

**Totley History Group Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 24 January 2018.**

Present:

30 People

General Items:

Our next meeting is on 28 February and is an open meeting on the topic of Sports, Social and Community Groups. It would be great if you could share your experiences or have any documents/photos to bring along to the meeting.

We are hoping to be at the library next month as usual. You can leave your email address with us if want to be notified.

Speaker Tonight

Chris Corker talked to us about Sheffield 1915/16 Armaments, the Shell Crisis and Munitions Production.

There were a technologically advanced group of armament companies in the UK making weapons. There were 8 of these and 5 of the companies were in Sheffield. They had important links across the world and Sheffield was considered to be the arsenal of the world. War started in 1914 and these companies agreed to orders without considering if they had the capacity to fulfil them. They were unprepared for the demands of the war.

Vickers – River Don – Armour plate, finished guns and projectiles

Cyclos Works – Armour plate, projectiles and gun forgings

Grimesthorpe Works – Armour plate, projectiles and gun forgings

John Browns – Atlas Works – Armour plate, gun forgings

Thomas Firths – Projectiles and gun forgings

Hadfields – Projectiles and light armour

Shell factories began to be built in Tinsley. Workers had notifications that they did not have to go to war, however, some workers wanted to be released from the gun factories for enlistment.

By May 1915 only 27% of the total orders taken had been delivered. There was now a shell crisis as factories had given promises that they could not keep. The Ministry of Munitions was established on 25 May 1915 under the leadership of David Lloyd George, and entrusted with

mobilising all the British industry munitions production. The ministry set up a national projectile factory, however, the armaments companies objected to the Government run national shell factories so it was agreed they would be owned by the government and managed by the companies. Firths built at Templeborough and the Hadfields factory was built at East Hecla Works.

King George V visited Sheffield on 29 September 1915 and went to Thomas Firths.

Sir Robert Abbott Hadfield – 1858 to 1940 – He was encouraged by his dad to research metallurgy and discovered manganese steel.

The Brodie Helmet was initially manufactured in Sheffield by Thomas Firths, after the first batch Hadfield realised that manganese steel was very hard wearing and ideal for these helmets.

The national projectile factories commenced production and more women were being enlisted to work in the weapon manufacture as production increased.

Firths – Construction began in September 1915, commenced shell turning on 19 January 1916, there were 1,300 male and 4,000 female workers.

Hadfields – Construction began in late September 1915 and completed in March 1916, shell turning began on 25 March 1916.

Hadfields ran out of space so a decision was made to change the direction of the River Don in late 1915-16 for further building expansion.

The Battle of Jutland – 31 May-1 June 1915 - This battle put the armaments to the test. It was the largest naval battle of the Great War, however, the projectiles did not work efficiently. Empire leaders visited Hadfields in July 1916 even though the projectiles had failed. Hadfield realised there were problems and patented a new model in October 1916.

Chris was thanked for a very interesting and informative talk.

Meeting Dates for 2017

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library

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|-------------|---|
| 28 February | Open Meeting – Sports, Social and Community Groups – Everyone is invited to bring along their memories, photos of any local clubs, groups etc |
| 28 March | Off the Track in Derbyshire, What hides out of sight alongside the Dore-Chinley railway line – Stephen Gay |

25 April	AGM followed by a talk by Penny Rea – Wincobank – Hillfort, Hall and Community, a quick trip through 5,000 years of history
23 May	The Tenants and Workers of Abbeydale Hamlet 1740-1933 – Pauline Burnett
27 June	The History of Chatsworth Gardens – Rachel Parkin
25 July	TBC
26 September	TBC
24 October	A Harvest of Healing, Historical and Medical use of Sphagnum Moss – Thelma Griffiths
28 November	Open Meeting – Totley History Group Postcard Presentation – Norman Rolfe
December	TBC

Totley History Group Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 28 March 2018.

Present:

48 People

General Items:

Unfortunately our Open Meeting last month about Sports, Social and Community groups was cancelled due to the snow, this meeting will now be held in November

Our meeting next month is our AGM followed by a talk from Penny Rea about Wincobank - hill fort, hall and community.

A reminder to everyone that membership is due next month, the membership fee is remaining at £5, however, the charge for coffee is being increased to 50p following comments that it was too cheap!

