

TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

Published by Totley Residents Association No.81

OCTOBER 1984 15p

PUMPS RUN DRY



OLD HAY

THE CLOSURE of Marstone Garage in Baslow Road has puzzled many a Totley motorist who regularly filled up there.

But the Independent can exclusively reveal that the former South Yorkshire Motor Co. site, which closed at the beginning of September, shut down because of poor trading.

Terry Proctor, who ran the concern with his son, said the garage was popular before BP Petrol took it over. But last year's trading figures showed a loss of £20,000 and forced closure.

"It was going to be taken over, but I think they backed out when they saw the figures," he said. "Everything's gone now, we're just clearing up. It was a venture we should never have gone into."

Mr Proctor said the poor trading meant they had to terminate their agreement with BP and 20 jobs were lost. The garage held the Hyundai franchise which has since been transferred to Abbey Garage just down the road.

Mr. Proctor, who leased the site from BP, will be concentrating on his other business sideline, making heat pumps for the poultry world at his Cleadless Road factory.

A spokesman for BP said the site at Totley is closed and will not be re-opened by them.

BEWARE

REPORTS HAVE been received of a man peddling goods from door to door, in Totley, claiming to be on behalf of Transport 17. This is completely bogus as this type of fundraising has not been authorised by the organisers. Be on your guard against this confidence trick.

whisperer...

.....Bonfire and Barbeque being held at the Cricket Inn on Monday, 5th November at 6.30pm, and the large room is now available for private hire on Friday evenings.....Good response by pupils of King Egbert School to the half-marathon sponsored walk over local moors on Friday, Oct. 5th.Hopefully, the problems encountered with the No. 746 school bus service from Totley to King Egbert at the beginning of the term have now been resolved particularly in view of the onset of dark nights..... ..Recent Haq Day held by the Boys Brigade on Totley Rise raised £32 for Company and Battalion Funds. Thanks to all who contributed..... Former Lord Mayor of Sheffield and Totley Scout Group Chairman, Gordon Wragg, has left the city for Surrey. Mr. Wragg served on the city council for 23 years..... ..Rehearsals currently under-way for 'Babes in the Wood' being presented at All Saints School in February, 1985.....Paul Heald, owner of TNT Video, Baslow Road, intends to continue his fight for a fish and chip shop licence despite refusal of planning permission.....local councillors to take up case of Mrs. Leighton, who wishes to place a seat at the Baslow Road end of Mickley Lane, to commemorate the death of her son Nicholas, who ran Carly Q.....

Tenants News

A MEETING is arranged for all Totley Council Tenants to discuss the formation of a Tenants sub-committee, as part of Totley Residents Association. Handbills giving full information are being delivered to each household. The meeting takes place at 8pm. on Wednesday, October 31st in Totley Library.

MONNYBROOK

THE TWO latest residents of Totley's Canine Rescue Centre will never be in the doghouse. Calypso and Prophet are both horses! The homeless duo are being looked after by the National Canine Defence League because another animal rescue centre in the city has no room available. They are being cared for by Steve Coody and his staff in the field connecting to the kennels at Monnybrook Farm. According to Steve they do not present any problems. "They are roughed out so it is just a matter of feeding them and keeping any eye on their health," said Steve. "The dogs don't seem to mind." Now arrivals at the Centre, which has been choc-o-bloc with dogs virtually since Day One, include two litters of puppies - eleven dogs in all.

THUNDERER

The Independent sees its job as reporting on any local topic. Hopefully, readers are sufficiently interested to write back in praise, questioning or otherwise.

Mr. R. Robbithwaite writes:-

The Independent has given wide publicity over the past year to the new occupants of Monnybrook Farm.

However, in the last issue reference was made to the noise made by the dogs albeit on the sports page. Not only does the sometimes incessant and frenzied barking disturb the residents of Totley Bents but also causes adverse comments from many of the visitors who come to enjoy what was a quiet retreat.

What do other readers think? Letters to the Editor please.

