two Troops registered; the 209th at Totley Methodist and 215th at Totley All Saints. 209th closed after a few years but the 215th continues now, based at the Scout Hut on Aldam Road.

So for over 100 years now there

has been at least one Scout Group continuously in Totley, and sometimes three. At 215th there are now over 120 boys and girls involved, aged 6 to 18 years.

If anyone has any further information or memories we would love to hear from you.

In 2015 we intend to celebrate this achievement in various ways, including a Centenary Camp in June for Beaver, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, when we hope to have over 100 attending at a nearby camp site that we are taking over for the weekend.

Although we bought extra tents last year we will need to do so again this year in order to accommodate the growing number of children. We will use funds raised from our annual 20p challenge, as we did last year, to pay for the new tents. This involves giving each child a tube of 'Smarties', letting them eat the contents and then refilling with 20p's.

Lastly please take a look at our job advert if you are also

interested in helping any of our sections. We have a growing number of men and women helping but we need more.

Richard Frost, Chairman, 1st Totley Scouts
TotleyChair@aol.com
0114 236 3603

1st Totley Scout Group Vacancies

Assistant Beaver leader, Assistant Cub leader and Assistant Scout leader

Two hours a week - Can also job-share

No experience necessary as full training given. You need lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to have fun. No pay, but a very rewarding experience helping boys and girls to develop practical skills.

Do you want to find out more or even have a trial run one evening?

Call John Smith, Group Scout Leader
07507560287

Scout Lottery – December 2014 Draw:

1st Prize - No. 06
Christmas Hamper.
Mrs M Williams, Totley Grange Road
2nd Prize – No. 02
£10 voucher
Dr and Mrs Shaw, Stocks Green Drive

Puzzle Corner Solution

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Aquarium | 2. Square | 3. Quaint | 4. Quinine |
| 5. Sequin | 6. Antique | 7. Earthquake | 8. Laliq |
| 9. Qualify | 10. Equator | 11. Quantity | 12. Aqueous |
| 13. Squeak | 14. Barque | 15. Quartz | 16. Equal |
| 17. Oblique | 18. Quadrilateral | 19. Squint | 20. Bezique |
| 21. Quarrel | 22. Squirrel | 23. Equinox | 24. Banquet |
| 25. Squadron | 26. Parquet | 27. Require | 28. Enquire |
| 29. Quoits | 30. Squire | 31. Aliquot | 32. Pique |
| 33. Acquaintance | 34. Queen | 35. Aqueduct | 36. Squid |
| 37. Quern | 38. Opaque | 39. Squirt | 40. Sequel |
| 41. Quarter | 42. Quiver | 43. Quiche | 44. Quisling |
| 45. Squelch | 46. Quibble | 47. Squeeze | 48. Quill |
| 49. Queer | 50. Quiz | | |



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Join the Christian community in worship at

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On Sundays @ 10.45 am and 6.30 pm

For more information visit www.sseconline.com

Working at Beauchief Hall in 1950s

Totley History Group was recently contacted by Reg Stones who was an under gardener at Beauchief Hall in the early 1950's, though for the last 50 years has lived in Dorset. Reg has been recounting his memories of the house and work at that time...

The Hall was occupied by Arthur Kingsford Wilson, Chairman and joint Managing Director of Spear & Jackson Ltd, who had been Master Cutler in 1929/30. The gardeners saw nothing of him but Mrs Wilson, his second wife, would enthusiastically discuss plans she had for the grounds with the Head Gardener - though a nod of the head as she passed was all Reg remembers of his own contact with her.

She had a lucky escape from serious injury when she failed to notice an open trap-door in the darkness of the boiler room, and fell down a chute into the coke store! Heating was needed for the 80-foot glasshouse where peaches, grapes and tender flowering plants were cultivated. Geraniums grew all year round and reached the roof some 10-12 feet high. Sadly this no longer exists.



Fred Allen (head gardener) and his wife lived in the old Pegge House with clock and bell turret. Daughters Isobel and Freda lived there too, Freda working as a hairdresser in Sheffield. There were three gardeners, Fred Allen, second gardener Eric Pashley from Woodseats, and Reg. Eric Pashley was later replaced by Trevor Gibbs from Middlewood.

A number of other staff worked the estate including Brian Kirby from Greenhill who was the cow-man, and Mr. Vaughan who managed the trees. Bill Roach, an Irishman, was handyman at both the house and the firm.