The next Sheffield History Fair is 9 June and we will be having a stall at this event. Also, Dronfield History Fair is on 2 June and we will have a stall there too

Speaker Tonight

Tonight's talk was from Stephen Gay, an illustrated talk on a rail journey from Sheffield to Edale.

We started at Dore Station where the line goes under Twentywell Lane. A lot of trees have been cut down along the embankment here due to the leaves falling on the line, there is a 1 in 1000 gradient which is steep for a rail line and can cause issues with leaves on the line.

The line then carries onto the entrance to Dore and Totley Tunnel under a Victorian footbridge off Grove Road where there is also a refuge siding which is still in use

A photo showing the view of the line from the aqueduct by Totley Brook Road shows the entrance to the tunnel. The tunnel is 3.5 miles long and has 5 ventilation shafts.

Stephen's walk then continued over the top of the tunnel from Owlbar to Fox House and the Longshaw Estate to Grindleford station where the exit of the tunnel is located. Here it shows the date of completion of the

building of the tunnel in 1893. At the station there is a cafe which sells great bacon sandwiches and pints of tea!!

The next station along the route is Bamford station, it then crosses over the River Derwent by Lose Hill.

The maximum speed limit on the line is 90mph and it carries both passenger trains and freight trains, including the TransPennine Express.

The next stop is Hope Station where there is a lovely iron footbridge that has recently been refurbished. From here you can get to Win Hill with great views of Ladybower and Derwent Reservoirs.

We then travel along to Edale Station where they are also great views of Lose Hill.

We thanked Stephen for a very interesting talk with some great photos that he'd taken along the way, illustrating the journey.

Meeting Dates for 2017

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library

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| 25 April | AGM followed by a talk by Penny Rea – Wincobank – Hill fort, Hall and Community, a quick trip through 5,000years of history |
| 23 May | The Tenants and Workers of Abbeydale Hamlet 1740-1933 – Pauline Burnett |
| 27 June | The History of Chatsworth Gardens – Rachel Parkin |
| 25 July | Discovering the History of Gillfield Wood – 6.30pm start in Totley Hall Lane, a 2 hour approximately 2 mile walk to uncover the industrial past of the wood and adjacent fields |
| 26 September | Ebenezer Hall of Abbeydale Hall – Ted Hancock |
| 24 October | A Harvest of Healing, Historical and Medical use of Sphagnum Moss – Thelma Griffiths |
| 28 November | Open Meeting – Sports, Social and Community Groups – Everyone is invited to bring along their memories, photos of any local clubs, groups etc |
| December | TBC |

**Totley History Group – Annual General Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 25 April 2018**

Present:

36 People

Minutes of 2017 AGM

These were circulated after the AGM last April, if anyone would like to read them we have a copy available.

Matters Arising

All confirmed that there were no matters arising.

Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes were accepted

Chairman's Report

What has been noticeable this year has been the numbers of people coming to our meetings. This is a testament to the range of interesting speakers that Pauline Burnett has arranged for us and I'd like to thank her for all her hard work.

2017/18 has been another successful year for the Group. Several new members have joined us and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the Group. We have had some interesting speakers covering a wide variety of subjects including Sheffield schools, ganister mining, Peak District rambling in the 1920s and the Sheffield armament industry. A particularly interesting talk was given by David Templeman about Mary Queen of Scots last journey from Sheffield to Fotheringay. We had stands at both the Dronfield Local History Fair and Totley Show I would like to thank all those who helped to set up and man the stands at these events.

The Friends of Gillfield Wood asked us if they could make a digital copy of Brian Edwards' archive and the Group purchased a fast A3 scanner to enable this. The scanning is complete and we now have a digital copy of the archive. We were contacted during the year by a lady from Shropshire who was seeking information about the Plumbe family, to whom she is related, who were known to have lived on Devnonshire Road and Furniss Avenue. We were able to unearth a considerable amount of information concerning this family and the results have been put on our website which continues to go from strength to strength. My thanks go to Les Prosser for maintaining such a fantastic website.

Members of the Committee, together with All Saints Church and a local family have continued to clean the War Memorial on a monthly basis which, I believe, is well appreciated by the local community and I'd like to thank those committee members who have been involved with this.

