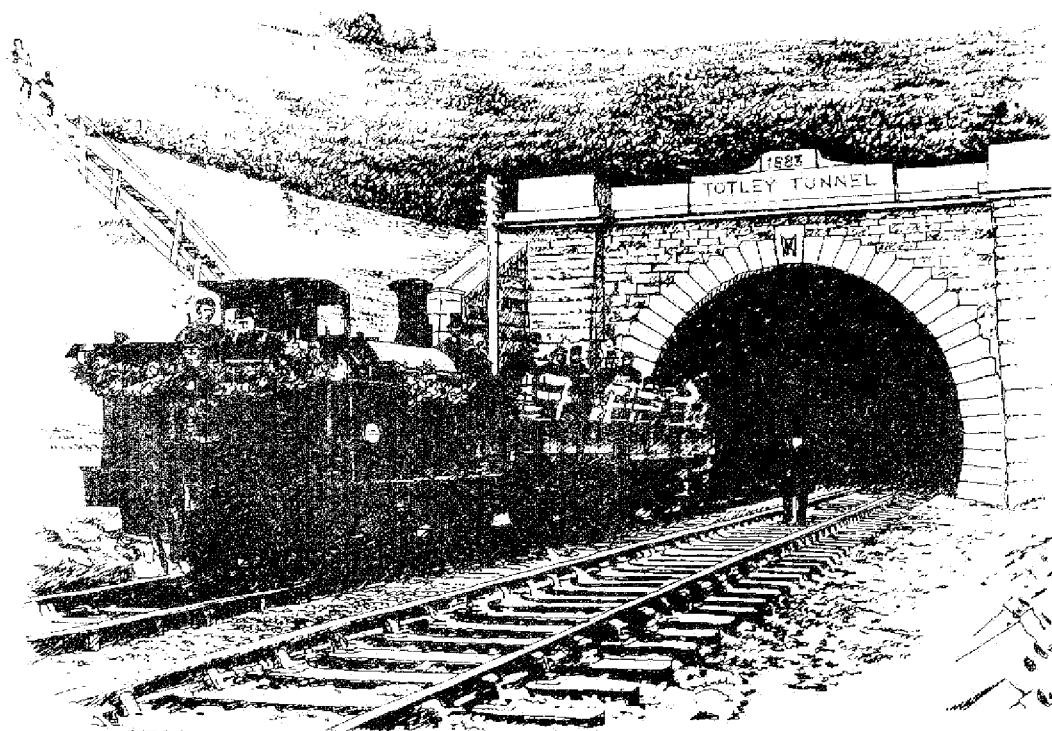


# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

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## TOTLEY TUNNEL

Our illustration is taken from the cover of Brian Edwards' eagerly awaited new book "Totley and the Tunnel" and shows the Midland Railway directors inspecting the line in a garland decked train on 10th August 1893.

The book gives fascinating accounts of the tunnel's construction, life of the navvies who built it and its effect on the village and life of the Totley community. Well illustrated and packed with detail, the book is a

welcome addition for addicts of local history and others who enjoy books that transform print into vivid mental pictures.

The story of the tunnel proves conclusively that not only is this a major feat of engineering on our own doorstep but it is the most singularly significant event in the history of Totley. Priced £3.50 the book is available from local shops.

Mike Williamson.

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and much more!!!

# THUNDER

A significant disappointment, at an otherwise happy and enjoyable Senior Citizens Christmas Party at Totley College on December 7th, was the number of spare places. There would appear to have been two reasons for this. Firstly was a clash with other similar local events on the same day, which denied the Senior Citizens the opportunity of getting to more than one party. Maybe the time is right to re-introduce the Community Diary in Totley Library, in which organisations can check and enter dates of events in order to avoid this kind of problem. Secondly, the Senior Citizens themselves need to be contacted, informed and encouraged in time for next Christmas.