TRANSPORT 17

IGABS are organising a trip to their play "Tind the lady" on Wednesday 31st October, using the Transport 17 Minibus.

Combined admission and transport ticket at 80p is available from Dorothy Hollis on 362938, or any member of the group. As only 10 people can be taken the service has to be restricted to those who could not otherwise attend.

After a lengthy period of unemployment, Alan Stead, one of the regular Transport 17 drivers, has found a job, consequently there is a need for more drivers, particularly during the day. Offers to Ron Hogg please on 394151.

A folding wheelchair is needed for the Minibus. Anyone with one to sell or donate please contact:- Ron Hogg or Irene Wells on 360602.

As reported last month, there are still plenty of opportunities to give housebound people an outing. Please consider bringing a few of them to your next event.

It is perhaps surprising that none of the local churches have arranged transport to any of their services.

HELP

The Totley Independent is urgently seeking local people to help with its production.

There is a particular need for someone with sufficient spare time who would consider taking over the editorial and compilation duties on a temporary or permanent basis.

~~~~~  
All items are printed free of charge.

Copy date for inclusion is the third Saturday in the month at the very latest. Rates for adverts on request.

New adverts will only be accepted up to the second Saturday in each month.

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# LIBRARY

## TOTLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

THIS SUMMER at the library there has been considerable change. The department has been restructured and there is now, almost a completely new staff at the library. Peter Farrell is the new Community Librarian, Karren Slater is the new Senior Assistant.

We've managed to hang onto Jane Pringle, in charge of the Children's Library, and to Christine Wood, Margaret Coldwell and Sue Heath, finally a late transfer to the side is Michelle Wing.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

There will be a full programme of talks at the library this Autumn beginning on Tuesday, October 16th at 8pm. a film "For the Want of Water". On the 30th October at 8pm a talk and slides by Dr. entitled "Walks in the Himalayas". November 28th, this time on Wednesday and at the different time of 7.30 will be a talk by Mr. A. Brackenbury, called "Natural History at Work". The last talk is on Wednesday 19th December at 8pm. given by Monica Nelson on "Scotland's West Coast". In the junior library there are 'activities nights' on Monday starting at 6pm - beginning 1st October.

### WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

If you need somewhere to hold your meeting, to put out your publicity or simply stick up a poster, come down to the library, ask to see Peter Farrell or leave a message and we'll try to help out.

### CAN YOU HELP US ?

We are trying to create a local directory for the community. What is needed are names, addresses, telephone numbers of groups, individuals, societies, committees etc., who are doing anything in the local area, so please let the library know.

## cherrytree

CHILDREN at the Cherrytree Home in Totley have the benefit of a newly opened games room to while away the long winter evenings. The games room was officially opened by an old boy Lt Cndr Eric Hall, RN (rtd), of Southampton and is named the Kate Biggin games room. It is named after Mrs Biggin, a trustee and the driving force behind the project. The 14 children can enjoy a range of games, including badminton, snooker and pool as an alternative to TV.