Staff at the Hall included a butler whose wife was the cook. There were two 'tweenies' - housemaids - who had rooms in the attic. Reg thinks they came from Bolsover and were probably daughters of a miner. Staff amounted to around eight in all, but as Reg says, this was 'a lot fewer than the twenty or so employed in the earlier years of the century', which reflects the social changes taking place across Britain.

A plan to restore the gardens had begun just prior to Reg being employed, and borders, ponds and paths were cleared, with seating added for people to use when watching the newly acquired fish in the carp pond. The garden was opened to the public in the spring of 1951 during the daffodil season, raising funds for the RSPCA.

The Hall's two drives had been heavily gated and a Mr Watson lived in the gatehouse on Hemper Lane. Bent with age and always wearing a long mac, Reg remembers him trudging up and down the drive to do odd jobs for another landowner at the bottom of the hill.

Fifty acres of land were attached to the hall at that time, all of it grazed or producing hay. Basic powder slag was used as a fertilizer, a waste product from the steel-making industry. The deer park had originally been to the left of the house surrounded by a stone wall some 7 feet high, although no deer were kept at that time.

Cattle were held prior to going for slaughter, having been raised on land owned by the family in Lincolnshire. The breed they favoured was the Lincolnshire Red Poll, a cross between the Lincolnshire Red and Aberdeen Angus. The animals went to Sheffield Abattoir via a Mr Lee (butcher), the agent of a very elderly Mr Swindon of Crooksmoor Road, who rented land from Mr Wilson. Mr Swindon was taken to the farm in Lincolnshire in a large Humber Snipe driven by his son-in-law, Mr Lee, and the farmer from there also visited the hall. They were having a problem with the bull that was proving to be aggressive!

One stormy night the cattle were alarmed by thunder and broke through fencing, eventually ending up in the gardens of houses on Twentywell Lane. Mr Swindon was far from happy the following morning, but so, I imagine, were the homeowners!

Cattle over-wintering at the Hall were kept indoors in the buildings originally erected by Pegge in the mid-seventeenth century. They had deep beds of straw, which produced warmth as it decomposed when mixed with their dung. Hay and grain were stored in a loft, its little windows glazed with 'bubble glass'.

They kept a grey Shire horse that went to Holmesfield



Reg Stones

for shoeing, a couple of Sussex saddleback pigs that went for slaughter once they reached 20 stone, and a small flock of bantams. Getting too close to the cockerel would result in him having a go at you with the spurs on the back of his legs! Also, some Rhode Island Red hens were kept near to the back door, probably handy for the kitchen scraps.

Reg noticed the wild life too - tawny owls nesting in the woods, a colony of rooks, redstart in the walls, and red squirrels in the yew tree in the vegetable garden. A feral cat helped keep the rat population down and foxes roamed the grounds in daylight as well as under cover of darkness. The Wilson's gamekeeper from Horsleygate would visit to try to rid the Hall of the foxes and wood pigeon.

Working at Beauchief Hall in the 1950s (continued)

In the spring a mass of marching toads were to be seen heading for their spawning pond behind the Abbey, although they had none at the Hall. Even then, when traffic was so much lighter, some failed to cross the lane safely. Rabbits were snared against the south wall of the rookery wood, Reg taking them home for his mother's cooking pot. A cat that had her litter away from the house was seen catching rabbits to feed them and the order went out to drown the kittens.

There were two wells - one in the yard and another on the drive. The latter was said to have had a gas driven motor at one time which pumped the water to tanks at the top of the house. Reg wonders if these could be the origin of the St Quentin's Well legend that gave Twentywell Lane its name. A spring feeds the ponds and the river flows through Gulley Wood, all making it the ideal place to establish the Abbey nearly 1000 years ago.



Beauchief Abbey

There was a bothy behind the second pond to go to for refreshments in bad weather: a low, flat-roofed space just 8 feet by 5 feet but thankfully above the water table...just! Alongside the house a reinforced bunker had been dug, presumably in World War 2, for the protection of family and staff. There was a domed roofed and stone lined icehouse some 15 feet deep, accessed by a long iron ladder.

There were stories of previous residents.....the stockman in the 1930s who died after being crushed by a cow in a stall, and the suicide at the house in 1927 of William Wilson who had rented the Hall for over thirty years before buying it in 1923. He was the father-in-law of Marjorie Elsie Milner who had grown up in Totley Hall and had married his son, another William, in 1909. They were the branch of the Wilson family who owned the Snuff Mill at Sharrow and lived at Horsleygate.

It was said that Arthur Kingsford Wilson had owned a Rolls Royce before World War 2. It was too big for the garage so it was kept in one of the barns.