It is easy for older residents to become isolated, even in Totley and there are bound to be people who would enjoy the opportunity of being provided with an afternoon out (with transport door-to-door, both ways). The success of these events is entirely dependent upon teamwork and when the Polytechnic students and staff, the TRA Committee and local residents all pitch in together, our Senior Citizens are assured of a happy and enjoyable afternoon. The entertainment on this occasion was provided by the effervescent Jimmy McWilliams, his family and friends and the audience couldn't get enough!

A big "thankyou" to all concerned.

## CRAFTY

Do you pursue a craft which would interest the readers of the Independent?

We are planning a new series featuring the craft skills of the people of Totley. So whatever your craft, be it knitting, woodcarving, honey production, model making, basket weaving etc. etc. - don't hide your light under a bushel! Please write and tell us about it and help create an interesting new series in the Independent - "Made in Totley."

Editor.

## Threat to Petrol Station

Totley was petrol-less towards the end of last month because of a dispute between the leaseholder and the owners at the district's only remaining filling station.

Drivers were dismayed to see a prominent sign on the forecourt of Totley Bridge Service Station, which is owned by Mobil, declaring "Petrol Sold Out".

It is understood that the pumps ran dry after problems between the major oil company and the leaseholder, Mr Barlow, over re-negotiations of the lease.

Both parties were keeping tight-lipped about how long the situation would last as the Independent went to Press. Mr. Barlow said: "Negotiations are going on with Mobil. We will have to see if they can get things moving but at this stage I don't want to make any further comment."

A Mobil spokesman confirmed that the problem centred on lease negotiations. "There is a problem that we will try to overcome with Mr. Barlow," he said.

Car-owners meanwhile faced a drive to either Dore, which is closed at night, or Beaufort chief traffic lights to fill up. Totley Bridge has had a monopoly petrol sale in the area since the closure of Marstone Garage, higher up Baslow Road, last year.

Jeremy Watson.

## EXHIBITION

The work of local craftsman Paul Glover, will be on show at Totley Library from Thursday 6th February for two weeks. Paul makes exquisite miniature figurines from lead alloy, which he then paints in authentic colours. His work includes military, sports and historical characters.

## MUSIC

Mrs. F Dowling has written to tell us that in the recent pianoforte examinations for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, the following were successful;

### Grade 1

Emily Inman (Aged 10)  
David Savage (Aged 12)  
Flora Ivison (Aged 9)  
(Distinction)  
Sarah Parsons (Aged 9)  
(Distinction)  
Christine Kenton (Adult)  
(Distinction)

### Grade 4

Emma Christine Towler (Aged 16)  
(Merit)

### Grade 5

Ann Maria Farrar (Aged 16)

Congratulations to all.

## Totley Breaks The Abbey Habit

The Abbey National Building Society has closed its Agency on Totley Rise because of low profitability - but another society has now moved in.

A spokesman for Abbey National said they were closing about half their suburban agencies in Sheffield - including the one in Maynards in Totley - as part of a nationwide cutback on costs.

After paying the agents, the profits generated made the enterprise commercially unviable. Profitable agencies in a chain of other solicitors, estate agents, insurance brokers and accountants offices were being retained however. Abbey National moved out of Totley on January 31 but they have now been replaced by the Leeds Permanent.

Chris Woodhead.

## FROM RED TO BLUE.

Not many buildings in the country start life as a Labour Hall and end up as a Conservative Club. But Totley has got one and January 30th saw the Diamond Jubilee of the building, located in Baslow Road.

On Saturday January 30th 1926, the "handsome new headquarters" of the Dore and Totley Labour Party, Green Oak Hall, was officially opened by Malcolm MacDonald, the son of ex-premier Ramsay MacDonald.

The new hall was described as a solidly-built red-tiled building, costing £1,600 and comprising a lecture hall seating 350 people and committee rooms.

Present at the opening was Cecil Wilson, MP for Attercliffe, who hoped the hall would always be "dry". He quoted Ramsay MacDonald's dictum that he had never in his experience known a "wet" club that had not ultimately brought disgrace upon the party.

J.R. Rodgers the local secretary, said the use of the hall was open to anyone. The Labour Party would, of course, have first claim but their Conservative friends could have it if they wanted. (Little did he know!).