# JUMBLE

Jumble Sales are being held by Totley Residents Assoc., on Saturday, 20th October and Saturday, 1st December, in All Saints Church Hall from 2.30pm.

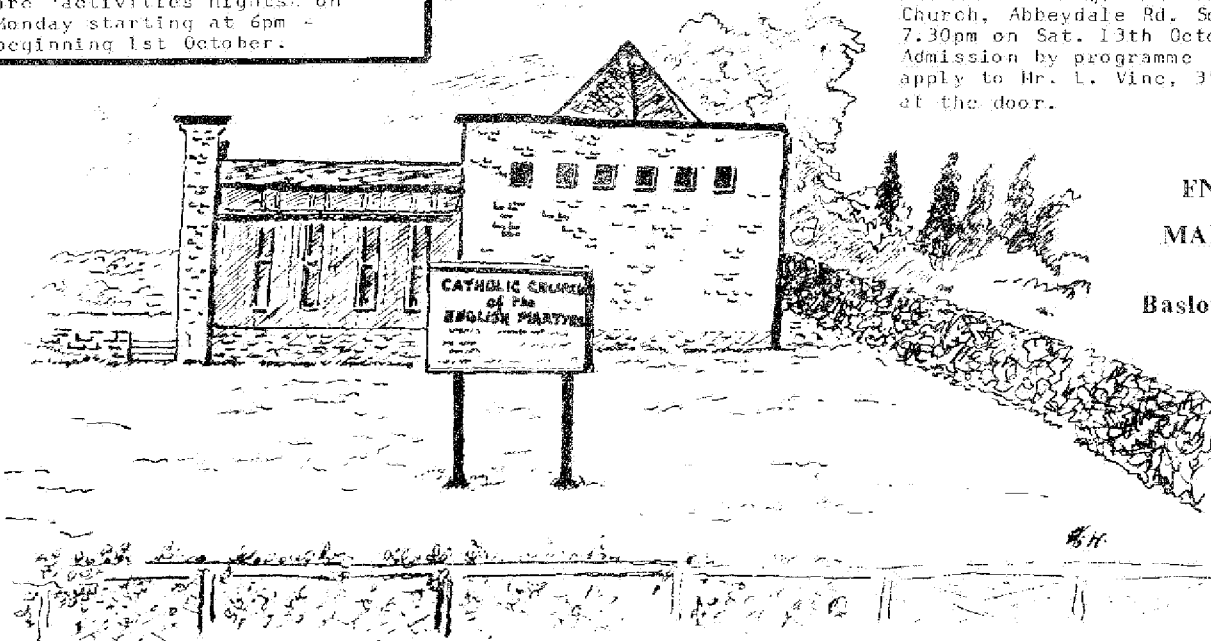
Items can be left from 12.30pm. Further details and arrangements for collection from Les Firth, 364190 or John Perkinson, 361601.

## TRANSPORT 17

A COFFEE EVENING has been arranged for Friday 12th Oct, 1984 at 7.30pm. at Heatherfield Conservative Club, Baslow Road. There will be a cake stall, Eric-a-Brac, Raffle, and Xmas Card Stall. Coffee and Biscuits 25p. Everyone welcome.

We should be very pleased to receive contributions towards any of the above stalls. If anyone has any items which they would like collecting please telephone Andrea Turner, 367594. The Mini Bus will be available on this evening to transport anyone who requires a lift - please telephone Mrs. Carter, 365969 (a small charge will be made).

An evening with Dore Male Voice Choir in aid of Transport 17 has been arranged in St. John's Church, Abbeydale Rd. South at 7.30pm on Sat. 13th October. Admission by programme £1 each - apply to Mr. L. Vine, 350372 or at the door.



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MARTYRS

Baslow Road

# OBSERVATION POINT

ITEMS OF TOTLEY LIFE AS VIEWED BY C.N. Railton Holden of Harstone Crescent.

## GOODBYE DOLLY GRAY AND OTHERS

THE VIDEO CENTRE came and the Video Centre went: hasting away with all the speed of Herrick's daffodils only to return yet again, where now the taped hirings are recorded in a log book. Prior to this business venture, "Poseurs" bloomed for but a season, and now even the Springs have departed Totley Rise. Where will it all end? Who now remembers the crumpet bakery at Green Oak Hall, the pickle factory which once flourished where today stands the Fleur De Lys, or the ostrich farm so ably managed by George Skidmore until eventually he had to sell his land to Marcrofts? Whether we like it or not, the question must be asked - is Totley the graveyard of commerce? The parishioners had evidence, even in Queen Victoria's reign, that all was not well with private enterprise in this ostensibly cosy suburb. Dick Stonehouse and his wife Amy

made their living from a music shop a few doors below Mrs. Jackson's Post Office. They sold banjos, fiddles, tambourines and ballad music, and they enjoyed a good revenue until the Boer War. Amy's brother, a fusilier corporal, came back from Magersfontein with only one arm and with very little confidence in the British Army. He assured Amy and Dick that the war would go on for ten years or even longer, and they, thinking to cash in on the situation, wrote to Boosey and Hawkes ordering five thousand copies of "Goodbye Dolly Grey", which, when you think about it, was the obvious thing to do.

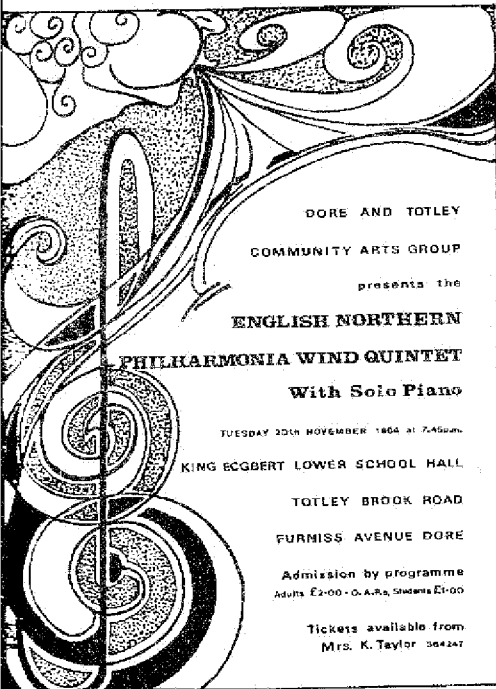
Alas! Alas! The Boer War ended too early, with four thousand, six hundred and ninetyfive "Dolly Greys" still unsold, and with the demobilized soldier boys singing "Come into the garden Maud", as one would naturally expect. So that was "Goodbye Amy and Dick"! The chap I have most sympathy for was called Sam Meredith. You may not remember him: he had a workshop in the 1970's just about where the "Chemical Yard" used to be. He and his half dozen journeymen manufactured sedan chairs and the demand at that time was such as to provide well-paid jobs for all of them; well-paid, that is, until the day an order arrived from a Mr. Daniel Lambert of Leicester. All the client's specifications were closely adhered to but a week after delivery to Leicester, the chair bottom fell out, then Sam Meredith's reputation began to fade, Lord Liverpool and the Duke of Norfolk both cancelled valuable orders and, in the end, Sam had to revert to his previous occupation as a charcoal burner in Ecclesall Woods. If, as may happen, you are prompted to sniff loudly and ask, "who, for heaven's sake, is this Lambert guy from Leicester?" then I should be compelled to reply,