Reg found a few remnants hidden away under the steps to the hayloft. He wonders if German POW's from Norton Camp at Meadowhead had once laboured there...if all the Frau's lived over the sea, what a good swimmer Fritz would be.... a note he found.

Reg's time at the Hall was more than 60 years ago, his wage was £1-10-0 per week of which £1 was given straight to his Mum. He also worked for Mr Swindon when Brian Kirby left, taking on extra responsibilities and learning skills such as stone-walling, thatching haystacks etc. but this period of Reg's life ended when he was called up to do his National Service in 1953.

Arthur Kingsford Wilson died the same year and the Hall was eventually sold to De La Salle Catholic School in 1958.

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society

The two concerts we performed in December were a complete success, the one in Dore being a sell-out. I did warn you! What was gratifying was that the less experienced acquitted themselves wonderfully well and out of the twenty-three contributors, Monica, our MD worked extremely hard to get to the peak of performance (I still wonder how we managed to perform Freddie Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody" so well!), Peter, our accompanist supported us brilliantly as well as giving us a splendid rendition of Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and 17 out of the 21 singers performed in solos or duets. That is the sort of strength in depth we now have in the Society.

Rehearsals are well under way for the 2015 show which, as I have mentioned previously, will be The Gondoliers. The show will be from 29th April to 2nd May, 2015 at the Montgomery Theatre in Surrey Street. For tickets (£12 each) and timings please contact Judith Bettridge on 0114 2507155 or write (including SAE with money) to Judith at 238 Carterknowle Road, Sheffield, S7 2EB. Booking forms can be found on our website <http://www.doregass.co.uk/page7.html>.

Alternatively, you can always phone me on 0114 2362299 or our chairman Mark White on 0114 2360723 for further information.

We all hope that you will come and support us in April/May at the Montgomery and have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Derek Habberjam

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Totley Primary School

The most wonderful time of the year!

As we put our noses back to the grindstone in the dark days of January, it is with great pride that we can look back on a fantastic festive finale to the long Autumn term.

Never is our "work hard, play hard" mantra more appropriate than during December at Totley Primary, as a series of Christmas traditions take place to create a magical atmosphere in school.



In amongst their English and maths lessons, our talented Y6 children threw themselves into the wider topic of theatre, drama and show business. In addition to learning about stage craft, set design and film music, they also got to hold their own award ceremony and design their own Oscars! Of course, they got the chance to put the theory into practice via their fabulous Christmas production of 'Five Gold Rings'.



Meanwhile, lower down the school, the Y5 children considered the real meaning of Christmas and pondered the question: 'If God did it again in 2014, what would the nativity story look like?'

The Y3 children were again invited to experience the amazing "Journey to Bethlehem" living nativity put on at Totley Methodist Church. They were wowed by the trip and learned a lot about the finer details of events in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

As the oldest children in KS1, our Y2 class did a cracking job of leading our Infant nativity, which demonstrated confident acting and singing performances as well as the all-important 'ahh' factor!

The final week of term was a whirl of traditions such as Christmas parties, the wonderful PTA gift swap, our whole school trip to the Lyceum pantomime and, finally, our in-house Christingle service on the last afternoon of term: the perfect way to sign off and prepare for Christmas with our families and loved ones!

A Happy New Year to everyone from the staff and children of Totley Primary!

Ben Paxman, Assistant Head Teacher

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Recently Spotted.....



Above: An all-too-familiar aspect of our local bus service
 Below: The sink-hole that appeared on the B6061, from Winnats Pass to Sparrowpit (Roger Hart)



Two photos of a car fire that closed Baslow Road, Totley for part of the afternoon of 7 January. The car, a rare Citroen DX19, suddenly caught fire as it was being driven along the road. The road was closed until the fire brigade had extinguished the flames. The owner driver philosophically said that it would be an insurance claim! (Top: Roger Hart; Lower: Ian Clarke)



Below: Two willing but retired snow-wardens. Now it's grit-it-yourself!



Totley residents prepare to enjoy the Christmas Lunch arranged by the Residents' Association

Back Lane, Totley Rise

Totley residents may well remember three articles published in the Totley Independent (361, 363 & 366) which highlighted numerous planning and highway irregularities with respect to properties located on Totley Rise. The main issue related to an application from Mrs Wendy Flowers and her agent Mr Martin Flowers (both directors of Metropolitan Homes Ltd) to 'regularise' the use of a garage/storeroom located on Back Lane, (at the rear of 69 Baslow Road) by obtaining a 'Lawful Development Certificate' which would allow the building and surrounding land to become a fully operational builder's yard.