A presentation of volumes of the works of Edward Carpenter who lived at Millthorpe, Cordwell Valley, was made to Mr MacDonald by Mr T Fox and a set of pipes was presented to the builder of the hall, Mr Melling whose wife was treasurer of Dore and Totley Labour Party.

Since 1950 the hall has had a chequered history with a wide variety of occupants. In 1951 it was a home to Deepfreeze Refrigerator Manufacturers and in 1954 E.C. Summers Ice Cream utensil manufacturers took possession. The building locally became known as the "Pikelet Factory" in 1957 when Golden Crumpet (Bakers) moved in.

Many people will remember calling in to track down bits and pieces for their domestic appliances when English Electric took over in 1968.

For periods during the sixties and seventies the hall remained empty until eventually it changed its political colours and opened with a new name. The Heatherfield Conservative Club.

We would be interested to hear from readers who have memories or stories to tell of Green Oak Hall. If you worked there or were associated with it over the years, please drop us a line.

Mike Williamson.

## COUNTRY CLUB FOR SALE.

Leisure-lovers are being offered a stake in an exclusive country club on the fringes of Totley.

Shares in the Beauchief Hall complex, which has attracted many members from the area, are up for sale at £100 each. The owners, Boulding Industrial Supplies, is to sell off the business to its 2000 members. They claim that the 5000 shares on offer will be a good investment which will double in value in the next three years. Manager David Newett said it was a "no lose" situation. "People can own a country club for less than the cost of a year's membership and watch that investment grow." Boulding, which says it

wants to concentrate more on its traditional business activities, bought the 17th Century Hall at the end of a half mile drive on the Totley side of Abbey Lane, three years ago. They have established a thriving leisure club on the 55 acre site with a gym, sauna, jacuzzi, restaurant, bars, tennis courts, fishing and a 7 hole golf course. There are also facilities for conferences, weddings and other social events, as well as planning permission for a range of other facilities. The shares will be on sale until the end of this month.

Jeremy Watson.

## TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The main items of business at the Committee meeting on 13 January were as follows:

### Safety

There was discussion about ways of overcoming the problems created by motor cycle scramblers in Gillifield Wood.

It was reported that the Council had been slow to clear side roads and pavements during the recent snowy weather and a complaint had been lodged. It had been discovered that there was no such body as the "South Yorkshire County Council Road Safety Action Committee" and that the letters purporting to be from it, recently delivered in the Green Oak Avenue area, were the work of a hoaxer.

It was reported that early morning newspaper delivery boys and girls had been riding unlit bicycles, thus causing danger to themselves and others.

### Tenants' Section

Three public notice boards had been ordered, although at present, only two sites had been identified.

The next meeting of the Tenants' Section on 29 January would include discussion with Councillors over ways of promoting the Friday morning Housing Department "surgeries" at Abbeydale Hall, which were seriously under-used. It was important to get across that the facility was there to be used by all local residents and not just council tenants. Queries about rates, rents, rebates, etc are welcome.

### Young Peoples' Events

It had been agreed that future events could be held in the new Scout Headquarters, off Aldam Road.

### Provisional Dates

The following dates for future events were agreed provisionally:

- |              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 29 April     | - TRA Annual General Meeting  |
| 14 June      | - Barn Dance                  |
| 13 September | - Totley Show                 |
| 6 December   | - Senior Citizens Xmas Party. |

The next meeting is to be held on Monday February 10th.

John Butterwick.

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# LETTERS

Dear Sir

We were so delighted to receive continuing copies of the Totley Independent, as our last copies indicated the imminent demise of the paper. I don't know if we are the only 'overseas' recipients, but I suspect there must only be a few foreigners subscribing to the Independent.

Since you are the editor, allow me to tell you how important it is for us to receive the TI. Our first year living in Totley was in 1974-75 when we had the luck to rent a furnished home on Abbeydale Park Rise. When our second sabbatical came up, we wished to return to Totley as we were completely taken with its charm, its views of the moors, the people and the accessibility to Sheffield. We were very fortunate in having University chums find us yet another perfect place, higher up on Terry Rd. Even though 7 years had passed we found a few people who recalled us, at Jimmy Martins, Peter Swifts, Dr. Griegs' office etc. It made the second stay so much easier.