with great respect that, clearly, there is a huge gap in your education - a fifty two stone gap.

But your erratic education does not worry me half as much as my nephew's latest money-making scheme. This young man believes that, before his twentyfirst birthday, gusto, all-bran and positive thinking will have made him a latter-day Rockefeller, and all because he heard someone say that trout had reappeared in the Totley Brook. "Just a minute!" I piped up; "I am a good deal older than you are and I've had much more experience of human behaviour; now, don't you think that the market for tinned trout should be thoroughly researched before you build your canning factory opposite the Methodist's Chapel?" But his eyes wore a glazed look; he just wasn't listening to me. I know he thinks I'm an old fossil. Of course, the greatest mercantile blunder has yet to reach maturity. Completely ignoring our Totley hoodoo, the North Midland Mushroom Growers Limited have approached British Rail with a substantial offer to purchase Totley Tunnel. Sometimes, I despair of the human race!

## T.O.A.D.S.

THIS YEAR'S Autumn offering by the TOADS is the comedy-thriller "Find the Lady" by Michael Pertwee. The action revolves around a collection of people resident in a slightly seedy hotel run by an ex-theatrical landlady. With her flair for flamboyant and larger-than-life explanations, who can believe her when she states she has witnessed a murder? Particularly when there is no evidence - only unshakable belief in herself - or is there? All the clues and red herrings are there for you to D.I.Y., so come along to St. John's Church Hall, Wednesday to Saturday, October 31st to November 3rd at 7.30pm. Tickets 70p, or 50p for Senior Citizens and Children. Phone Kate Reynolds, 366891 or Dorothy Hollis, 362938. Lil Robinson, 364365. Adrian Schofield, 366882.



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# MORE FROM THE PEN OF ....

C. N. Rallton Holden

## IN PRAISE OF EDUCATION

THE OTHER DAY I blundered out of the Post Office straight into the arms of Geoffrey Shorthouse. Since he is perpetually alert for a captive audience, half an hour of my life immediately vanished, practically without trace. First he began to grumble about the high price of tenpenny stamps and then he switched to his nephew in Merthyr Tydfil, who seems to have passed quite a number of "A" Level examinations - about a dozen, if Geoffrey is to be believed. Gradually I became conscious of my own appalling ignorance, and the lost opportunities of youth began to fret me. Long ago a demolition squad moved in and flattened the old school. Our souls would have been wonderfully uplifted had the city fathers permitted us to help in the glorious work but, alas, we were transplanted straightway into a new, spotless and unscathed academy. Presiding over it was a stranger who went by the name of Mr. Killmaster. During one morning walk to school I pretended not to see this gentleman with his daunting label and his crimson complexion, thereby causing the complexion to intensify its hue, like the brake light of a motor-car. We both came to a standstill so that I might spiritually absorb an on-the-spot review of social behaviour, including the virtues of touching the peak of the cap and saying "good morning", especially to red-faced headmasters.