Totley Open Gardens kindly gave us a donation of £330 and the Committee will be deciding on a piece of equipment to purchase with it.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of my Committee for their help and support during the year, they have made my first year as Chair go very smoothly and it has been a good team effort. We continue, as ever, to need new Committee members as although the current committee is happy to continue for another year many of us have been involved for a number of years and we are not getting any younger. There are some key roles which may become vacant in the next few years so if you have an interest in the running of the Group please consider putting yourself forward.

I'd like to finish by thanking you all for your support throughout the year without which the Group would not survive.

Treasurer's Report

Another steady year, we made a reasonable surplus due to the donation from Totley Open Gardens that we have not yet decided what we will use with the monies for

Election of Management Committee

All the existing members of the committee are willing to stand again. Norman was re-elected to chair, Dorothy re-elected to vice chair, Norman re-elected to treasurer, Kerry re-elected to secretary and the remaining committee members are Pauline, Jim, Jean, Tony, Sue, Jennifer and Dom

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight was Penny Rea talking to use about Wincobank and 5,000 years of its history.

Wincobank Hill overlooks Meadowhall and Attercliffe and can see the railway, the motorway and the canals and also views over Firvale, Firth Park, and the City Centre. Also, Wincobank Hill can be seen from Blacka Moor.

It was a hunting park for Manor Park and was a rural place before the industrial revolution.

Western Park Museum have some interesting pieces that have been on display which tells us that people were there from over 5,000 years ago.

The rampart on the hill looks quite spectacular, burnt findings have been found there and not sure if this is from burning or decommissioning of the site. The centre of the fort not been excavated. There is a ridge that runs below the hill and believe that this maybe prehistoric, it follows the line of the parish boundary. The footpath here is used to get to Meadowhall and for thousands of years people have used the path.

The Duke of Norfolk in 1905 gave the site to the City along with its ancient woodland. The trees in the woodland are interesting, they are often cut down so the branches grow out at several angles from the ground. There was a house and cottages on the hill dating from the 1700s, these were demolished after the Sheffield gales in 1962, Wincobank Hall was demolished in 1925, the hall dates from at least 1715 and probably before. It had beautiful gardens, with ornamental flowers. Lead has been found from the windows of the hall.

In 1816 the site was sold to Joseph Reed and his family, his wife Elizabeth and their children, 5 daughters and a son. The Reed family originally lived at Attercliffe but as the air got polluted from the factories they decided to move to Wincobank where there were lovely views. Elizabeth Reed was involved with the Sheffield Ladies anti-slavery society and actively supported other campaigns for social reform. By 1817 they had established a chapel in the coach house and a Sunday School in the laundry room, there being no other place to worship nearby.

Unfortunately they got into financial difficulties and had to sell Wincobank Hall. Their daughter inherited some money from her husband's family and brought the hall and cleared their debts. She applied for a grant and built a school which coincided with The Factory Act where children working in the factories had to have 2 hours of schooling a week which had to be paid for.

Penny encouraged everyone to visit Wincobank Hill, the view is worth seeing and you can also view the graves in the graveyard and the chapel which is still in use today.

We thanked Penny for a fascinating talk, we found out lots of interesting history about Wincobank that we did not know about before.

Meeting Dates for 2018

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library

23 May	The Tenants and Workers of Abbeydale Hamlet 1740-1933 – Pauline Burnett
27 June	The History of Chatsworth Gardens – Rachel Parkin
25 July	Discovering the History of Gillfield Wood – 6.30pm start in Totley Hall Lane, a 2 hour approximately 2 mile walk to uncover the industrial past of the wood and adjacent fields
26 September	Ebenezer Hall of Abbeydale Hall – Ted Hancock
24 October	A Harvest of Healing, Historical and Medical use of Sphagnum Moss – Thelma Griffiths
28 November	Open Meeting – Sports, Social and Community Groups – Everyone is invited to bring along their memories, photos of any local clubs, groups etc
December	Spitewinter Concert

Minutes for the meeting 23rd May 2018

There were no announcements, however we forgot to remind members that the group will be represented at

Sheffield and District History Fair

Sheffield Wednesday Football Suite
Saturday 9th June 10.00-4.00

Pauline Burnett gave an illustrated talk on
The Tenants and Workers of Abbey Dale Forge 1738-1933
Just three tenancies covered all but twenty years of these two centuries, the Goddard family, John Dyson and the Tyzack family.