On Tuesday 7th January 2014, a Planning Committee unanimously voted against the application. This decision resulted in the appellant (Mrs Flowers) appealing to the Secretary of State in an attempt to overturn an 'enforcement notice' that had been issued by the Council.

On the 24th April 2014, Sheffield City Council's Legal Department received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate (based in Bristol) which informed all interested parties that the above appeal would be dealt with by means of a Public Inquiry, because 'it had become apparent that there is a large degree of factual difference between the parties along with considerable public interest which may require evidence to be taken under oath and the potential cross examination of witnesses.'

The Inspectorate prepared a timetable that would allow sufficient time for all interested parties to provide appropriate evidence and the date of the public inquiry was to be held at the Sheffield Town Hall on Tuesday 25th November 2014.

Prior to the public inquiry, substantial evidence from the Council and records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act were submitted to the Inspectorate. This evidence was so indisputable that just days before the inquiry (where all interested parties would have been required to testify under oath) Mrs Flowers changed the basis of her appeal by admitting unlawful use of the property.

However, despite Mrs Flowers' late admission, the public inquiry still took place to enable the Inspector to eventually decide, amongst other things, who would be responsible for the substantial costs associated with holding the inquiry.

The Council therefore submitted an application for costs, against Mrs Flowers, based on the following submissions and allegations:

- a) the appellant's evidence/claims could not stand up to scrutiny.
- b) the appellant's unreasonable behaviour could be demonstrated by the fact that she (or her agent) did not wholly co-operate or properly engage with the Council insofar as they submitted evidence, as part of the public inquiry appeal, which was not made available when determining the original application in January 2014 – for example, a written testament from a former tenant whose evidence was seriously flawed.
- c) the appellant had allegedly either been less truthful or had deliberately misled the Council on at least three occasions.
- d) it was alleged that the conduct of the appellant amounted to deliberate concealment of evidence, either now, as part of the appeal, or historically during the relevant 10 year period.

Costs were awarded against Mrs Flowers together with these concluding comments from the Inspector "I find

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that unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense has been demonstrated".

Totley residents will also be pleased to learn that meetings arranged by our local Councillor, Colin Ross, continue to be held with Sheffield City Council's Chief Executive, Mr John Mothersole, relating to the long-running issue of restricted access, due to an alleged illegal encroachment, into Back Lane and others issues with regard to Mr and Mrs Flowers.

Many thanks to all those residents from Totley and Dore who gave help and advice on the many complex issues and irregularities associated with the builder's yard, and also found time to attend the public inquiry. Thanks also to Councillor Colin Ross for his continued untiring efforts and support on all matters past and present that are still unresolved.

Jim Webb

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TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

MONDAYS

COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10am-noon
TAI-CHI, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 11.30am-12.30pm
RAINBOWS and GUIDES, All Saints' Church Hall, 5.45pm-9pm
SLIMMING WORLD, Abbeydale Sports Club, 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm, Jo Elsey: 262 0523 or 07590 545253

TUESDAYS

PILATES, The Old School, Dore, 9.15-10.15am. Phone Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372
COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10am-noon
KNIT, NATTER, CRAFT & CHATTER See Totley Rise Methodist Church article in this issue - 12 noon - 3.00pm
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU. Drop in, free, impartial, and confidential. Totley Rise Methodist Church, 10am-noon

WEDNESDAYS

CRAFT GROUP, Totley Library, 2pm
PILATES CLASSES, Dore Old School, 9.00-10.00 and 10.15-11.15. Contact Caroline - Tel: 0781 722 0324, email caroline1north@btinternet.com, www.pilatescarolinenorth.co.uk
COFFEE in the LIBRARY, 10am-11.30am
TODDLER GROUP, 10am-11.30am, All Saints' Church Hall. Details tel. Andy Holmes 0114 236 2088
HEALTH WALKS, 10.30am, Totley Library foyer. Phone Tina, The Health Walk Ranger: 0114 203 9335
MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall, 8pm-10pm

THURSDAYS

BELROBICS, United Reformed Church, 9.15-10am, email: jenny@belrobics.co.uk or tel 07816 850132.
NCT COFFEE GROUP FOR DORE TOTLEY & BRADWAY, 10am-noon, For mums & babies/toddlers, meeting in various locations. Phone Lucy Street 07837 000405 or email: lucy@streetr.plus.com for further details
ROCKCHOIR, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Rd, 11.30 - 1.00pm. See www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

CHAIROBICS, Heatherfield Club, 1.15pm
PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall. 1.30pm-3pm. Tel. 236 3157 for further details
PILATES CLASS, United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, 6.15pm-7.30pm **also new class 1.30pm to 2.30pm**, Phone Emer Coffey 07792 422909
PILATES, The Old School, Dore, 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am. Phone Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372
MODERN SEQUENCE DANCING, All Saints Church Hall 1st Saturday Monthly 8pm-10pm

FEBRUARY

SAT 7th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: Bird walk with Chris Measures. Meet at 9.00 am at the gate at the end of Totley Hall Lane. Check website for updates.

