

**Totley History Group  
Totley Library  
Wednesday, 24 September 2008**

**Present:** 30 members

**Future Meetings:**

22 October – Rony will arrange for a history film show of Yorkshire Film Archive, this includes old/amateur film of South Yorkshire life, with footage of Millhouses Park and the pool.

**ACTION : RONY**

19 November – Mel Jones will be attending to talk about organising local history groups and what we choose to do with our time.

10 December – Sally suggested we have a small performance, people could do readings or write something about Totley, it was also suggested we could bring along mince pies etc. Further ideas for this will be discussed at the next meeting.

**ACTION : ALL**

The 2009 dates will be on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, the first meeting being 28 January 2009.

**Business Items:**

**Letter from Roy Yates:** Avril advised that the library had received a letter from Roy Yates, he does talks to various groups about surnames in exchange for a donation for charity, this is something we could bear in mind for the future.

**ACTION : ALL**

**School House, Totley Hall Lane:** This is a grade 2 listed building, a building needs to be graded 1 or 2\* before it can be registered. Concern was expressed as this is now empty, it is Council owned. Dominic will email the Council to find out who owns the land and what their intentions are.

**ACTION: DOMINIC**

**Shrewsbury Terrace Footpath:** Duncan advised that he is waiting for a reply from the Council, they have said that this is not high priority. Ian advised that there are some letters in the October's Totley Independent regarding this. Pat said that 73 years ago her sister went missing and was found at the end of this path, this path was also used by her father and grandfather and was always used as a shortcut to get to school. Duncan advised that if anyone has any information to send it the Council, he has some forms if anyone needs one.

**ACTION : ALL**

**Copy of a Poster for the Sale of Goods at Chatsworth Road:** Bill showed everyone a copy of a poster he had for the sale of a builders plant and household furniture on Chatsworth Road, which lists all of the stock for sale. He also spoke about the Duke

of Devonshire selling his land. Bill's Grandpa went to the first meeting of the Abbeydale Land Society and his Grandpa's house was built in 1901, Bill has the specification for it on Brinkburn Vale Road, the cost was £550. Bill also has a picture of where the library is now, taken by the first vicar of Totley, Rev Jeremy Hutton, this was a field and was being cut by Sam who worked for Thompsons. Bill said he had lots of old pictures like this. He also has a catalogue of when land was sold in the area including Thickwood Lodge and places on the moors, all are welcome to have a look at these photos/catalogue.

**ACTION : ALL**

**Compilation of Information:** Sue said she is happy to keep/compile information, everyone has photos, posters and information and these need to be collected and put in a book/CD/archive or on the website. It was suggested holding a session with a laptop and scanner in say the library and advertise for people to come along and we can copy their photos/information they have and record their stories. Avril will ask the library if we could use it for this on a Saturday.

**ACTION : AVRIL**

**Books of Old Totley and Dore:** Richard has several books that his father owned, also books that his son had purchased from a shop in Worthing. He also talked about All Saints School which was the only school in Totley and was also used as a senior school for children who had failed the 11+. The Chapel nearby the school was also used for classes with a partition to divide the areas.

**Harvey Teesdale:** Harvey Teesdale used to entertain people in the mid 1850s, he was a phenomenal athlete and acrobat. This is how he became known as the monkey man. He also liked a drink and after a row with his wife, tried to shoot her but missed and then tried to shoot himself. He went to prison for a time and then became a hermit and lived on Totley Moors, making his living as a rag and bone man between here and Buxton. He also sailed down the River Don in a wash tub where 70,000 people watched, a wall falling over due to the amount of people there.

**Programme from The Playhouse Theatre:** Jim has a programme from The Playhouse Theatre which was on Townhead Street, during its last days of being open the Playhouse held a series of documentaries, one was about The Totley Tunnel and the last play was about Harvey Teesdale. The song sheets are also included.

**Penny Lane:** Pat and others remember a Mr Fox who lived in the scrub on the top of the spoil past The Crown on Penny Lane, he was a hermit.

**Photos of Totley:** Marlene brought some photos that Mike Williamson had taken of various places in Totley including Totley Rise, Greenoak Nursing home, the General Store at the top of Main Avenue, Marstone Service Station, they have been taken over the past few years.

**Psalm and Verse Board:** Richard has the Psalm and Verse Board from Dore Old Chapel. His father was the postmaster in Dore and Totley and a member of the Hancock family passed this to him.

**Observatory:** An observatory and mansion is believed to be in the area of the farmhouse at Strawberry Lee Lane. A mansion was built there but it was too windy and kept blowing down. Investigations have been ongoing in the area and there is evidence of mediaeval buildings. Everyone asked to advise if they have any further information.

**ACTION: ALL**

**History of Mill Lane:** Vincent asked if anyone had any information about the history of Mill Lane opposite the Methodist Church on Totley Rise.

**ACTION: ALL**

**Greenoak Park Buildings:** – Avril asked if anyone has any information about how old the buildings are in Greenoak Park. Dominic has access to a website for the maps for the 1800s and will have a look, particular interest is with the 2 bowling huts as the Council believe these were built in the 1950s but we know that this is incorrect.

**ACTION : DOMINIC**

**The History Group at Dore** are having an Open Day on Saturday, 18 October from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm if anyone is interested in attending.

**ACTION : ALL**

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Totley Library on Wednesday 22 October 2008 at 7.30pm – History Film show  
And also

Totley Library on Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 7.30pm – Talk by Mel Jones

Totley Library on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 at 7.30 pm