

## Memories of Life in Totley

Last time, I mentioned Mr Tilly, the Lamp Lighter. In about 1962, Grove Road, Totley Rise, was still lit by gaslight. I expect other roads were as well. Every evening Mr Tilly would arrive on his bicycle and go from lamp to lamp pulling a lever which ignited the street light. Mr Tilly was also a gardener and roses were his pride and joy.

Whilst rummaging through a box I found the page below from the Sheffield Telegraph date 25 May 1962. It contains information which you might find useful. This cutting was probably kept because Cannon Hall in Butts Lane was owned by Margaret and Leslie Dawson who were great friends of my parents. They reclaimed Cannon Hall from dereliction and it really became a life's work and great passion to restore the old buildings and create a garden. Every time we visited the house the Dawsons would be working on a new aspect of the house and barns which they had discovered. For example, the original crock beams, an old fireplace and a secret staircase.

The Dawsons created a beautiful garden, using reclaimed stone and building all the stone walling. Leslie used many lovely old stone items from demolition sites.

On entering the house you were always met by the wonderful smell of woodsmoke from logs in the huge hearth in the sitting room. I remember the lovely stone fireplace, there was a worn round shape in the edge where someone had continually lent a poker. I spent many sleepovers at Cannon Hall. Tiptoeing across the creaking floorboards and snuggling into the huge oak bed. I found all this tremendously exciting and it has inspired my imagination and love of old buildings ever since.

Further on in the article there is a fascinating interview with Joe Marshall, where he describes the building of Totley Tunnel and Walter Ibbotson talks about the horse bus at Cross Scythes. Mrs Annie Holding proudly claims at the age of 84, to be one of the oldest ladies in Totley. These days 84 is not considered to be exceptionally old. Mrs Mollie Turner, aged 71, looks very ancient. It may be of interest to note that she was caretaker at the C of E School for 30 years. I wonder if their relatives still live in Totley? I wonder if anyone can recognise themselves in the school photos! It is a shame that the pupils can no longer look out on a "windswept panorama of the bleak moors constantly changing colour".

Next time, I thought I might describe the old wooden footbridge and the tadpole pond!

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