WED 11th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church: Talk: Dr Steven Beck (Pathologist), 'Cancer Screening for Men'. Visitors welcome.

SUN 15th EASTERN MOORS PARTNERSHIP: Bird ringing and bird-box building. 8-10.30 am. Meet Shillito Wood car-park. FREE (charge for bird-boxes). An early start will be rewarded by getting up close and personal with woodland birds.

TUES 17th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: Mr and Mrs Thomas, 'Interesting and Historic Gardens in Yorkshire'. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10 am.

THURS 19th WHIRLOW HALL FARM TRUST: 11 am - 3 pm: February Farm Fun. Exciting day of animal encounters! Featuring All Critters Great & Small, and their menagerie of weird and wonderful animals, including snakes, skunks, meerkats, giant rabbit, hairless rats and creepy-crawlies! Plus first lambs of 2015, providing children with a unique and exciting experience. Adults £2.50, Children £3.00 (under 2's are free!), Family Ticket £10.00

SAT 21st EASTERN MOORS PARTNERSHIP: Walk & Wonder- under and over the Eastern Moors (adults & 12+ yrs). 10 am - 1 pm. Meet Curbar Gap car-park. £5 per person. To book: email enquiries@easternmoors.org.uk or call 07738 738844.

SUN 22nd FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: 10 am - Practical Conservation Morning with Council Rangers. Refreshments, tools provided. Wear strong footwear and appropriate clothing. Stay as long as you like. Check website for venue.

WED 25th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: Howard Smith, The Story of the Snake Road, 7.30, Totley Library.

WED 25th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church: Talk: Prof. Bob Cwyinski, 'Thorium: An Alternative Nuclear Future'. Visitors welcome.

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MARCH

SUN 8th MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES Abbeydale Road South, 1 pm - 5 pm (weather permitting). Car Park closes 5.15pm. See www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk

WED 11th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church: Talk: Dr Murray Wilson, 'Three Queens'. Visitors welcome.

TUES 17th TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10 am.

SAT 21st EASTERN MOORS PARTNERSHIP: Walk & Wonder - Adder Emergence Amble. Start Barbrook Cottage 10 am- 1 pm (adults and 12+) £5 pp. See February above for booking details.

WED 25th TOTLEY HISTORY GROUP: The Thompson Postcard Collection, with Christine Shimell. Totley Library, 7.30.

WED 25th TOTLEY PROBUS CLUB 10 am Totley Rise Methodist Church: Talk: Mike Spick, 'Voyage into Britain'. Visitors welcome.

SAT 28th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: History Walk in the Wood, with Sally Goldsmith - Smelters, clog-makers and grouse shooters. A walk through the wood looking at evidence of its story from prehistory to the present day. Meet at metal gate, end of Totley Hall Lane, 10 am.

SUN 29th FRIENDS OF GILLFIELD WOOD: 10 am - Practical Conservation Morning - see 22 Feb above for more info.



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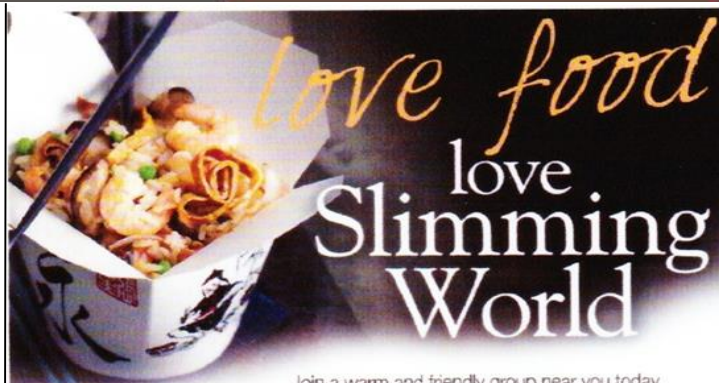


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TOTLEY INDEPENDENT for April/May

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