First record of a single grinding wheel in the vicinity of Abbey Dale is in the late 17th century. It was the Goddard family arriving in 1738 that changed the area into an industrial site during their 65 year tenancy. Building the dam allowed use of the newly developed water-powered machinery and their reputation as manufacturers of quality edge tools was nationwide. Martin Goddard died a very wealthy man in 1816, leaving £20,000.

John Dyson was not so fortunate. After a very ambitious start he also bought Topley Rolling Mill and established the brick works on Topley Moor (mining ganister for the crucible pots).

Unfortunately he suffered at the hands of the Union agitators, probably because he had come to their notice for not paying union rates. The Grinding Hull was destroyed by an explosion, ultimately leading to his bankruptcy because of lost production. Dyson's tenancy was followed by William Tyzack and Sons, later incorporating Turner into their partnership. William's grandson Joshua started his working life at the Abbey Dale but changed direction as his interest in farming grew. He had bought Old Hay Mill from the company when they stopped production

there in the 1890's and subsequently ran it as a farm, employing housekeepers and farm managers, but never living there himself. On his death in 1930 a well-kept secret was revealed when his farm manager, Jessie Fisher, was found to be his wife, having married him secretly in 1920. She inherited his considerable wealth.

Working in the steel industry was a dangerous occupation and life expectancy short. Safety wasn't considered, industrial incidents happened frequently and the court rulings and inquests usually looked on the events as 'accidental'.

Families living in the tied cottages changed little, passing down the generations as sons or sons-in-law followed their fathers into the industry. We heard about the lives of just a few of the men.

...two named William Price who moved (almost a century apart) from Belbroughton in Worcs., bringing their skills from a similar scythe-grinding region.

...Albert Fearnough, a scythe-grinder, who for a number of years left the industry to work at Edward Carpenter's smallholding in Millthorpe. Albert's wife Mary was his housekeeper.

...William Naylor and his anti smallpox vaccination campaign.

...John Smith, yardman, who was called to give evidence after the boiler explosion in 1870.

Tyzack's finally left Abbey Dale in 1933 when their site at Little London became their main focus. J.G. Graves bought the abandoned Abbey Dale works and gave it to the city of Sheffield. After restoration it opened as the Hamlet in 1970.

Totley History Group Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 27 June 2018

Present:
29 People

Notices

The library is no longer able to keep Brian Edwards archives therefore they have been removed and shared out between 3 members of the Group's committee. Some of it has been scanned onto memory sticks which will be available for loaning out to members shortly.

Totley Open Gardens is on Saturday and Sunday 7 and 8 July from 12.30pm to 5pm.

Our next meeting is a walk which will be led by Pauline exploring the history of Gillfield Wood. We will meet at 6.30pm at the farm gate at the bottom of Totley Hall Lane. It is advisable to wear strong shoes.

There will be no meeting in August

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight was Rachel Parkin who talked to us about the history of Chatsworth Gardens.

In 1549 Elizabeth and William Cavendish bought the land where Chatsworth was built, it is believed there was a small manor house in existence on this land when they purchased it. The original Chatsworth was Elizabethan, building started in Tudor times, Elizabeth project managed the building of the house whilst William travelled all over the country supervising the dissolution of the monasteries. The hunting lodge existed at this time along with the fish lakes and the dower house where Queen Mary stayed during her 7 visits to Chatsworth. The rest of the estate was mainly gardens. The turnpike road to reach Chatsworth was via Edensor.

Bess married another 2 times after William died. She had 9 children, 6 survived, these children were with William. Their second son inherited Chatsworth who bought the title Earl of Devonshire as there was already an Earl of Derbyshire, so a title was created for him.

The great great grandson of Bess and William was the 4th Earl of Devonshire, in the 1680s he was one of the main members of the group who invited William of Orange and his wife Mary to depose King James II. This was a great success and as an honour was given the title of the 1st Duke of Devonshire.