I suppose we can be forgiven for viewing Totley with such a romantic eye but I do think that some of the walks in and around Totley and Dore are arguably the most pleasant in the land. Receiving the Independent, recalling names, shops, views, does truly hearten us.

Sincerely,  
Gail, John, Ian and Megan  
Benjafield.

The Benjafields are the only overseas subscribers to whom we send the Independent, although we understand that some copies are bought by local residents and sent to friends and relatives overseas. We would be very pleased to hear from other overseas readers. Why not write, as the Benjafields have done, and tell us about your connection with and recollections of Totley? - Editor.

Dear Sir

One phrase is a lasting memory of Totley (rather like "Grass Gott", when one walks thru' the Tyrol). Everyone seemed to be asking everyone else this burning question about the coming Fell Race. Well, no, we weren't "running next Sunday" - but we certainly walked that Saturday! On July 6th, members of the Wirral Branch of the Angela Thirkell Society made a "pilgrimage" to Totley. Mrs. Thirkell, grand-daughter of Victorian artist Burne-Jones, cousin to Rudyard Kipling and Stanley Baldwin, and with many other literary and artistic connections, was a best-selling novelist from the 30s to the early 60s. In 1912, she and her husband, George Thirkell, plus her two sons by a previous marriage, lived in Totley for nearly a year, while George worked for an engineering firm in Sheffield. So here we are, anxious to see the moorland village the Thirkells had enjoyed living in, and if possible, to gaze on the actual house where they had "lodged".

I had previously been in touch with Brian Edwards, (after reading his book "Drawings of Historic Totley") and he had kindly offered to take us on a tour of Totley and district. He proved to be a super guide! What a lot we learned in just one walk - all about the beginnings of Sheffield's industry - all about Totley Tunnel. (I hate to admit that we had all travelled thru' it at one time or another, and never noticed its name - but now we realise how much the building of the tunnel is part of local history).

We heard many a "Totley Tale" about ancient buildings and interesting characters and entertaining events - all this while enjoying the brisk, invigorating air, the grand sweep of the hills against the pale-blue sky, the well-wooded little valleys with their clear,

clean streamlets, (tho' we never did see a trout) the coloured patchwork of fields "over yonder" and wild flowers everywhere, foxgloves and yellow loosestrife and meadow sweet.

How we enjoyed looking at the lovely grey stone-buildings - all so trim and neat, and so well looked after. How we envied the old-fashioned cottage gardens, and relished walking along a real country lane, with its own brook trickling along the side. Every turn revealed another agreeable rustic view, or called for another fascinating anecdote from our intrepid guide! We were intrigued by the names as we walked along, "Strawberry Lee Lane" - sounds like an old English folk-tune!, "Penny Lane", (not a bit like Liverpool!), and "Totley Bents". And here at last was THE house! We all lined up for our photograph - outside the gate, and tried to imagine what it had looked like 65 years ago, when the Thirkells lived here, and the two boys played on the old "tunnel tips".

Back to the village, and what better day to choose for our visit than the Saturday of the School Summer Fete and a village cricket match! We began to feel it had all been laid on for our benefit - everything was just perfect. Even the weather was benign, after a rather doubtful start. So we boarded our bus at the Cross Scythes, at the start of our journey back to Wirral. "What a marvellous time we've had" - we all agreed; "we must go back to Totley again some day". So - thank you, Brian - and Belle - for a really grand "day out".

Paddy Hancock  
"The Wirral Wanderers"

## Why not advertise in T.I.?

Don't forget we always welcome classified advertising (up to 20 words) in the Independent - and it's free of charge!

Please send your details to any address or collection point listed on the back page, by the copy date.

Editor.