When the electric light bulb crisis blew up I cannot remember Mr. Killmaster playing a prominent part: he must have delegated responsibility. My grandma had to be there to represent the family interests and I was quizzed right, left and centre, but even so, the findings of the court inquiry were never made known. I suspect that the case was not proven. But what a tremendous fuss over one small, twopenny-halfpenny light bulb which

fell to the cloakroom floor and thereafter ceased to function to the satisfaction of the school staff. Some little creep testified that an exuberant flourish of my raincoat had detached the bulb from its holder, but when that particular spasm of exuberance took possession of me I was miles away from the disaster, and utterly shocked to find myself implicated. Besides, what eight-year-old would not be exuberant at bedtime?

To the next impeachment, no defence was offered. I simply prayed for mercy and received none. To blame the Almighty for the dismal consequences would be quite unforgivable therefore it must be concluded that my prayer, fervent enough I can assure you, must have lacked some other vital quality. You must understand that our playing field happened to be situated alongside a flourishing brickworks and consequently any child who scrambled across a ditch and through a sparse hedge could stand, immediately, on the cliff-top brink of a deeply-excavated quarry.

The school rules placed this cliff-top out of bounds, and in the 1920's that was considered to be an adequate safeguard for the pupils of a junior school. Education Committees often make whimsical decisions, but in the 1980's I like to think that the siting of new schools and the digging of old quarries are given more consideration than they were given sixty years ago. So we come back to my prayer for mercy; occasioned by the facts that, one minute I trod the path of righteousness in the playing field, and the next minute I stood across the ditch on unhallowed ground - showing awe-struck classmates something of my devil-may-care personality. The plot did not work out too well. When the whistle ended the

morning break there was a thick blue carpet under my feet, my knees were knocking together, and the last thing I wished to be saddled with was a devil-may-care personality. Old red-chops looked and sounded to be on the verge of apoplexy but, unfortunately, he retained sufficient control over his faculties to swing a piece of wood which bore amazing resemblance to a sawn-off broom handle.

"Soare the rod and spoil the child!" grunted Geoffrey, bringing me sharply back to Totley Rise, 1984. Well, if the old windbag was right, then I must have been one of the most unspoilt children south of Dolbeboys Hall. Heigh-ho! Sweet nostalgia! The best years of our lives - gone for ever!

## QUIZ

1. The Shepley Spitfire was named 5 years ago. However, this was not the original name chosen. What was it and why?
2. "Healthy with cheap electricity, low rates and only £10 to secure one". What did this refer to, in Totley, in the late 1930's.
3. One of Totley's pubs carries the most widely used English pub name - which is it and what is the second most common pub name in England?

ANSWERS IN NEXT ISSUE

## A PAT ON THE BACK

READERS offer bouquets for DILIGENCE and GOOD EXAMPLE to... Farmer Pocock who has drawn the interest of the neighbourhood into his farming activities, and who we have seen and heard from early morning and into the night working in his fields during this Spring and Summer. Indeed he has provided some wonderful "harvesting" scenes.

The Groundsman who is observed from early morning working on the Totley Recreation Ground and also at Totley Bents Sports Ground.

....and last, not least! The Totley Cub Group who have quietly undertaken the task of trying to make a "Tidier Totley". Don't let us take them for granted - we could help by not leaving our litter anywhere.