He decided Chatsworth needed improvements so it could be a great showcase to visitors, most of the house was rebuilt and designed in baroque style. He rebuilt the gardens, kept the hunting tower and fish lakes. He made 20 different fountains that fed from the lakes at the top of the hill. There was not sufficient water to run the fountains constantly so it was only enabled as visitors arrived, the current fountains still use the lakes for water and use is restricted particularly during dry periods of weather. The Tudor gardens were made of coloured soil from dust from bricks, coal and marble and laid in patterns, these could be viewed from the first floor windows. As the variety of plants improved the patterns were done in plants and the grass cut in the shape of the crest. Full time gardeners were employed and garden tourists visited the gardens. These visitors were the wealthy, the water features were designed that water could come out of the floor, one visitor wrote that a visit wasn't complete without getting wet!! The garden cascade had 24 steps and the steps were carved differently so the water flowed at different angles. The cascade house when operating fully had water flowing from the top of the dome.

By 1715 it became unfashionable to have intricate gardens as these were expensive to run and a more natural looking garden style was now in fashion. William Kent came to visit Chatsworth and had ideas to change the cascade and plant trees. By the 1740s the terraces had gone and the gardens appeared more natural looking.

The 4th Duke inherited in 1755, he had new ideas and wanted the most fashionable garden in the area. He had inherited a lot of money from his father in law, the 3rd Earl of Burlington, one of the richest men of England in the 1700s.

He hired Capability Brown who implemented changes and employed a foreman on site. He was instructed by Brown and local people were

employed for the workforce. The gardens were kept as natural looking as possible. He closed the turnpike road and diverted it away from the house and built a new bridge on the road to Beeley that is still there today. He built the 3 arch bridge in front of the house and also created a hillside and moved the village houses further back so they could not be seen from the main house, the only building that could be seen was the church spire. What Brown created is what we can see today. There were 100s of waterpipes moving water from the top of the hill for the features in the gardens and also for use in the house. Brown was incredibly influential and dined with Kings and other society members.

William Cavendish became the 6th Duke of Devonshire in 1811 and was known as the batchelor Duke as he never married. He spent a lot of time in the gardens and talked to the gardeners, one particular gardener he got on well with was called Joseph Paxton and at the age of 23 years he appointed him head gardener. Paxton went on tours of Europe with the Duke and Sarah Paxton, Joseph's wife, would run the garden whilst he was away. Chatsworth have many letters in their possession from Sarah and Joseph that they sent each other during these tours and archivists are currently studying them. Paxton worked at the gardens for 30 years and created a conservatory and experimented with glass houses as the Duke liked plant hunting on his tours and these plants required heat for their growth. He also had an orchid collection and gardeners were sent to India to look for these and they were displayed in the greenhouses. The houses used coal to heat them and coal was transported in tunnels under the ground to the glasshouses. The conservatory wall glasshouse which is still in existence has a wooden structure with sliding glass and still has the original glass. In 1845 Queen Victoria came to visit and was very impressed, the public queued along the route and were allowed in the glasshouse after the Queen had left.

The rock garden that we can see today was created by Paxton, the idea came from Germany where they were fashionable.

Chatsworth's original fountain was 94 feet high. After the Duke's visit to Russia to visit the Tsar who had a fountain that reached higher than the one at Chatsworth, the Duke returned and gave instructions for a new fountain to be built which would outdo that of the Tsar's. The gardeners worked day and night for 6 months to dig a new, larger lake and install pipes from the lake down to the new fountain. When it was switched on the height was over 200 feet, however the Tsar never returned for a visit to view this! This is why it is called the Emperor fountain.

Whist working at Chatsworth Paxton created the Crystal Palace, he also was involved in designing public parks such as Birkenhead Park which was influential in the design of Central Park in New York. Paxton received a knighthood and when he died was a multi-millionaire.

The gilding on the south and west side of the building has been recently restored, the gilding was only on these sides as this is the part of the building that was viewed on visitors arrival. The turnpike was also lowered from the lake to give the appearance to visitors as they arrived that the house was floating on the lake.

Chatsworth still has modern designers helping today, every Duke always has new ideas.

Rachel was thanked for a very interesting and informative talk.