## EDWIN'S SAW THUMB

Totley farmer Edwin Brock can do his work one-handed - he has had to since nearly slicing his thumb off with a chainsaw. Mr. Brock spent 5 days in hospital after the accident at his farm on Totley Hall Lane following delicate surgery to repair tendons in his left hand. The incident happened while he was sawing logs. "The chainsaw just sort of jumped up and bit me," he said. "It took a big slice out of my thumb and there was a lot of blood at the time. But working with

animals you see a lot of blood anyway and really it was just one of those things. It was very painful though and they had to get a plastic surgeon to stitch the tendons up." Edwin is now hopeful that his hand will make a full recovery although he is grateful it was his left hand and not his right. "There really would have been trouble if it had been my right hand and I couldn't do my column for the Independent," he joked.

Jeremy Watson.

# Abbeydale Hall Fire

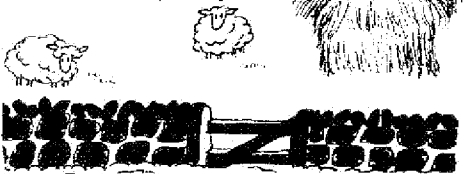
The following is an extract from the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent of 8th August 1957:

We regret to record a singular and destructive fire which occurred on Saturday afternoon at Abbeydale Villa, the residence of John Roberts Esq. The house is about four-and-a-half miles from the town, on the right hand side of the road to Totley. The body of the house is L-shaped. The front consists of breakfast and drawing room, with entrance hall between them. On the front chamber floor, are two bed rooms, with a dressing room over the entrance hall. And traversing the whole length of the front, is an attic in the roof, lighted by a window at each end. The shaft of the L extends backward, and consists of dining room and writing room on the ground floor, with chambers over them. The front of the house is completed by a wing extending towards Sheffield, consisting of kitchens and other premises. Shortly before two, on Saturday afternoon, Mr Godbehere, a farmer, who lives a little further along the road, saw smoke issuing from the attic window at the south end of Mr Roberts' house. He immediately gave the alarm. Mr Roberts, who had been working in his garden, and had lain down to

ing" or "finished". In view of their fate "finished" is quite an apt word to describe them. The problem with very lean meat of course, is that it tends to be dry when cooked. Lacking the tender, juicy texture and flavour of meat with a reasonable amount of fat on it. Most of our early lambing flock have now lambed, producing an average 1.85 lambs per ewe, much better than 1.5-1.6 which is the norm for an early flock. Let's hope this trend continues into the main flock, which are due at the end of March.

Edwin Brock.

## FARMING SCENE



"February Fill Dyke" seems to have arrived early this year, with my rain gauge recording 4 inches so far this month (17th). The sudden thaw, and heavy rains of last week resulted in water pouring off the higher ground, flooding low areas, gouging trenches in field and track alike as it hurried downward. One wonders what depth it would have reached if it had all fallen as snow. It would certainly have created a few problems for livestock farmers in what has been a fairly innocuous winter so far.

Try as we do, we cannot seem to get our turkeys to grow at the right speed, so that their finished weights coincide correctly with our customer requirements. Last year they grew too quickly, and our customers received, in the main, turkeys that were slightly heavier than they ordered, leaving us with a few surplus 16-18lb birds. To get things right as we thought, we ordered chicks from a slightly smaller strain this year, and yes, you've guessed it, they turned out to be a bit lighter than requir-

ed, consequently we were struggling to fulfil orders for 16-18lb birds, but had a surplus of 9lb weights, some of which are now residing in our freezer, awaiting their turn in the weekend joint rota of beef, lamb, pork, turkey and rabbit. However we don't intend to be beaten by a few uncooperative birds, and will be having around 100 again next year. The trend towards a more "natural" food seems to be continuing, with "Farm Fresh" turkeys being in great demand this year, as people forsake the frozen product because of its bland, dry taste, added preservatives etc.