J & B.G.

# STAFF

## DISTRIBUTION & ADVERTISING

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\*\*\*\*\*

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE IS SATURDAY, 20th OCTOBER

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# OCTOBER DIARY

12th Fri. Coffee Evening. 7.30pm. Heatherfield Club. In aid of Transport 17.  
13th Sat. Waste Paper Collection by Totley Scouts.  
13th Sat. Concert by Dore Male Voice Choir for Transport 17 at St. John's Church, 7.30pm. Admission 11.  
16th Tue. Totley Library 8pm. Film "For the Want of Water".  
20th Sat. T.R.A. Jumble Sale. 2.30pm. All Saints Church Hall.  
27th Sat. From 10am "Water Carry" Baslow/Abbeydale Roads.  
30th Tue. Library Talk. 8pm. "Walks in the Himalayas".  
31st Wed. Coffee Morning. 10am to 12 noon. 31 Meadow Grove Rd. Proceeds to 'Sam the Sean'.  
31st Wed. Totley Tenants Meeting. 8pm. Totley Library.

## NOVEMBER

2nd Fri. Bonfire. Totley County School - see posters.  
5th Mon. Bonfire and Barbeque. 6.30pm. Cricket Inn.

## CHESHIRE HOME

THE BUILDING extension programme is going ahead well, the roof of the new bedroom wing is on and the equipment for those residents who are heavily disabled, such as overhead hoists, will be installed before long. Unfortunately the recently imposed VAT on building work has affected us, and we now have to find an EXTRA £35,000 to cover this, so our fund-raising activities will play a major role for a long time to come.

The residents have enjoyed sitting out in the lovely summer weather we had, with the new ramp and terrace at the front and the sheltered water garden at the back - the latter constructed a year or two ago under a Manpower Services scheme - they have several pleasant areas to enjoy yet within call of the staff in case of need.

We have had a number of young people working on placement from Granville and Shirecliffe etc. as part of their courses, also, during our own staff's holidays, some students from Spain and Italy who come for about a month at a time. Sadly, we have lost one or two residents since the beginning of the year, but welcome new faces also. Last week the entries for the Cheshire Foundation crafts competition were taken to London by a small group of residents in our bus - they had coffee at Selfridges while there, the commissioner was most helpful in directing them how to get the wheelchairs into the building, often quite a problem.

Since starting this article, we have learnt that our Liz Robinson has won third prize in Handicrafts A section for her "Worzel Gummidge" and a Certificate of Merit in the Creative Activity Contest for her Brownie dolls. The standard was apparently very high, and we are delighted both for the Home and for Liz.

## GUIDANCE

Sheffield Marriage Guidance Council is urgently looking for men and women to train as counsellors. All interested people are invited to an information meeting to be held at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church Hall on Wednesday, October 10th at 10.30am, where details of Sheffield Marriage Guidance Councils' training, working arrangements, commitment and the skills needed, will be available. Come and talk to a counsellor over coffee. For further details contact:- Sheffield Marriage Guidance Council, 62 Division Street, Telephone Sheffield 70778.

## WOODS

A BRANCH of this well-known local supermarket chain is to open when structural alterations are completed sometime in November, at 294 Abbeydale Road South. Older residents will remember its previous use as a supermarket by G.Y. Orme of Bakewell in the 60's and subsequently taken over by International Stores.