Meeting Dates for 2018

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library

25 July	Discovering the History of Gillfield Wood – 6.30pm start in Totley Hall Lane, a 2 hour approximately 2 mile walk to uncover the industrial past of the wood and adjacent fields
August	No meeting.
26 September	Ebenezer Hall of Abbeydale Hall – Ted Hancock
24 October	A Harvest of Healing, Historical and Medical use of Sphagnum Moss – Thelma Griffiths
28 November	Open Meeting – Sports, Social and Community Groups – Everyone is invited to bring along their memories, photos of any local clubs, groups etc
December	Spitewinter Concert

**Totley History Group Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 26 September 2018**

Present:
42 People

General Notices

Our December meeting is The Spitewinter Concert at Ecclesall Church on 12 December, if anyone is wanting tickets please let Pauline know.

Our next meeting is on 24 October and will not be in the library due to maintenance works. The meeting will be held at the Dore and Totley United Reform Church on Totley Brook Road. Our speaker is Thelma Griffiths who is talking to us about A Harvest of Healing, Historical and Medical Use of Sphagnum moss.

We had a stand at The Totley Show in September which was a great success, we received a lot of interested visitors.

On 13 and 14 October at Dore Old School House there will be a traditional and modern craft exhibition with demonstrations and displays.

Chris Corker, who has spoken at our meeting in the past, let everyone know he has organised a series of short talks from local speakers on Armistice Day to celebrate the centenary of the 1st World War, this is at 1130am to 1530pm at The Memorial Hall, Sheffield City Hall in aid of Royal British Legion, tickets are £7.

Our speaker tonight, Ted Hancock, is writing a book about the Dore and Chinley Railway, The Hope Valley Line, Volume 1 1883 to 1947, if anyone is interested in reserving a copy please let us know.

Speaker Tonight

Our speakers tonight told us all about Ebenezer Hall, Pauline gave us a talk about his life and Ted Hancock let us know about his involvement in the local railway line.

Ebenezer Hall was born in 1820 near Cromford. He was educated at the Richard Arkwright School at Cromford where they had 6 hours of education and 6 hours of working per day. Ebenezer was picked out as a bright student in his early teens, and was chosen by John Roberts, a silversmith in Sheffield, to be his apprentice. John Roberts had no children and was looking for someone to take over his business.

In 1841 the census showed Ebenezer as a manager and traveller selling goods across the country. In 1847 he was offered a partnership by Roberts and the business was called Roberts and Hall.

By the 1850s John Roberts was thinking of retiring and he purchased Abbeydale Villa and the land around it, Abbeydale Park. He extended Abbeydale Villa and it became what is now known as Abbeydale Hall.

Throughout the 1850s some of Ebenezer's brothers and cousins joined him in the silversmith business. The silversmith factory was on Broad Street and was an impressive building. Examples of their fine silverware are an enamelled knife that was recently on ebay for £100 and a tea service that was for sale in a London antique shop for £5,000.

In 1857 there was a big fire at the hall, parts of it were damaged, it was insured for £600 and Ebenezer repaired it at a cost of

£1300. Ebenezer also bought Brinkburn Grange and Greenock House and let them out to businessmen and also bought other land in the area as it became available,

John Roberts felt that as the area around the Dore and Totley station developed it needed a church and he built St John's Church. There is a window dedicated in the church to John Roberts' wife who died before the church could be consecrated.

Ebenezer was seen as Roberts' son and heir. Ebenezer married Sarah Wilkinson, she was Roberts' housekeeper and the cousin of Roberts's wife. Ebenezer and Sarah married in London and honeymooned possibly in Eastbourne and later travelled to Australia as a business trip. On their return John Roberts sold the hall to Ebenezer and within a year Ebenezer became a JP, as a JP you needed to own your own home with a value exceeding £1K, Abbeydale was valued at £3K.

The business became a limited company and this meant Ebenezer could pursue other interests, his strengths were business directorships. In the 1870s and 1880s he had business interests in gas companies, the Sheffield and Rotherham Bank and a mining company.

He heard about the building of the Dore and Chinley railway line and did not like the look of their plans. The extension of the railway would bring more people to the area to live, around this time housing was being built on and around Dore Road. Travellers also used the line to visit the countryside.