Lamb prices tend to be at their highest from now until June, so more and more low-land sheep farmers are lambing their flocks in Dec-Feb period to catch the market at its peak, with an extra £10-12 per lamb being obtained. This is not all extra profit however, as it costs a lot more to rear a lamb inside on bought feed than it does outside during the summer when it receives sufficient nutrition from the grass to reach its "finished" weight and condition without expensive supplementary feed. Due to consumer demand for leaner meat, animals are now usually marketed earlier, at lighter weights, when they have fully developed the lean muscle tissue, but before they develop much fat cover. Because of this the words "fattening" and "fat" are now no longer used to describe animals reared for meat, they are now described as "finish-

rest, was aroused. It was found that the attic, which was locked up, was full of fire. Mr Roberts despatched a messenger to Sheffield for the engines, and another to Totley for other assistance. He also rung the alarm bell, which brought many of the neighbours to his aid. At the same moment Mrs Roberts fortunately arrived from Sheffield, she having the keys of some of the upper rooms.

At this time the fire had so complete possession of the whole attic, that it was impossible till the arrival of the engines to take any steps to extinguish the flames. The most vigorous measures were therefore adopted to remove the furniture from the lower rooms. The feather beds, and some other articles, were also saved from the chambers, but the bedsteads, wardrobes, and larger articles of furniture, were of necessity left to their fate. The messenger sent for the engines reached the North of England office at a quarter past two. In about six minutes the first engine started, and reached the place in about seventeen minutes. It was quickly followed by two others, one from the Sheffield area and the other from the North of England office. The brigades were followed by Mr Esam, secretary to the Sheffield Fire Office, and Mr Stewart, secretary of the North of England office. At this time the attic floor was burnt through, and the chambers were on fire. The roof too, both of the front and back of the house was rapidly falling in. Two of the engines took up their position in front of the house and laying their hose across the road and the opposite field into the river Sheaf, obtained a good supply of water which they poured with decisive effect upon the burning mass. A smaller engine took up its position in the yard behind, and obtaining a supply of water from the reservoir on the premises, arrested the fire in that direction. The engines were worked with right goodwill. Traffic on the road was stopped by the hose, and Mr Ald. Barker coming by in his dog cart, dismounted, doffed his coat, and worked vigorously at one of the engines. By about four o'clock the fire was subdued. The house presented a most ruinous aspect internally, though as seen from the road

little damage was perceptible, excepting the lack of a roof, of which only the charred rafters remained. The attic floor is completely gone. The contents of the chamber at the south end of the house (occupied by Mr E Hall of the firm of Martin, Hall and Co.) were completely destroyed. The floor of that chamber was burnt through, and a portion of it had fallen into the breakfast room below. The dressing room was an entire ruin. The furniture of a double bedded room over the dressing room was less burnt, but very much damaged by fire and water. In the back bedroom the bedsteads and other furniture were partially burnt,



and a handsome new wardrobe utterly ruined. The doors and other parts of the woodwork of these rooms are also much burned. The furniture of the low rooms was saved, but of course more or less damaged by its hasty removal. The attic contained a great deal of valuable property, which had been stowed away there, and of which no vestige remains.

When the roof fell in upon the staircase, a man named Biggin, working for Messrs. Lyzack and Sons, was overwhelmed by the ruins, and was with some difficulty extricated in an almost insensible state. Many of the neighbours rendered very efficient assistance. The fire brigades worked zealously, and were aided by Inspector Linley and a detachment of the police from Sheffield.

From among the ruins of his bedroom, Mr Hall had the good fortune to recover his jewellery, among which were diamonds to the value of about £100. But the most remarkable thing was the recovery of a small box of thick paste-board containing three £5 notes, some memoranda, and several guineas and sovereigns. This was in the lower part of Mr Hall's wardrobe, which was wholly consumed but being buried in the mass

from above, and then drenched with water, which was largely inhibited by the paste-board and by a piece of blotting paper folded up in the box, the notes were marvellously preserved, though slightly scorched. The cause of the fire is involved in complete mystery. It was at first supposed that there might have been soot lodging near the top of the kitchen chimney, which had ignited the timbers of the attic floor, but an examination of the place quite negatives this idea.