In 1884 the Midland produced a prospectus for the Dore and Chinley Railway to build a line to Chinley and Chapel En Le Frith. Ebenezer decided he would petition against the line. The Select Committee met in March 1864. He attended and objected to the noise and annoyance the trains would cause and that the line would be over his land, he wanted a tunnel building, which would be a huge expense to the rail company and would also

mean trains would be standing in the tunnel due to the location of the junction. The rail company offered instead to build him a screen. Ebenezer also objected saying the proposed line affected his 2 reservoirs and his Old Hay Trout stream, the rail company said they would divert the line around the stream and this his reservoirs were mill dams. A bridge was built for Ebenezer over the line so he could reach his land, it was a tall bridge with 3 arches, in 1920 the bridge was removed, however, we don't know why this is, and we unfortunately have no picture of it.

In 26 June 1864 an agreement was reached with Ebenezer that where the line passed through his land it would be diverted away from the dam and an embankment would be constructed and planted with trees.

Ebenezer was a very detailed, determined man and stuck to his argument with the committee to reach a conclusion he could agree to.

In later years he was a keen fisherman, he was on the Board for The Cherry Tree Orphanage, he supported the church at Wirksworth, he spread his money around for many good causes. He left the equivalent of around £30 million in today's terms when he died in 1911 aged 90 years, his wife continued to live at the hall. In his will he gave a lump sum to various local churches and set up many trusts.

He is buried at The General Cemetery

Ebenezer adopted Sheffield and Totley for a large part of his life and what he did benefited many people during his lifetime and for today.

Pauline and Ted were thanked for a very interesting and educational talk.

Meeting Dates for 2018/2019

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library apart from October 2018.

24 October	A Harvest of Healing, Historical and Medical use of Sphagnum Moss – Thelma Griffiths to be held at Dore and Totley United Reform Church, Totley Brook Road.
28 November	Open Meeting – Sports, Social and Community Groups – Everyone is invited to bring along their memories, photos of any local clubs, groups etc
12 December	Spitewinter Concert
23 January	Dead and Buried, Dore and Totley Ancestry – Hilary Hudson
27 February	The Story of an Ordinary 19 th Century Sheffield Family – Suzanne Bingham
27 March	The Plague Doctor, Medical Treatments in the 17 th Century – David Bell
24 April	AGM followed by The Great Sheffield Deer Park – David Templeman
22 May	Open Meeting
26 June	A Contract from Hell, Building the Woodhead Tunnel 1839-1845 – Chris and Judy Rouse
24 July	TBC
August	No meeting
25 September	TBC
23 October	Ration Book Fashion – Janet Stain
27 November	Open Meeting
December	Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale at Ecclesall Church

**Totley History Group Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 24 October 2018**

Present:

33 People

General Notices

Our next meeting in November is an open meeting about photos and memories of sports, social and community groups, would be great if we could share all your memories. It will not be at Totley Library due to the building works, it will be at the same venue as November's meeting which was Dore and Totley United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road.

Everyone reminded to let Pauline Burnett know asap if you are interested in attending the Spitewinter Concert which is our December meeting.

All encouraged to look at the Haddon Hall website for all the activities taking place during December.

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight is Thelma Griffiths who gave us a talk about Sphagnum Moss - A Harvest of healing

During World War I they were struggling with the soldiers' wounds and their dressings and needed something to keep them clear of infection.

The soldiers' wounds were stuffed with the moss and it was also put on their skin. Dead bodies were packed with moss to keep them fresh.

Sphagnum moss was also used for sanitary towels, dysentery pads for the soldiers, soaps for shaving and for canines for their coats. It had antiseptic qualities and was used in hospitals for disinfectant. There were different types of sphagnum moss and different types were used for different things depending on its qualities. It was also added to swimming pools to prevent using chlorine, however, there were reports that this was not successful.

To make the dressings with the moss they layered the moss with the absorbent cotton and gauze.

Outings were organised with women, children, scouts and guides to collect the moss. It was hard work as the ground was often wet. There was no resistance from landowners for collecting it. It was squeeze dried and then laid out to dry.

Overseas the moss was compressed to make transportation easier. The British Government purchased bulk amounts of garlic bulbs for sterilisation use. US and Canada produced millions of dressings and used large expanses of drying racks. Their students at University were expected to spend 2 hours per week making dressings.