The house was insured in the Sun Fire Office for £500; the furniture for £300; and the outbuildings, where no mischief was done, for £150. The insurance of the house and furniture will fall far short of covering the loss, which is estimated at about £1300. Mr and Mrs Roberts have received from all their neighbours many expressions of sympathy and good will, and the principal families around have shown the utmost readiness to alleviate the inconvenience which the fire has caused them.

(With thanks for this article to Messrs C G Cutts and E Smith).

## MEMORY LANE

A reader of the Independent has asked whether anyone has any information about a house, presumably a lodge, which used to be situated at the end of the drive to Abbeydale Hall. If you know anything about the house, please drop us a line.

Editor.

## LIBRARY

Just started at Totley Community Library - Spoken Word Cassettes. Your favourite author's books recorded on cassette tapes. You can borrow them, just like books. All you need is a cassette tape recorder to play them. So if you have reading difficulties or just like to listen to a story, try this new service. To find out more contact the library (Tel. 363067).

## cheshire home

Traditionally, January is a time to look back at the old year, then forward to the new one. As far as we are concerned looking back over 1985, the two major events in the life of the Sheffield Cheshire Home were the completion and opening of our new extension by the Duchess of Gloucester in March and the registration as a Nursing Home in October. During the year, two people left the home to live out in the community in accommodation adapted for their disabilities. Unfortunately, three of our residents passed away, but we welcomed several new people, who are now comfortably settled in. Looking forward to 1986, we hope to offer more breaks to disabled people in order to give relief to relatives who provide their necessary 24-hour a day care - perhaps where the caring relative has to go into

hospital or some other domestic crisis arises. This aspect of the home is perhaps not well known, but enquiries are welcomed both for long and short-term care. Since new government regulations came in last year, the fees at the home can often be funded by the DHSS for those whose capital does not exceed £3000. The home is, of course, a Charity and the fees only cover day-to-day running costs, and staffing costs are high, due to the heavy disablement of many of the residents. The provision of such things as our very attractive Activity Centre, or Craftroom as it used to be called, and any improvements such as the new wing, have to be met by donations, legacies and our own fund-raising. To this end we are hoping to have Coffee Mornings in several of the suburbs this Spring, and the Garden Party will be held on Saturday 28th June this year.

## TONY CAPSTICK

Entertainer Tony Capstick has pledged to help the £11,000 appeal for a minibus for residents at the Cheshire Home, Totley.

The popular radio show host and folk singer heard about the appeal through a friend and now plans to back fund raising efforts.

The appeal was launched last October to provide a new minibus to take the Cheshire Home residents on outings as their present vehicle is old and unreliable. So far £3,600 has been raised.

Bus fund treasurer Peter Summers said: "Tony Capstick has been up to the home and said he would help in any way he could. We are very pleased to have his support."

Meanwhile the home, which caters for some people who are severely handicapped, has already arranged two future fund raising events to which local people are invited. On February 14 there will be a special Valentine's Day Dance and in March a Caribbean evening. (Details are available from the home).

In addition the Totley Troupers, who last year successfully presented an Old Lyme Music Hall show at All Saints' School are giving the profits from their next event to the appeal. This will be "Palace of Varieties" performed at St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, on March 13, 14 and 15 starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be on sale locally from mid February; price £1.50 and £1 for Senior Citizens and children.

Editor's note: Why not organise an outing to this show using the Transport 17 Minibus?

Jeremy Watson.

## Virus Scare Over

The puppy run at the Canine Defence League's Totley kennels has just been reopened after an outbreak of parvovirus which killed four dogs just before Christmas.

Manageress Susan Davies said that they had been able to contain the outbreak to the puppy run, which they now expected to be given a clean bill of health. During most of January, the League did not take in any new pups as a precaution and visits to the run were banned.

"We thought that the illness which killed the four pups was enteritis at first. There was a delay in getting the results of tests over the Christmas period but we know now it was parvo."

"We managed to contain it, however, although we couldn't take in any puppies for five weeks."

The League, which is based at Monnybrook Farm, Lane Head Road, is a charity which rescues stray and unwanted dogs and finds them new homes.

Jeremy Watson.

NOTE: Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 11th February at 7.30pm.