Longshaw was used as a convalescent hospital during the war and VAD Doris Elliott would go on the moors to collect the moss, the moors was a good area for it to growth, it likes a damp, boggy, cold climate.

The advantages over moss instead of cotton was that it was lighter and cooler and absorbed more liquid. It absorbed in the whole dressing before it needed changing so saved nurses time and soiling the bedclothes.

After the end of WWI the collection of the moss reduced as it was very labour intensive. During WWII its usage increased again but not as high as in the previous war. Princess Elizabeth

and Princess Margaret were photographed collecting the moss!

It's use declined as cotton was imported and used as cotton wool.

In the last 20 years a large area of moorland has been cultivated with the moss and it has thrived and it has increased its growth covering which shows how well it can be cultivated for the future.

Thelma was thanked for a fascinating talk and how the moss had a major role for its users and was used worldwide and that there is regeneration for its use for the coming years.

Meeting Dates for 2018/2019

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library apart from November 2018. **to be held at Dore and Totley United Reform Church, Totley Brook Road.**

28 November	Open Meeting, all to share memories of sports, social, and community groups.
12 December	Spitewinter Concert
23 January	Dead and Buried, Dore and Totley Ancestry – Hilary Hudson
27 February	The Story of an Ordinary 19 th Century Sheffield Family – Suzanne Bingham
27 March	The Plague Doctor, Medical Treatments in the 17 th Century – David Bell
24 April	AGM followed by The Great Sheffield Deer Park – David Templeman
22 May	Open Meeting
26 June	A Contract from Hell, Building the Woodhead Tunnel 1839-1845 – Chris and Judy Rouse
24 July	TBC
August	No meeting
25 September	TBC
23 October	Ration Book Fashion – Janet Stain

27 November Open Meeting
December Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale at
Ecclesall Church

**Totley History Group Meeting
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 28 November 2018**

Present:

20 People

General Notices

Everyone asked to think about a topic for our next open meeting in May, ideas suggested were churches, schools, the development of the housing estates in Totley like Green Oak and Laverdene, or the lead mining in the area. Any more ideas please let us know.

Pauline has the tickets for the December Spitewinter concert for those that have ordered them.

Open Meeting – Sports, Social and Community Groups

Our meeting tonight is an open meeting where we can discuss our memories of sports and social activities in Totley. There was a great display of photos for everyone to look and we had a slide showing lots of interesting photos of the below.

Cross Scythes Bowls Club in the 1950s

Girls rounders team from Totley

Totley Football Club where Percy Hassall was a footballer who lived on the The Grove and he founded Hassall Homes.

Totley Cricket Team

Totley Tug of War Team – 1919 – this photo could have been taken at the back of the The Crown at the annual show.

Totley Athletic Club prizegiving in 1981

Totley Rifle Range – Where training was given during World War I and II

Totley Sports and Social Club Whisk Drive Meeting Card, held on Hillfoot Road, met at the building in the school.

21st Sheffield (Cherrytree) Scouts

85th Sheffield St Johns and Totley Orphanage Wolf Club

Abbeydale Amateur Gardening Society circa 1914, Bill Glossop's grandad is in this photo.

Opening of the new Totley branch of the library – 26 February 1974

Totley Show 2008

Totley Open Gardens 2007

Totley Music Festival 2010

Totley History Group taken at the Totley Show in 2013

Friends of Gillfield Wood 10 May 2015

Transport 17 Bus – A great advert for our community

Dore and Totley Union Church Summer Fete – June 1957

Totley and District Community Association including membership Cards from 1949 and 1992, one of the groups in this association became TOADS.

Totley Townswomen Guild – 1^{9th} anniversary lunch on 4 October 2005

Totley Green Oak Ladies Guild 1950s

Totley Union Church Cycling Fete 18 July 1914

Totley Labour Sports Day 1945

Totley Hall Garden Party in the 1900s

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church outing in 1924

Everyone agreed that the photos and display were all very interesting. In earlier years there were many groups in existence which was probably due to people having more time available, there was no shift work and mums were at home, not working, and also people had no cars.

We also have some cinefilm of some events that we will show at a later date.

Meeting Dates for 2018/2019

12 December Spitewinter Concert

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