B W Raven

## SPORTS

We would like very much to resume regular reports on the activities of the many varied sports clubs in Totley. Not necessarily just match reports and the like, but features on the clubs and organisations themselves and the people who make them tick.

We are looking for someone to join the enthusiastic voluntary staff of the Independent to take on this interesting sideline. Our new sports reporter will need to establish and maintain close links with all sporting activities in Totley and encourage or produce written articles for the magazine each month. If you would like to take on this exciting opportunity and thereby help to raise the profile not only of the organisations, but of the Independent itself, please contact John Butterwick, 11 Stocks Green Drive, tel. 368413.

## WAR MEMORIAL

A reader of the Independent wondered whether there would be any support for the idea of moving the War Memorial from its present site, to the Pinfold in Hillfoot Road, where it would be more central. What are your views? Please write to the Independent and let us know.



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# SCOUT NEWS

## Paper Collections

Over 70 tons of newspaper, magazines and cardboard were collected by Totley Scouts last year for recycling. Please keep up the good work for 1986. A skip will be in the college car-park as usual until 12 noon on the second Saturday in each month. The dates for the next collections are 8th Feb, 8th March, 12th April and 10th May. Please save your "Yellow Pages" Directories. Any queries please phone 367387.

## Lottery Winners

November: 1st prize- Christmas hamper - No 182 Mr D Edwards.  
 2nd prize- £10 Gales Voucher - No 46 Mrs V Hampshire.  
 December: 1st prize- Toshiba Microwave Oven - No 209 Mr I Slatter.  
 2nd prize- Russell Hobbs upright kettle - No 38 Mrs V Roberts.

Prizes to come in the next two months:  
 January - Food Processor  
 February - £200 Travel Voucher

## Christmas Post.

Thanks to all who supported the Sheffield Scout Post and especially the following shops for selling stamps on our behalf: Avenue Stores, Totley Pharmacy, Janet Ryalls and Peter Casson.

Alan Vitty.

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## \* NEW STARS \*

Talent in any sphere is a rare phenomenon and in acting, real ability seems to have been handed out as parsimoniously as the opportunities which could use it.

So it is a delightful surprise to find that Totley not only has more than its fair share of acting talent but has also been able to flaunt it in the professional theatre.

The Crucible (you can't get more professional than that) recently recruited through King Egbert's School a selection of young people to appear in two important productions, "Our Day Out" and "Macbeth".

Rebecca Saunders of Aldam Croft a determined and attractive young lady, knows exactly where she is going and her sights are clearly set on the stage and an Equity ticket. She was in "Our Day Out" and shared one of the two major young roles which called for singing as well as acting. With lessons in music and dancing, and attendances with her friend Sarah Wragg of Totley Brook Road at the Crucible Youth Theatre and Sheffield Youth Theatre, there's some formidable ability coming along. Sarah also fancies the stage as a career and loved the experience of the Crucible show as a big step from acting in school plays. Another budding actress, no doubt.

In the same play, Richard Ashton, of Meadow Grove Road, is making his plans and keeping his options open, with a broader interest in a theatrical career to include possible music production. In "Macbeth" a difficult play even for professionals, Ian Dawn of Aldam Road, appeared following an audition by Mike King. Ashley Hastings, of Lemont Road, was in the same production and both young men had lines to deliver and movements to learn through a lot of hard work, in this daunting Shakespeare tragedy. Ashley, who played Banquo's son has a theatrical career in his priorities and Ian is set to make a name for himself whenever the opportunity arises.

The one thing which united these young actors and actresses was their uninhibited

enthusiasm for the experience so thoroughly enjoyed - and the very hard work that went with it. They met the famous, some currently on TV, and, it seems, find the famous very nice people indeed.

The flattering comments on the direction of Jane Collins, who also lives in Totley, may or may not make her blush, but she's certainly made some very sincere friends - and that's a talent in itself.

And at the end of the line - in years anyway - Goronwy, the young son of Ron Robinson, the broadcaster of Totley Brook Road, walked on and off in Ibsen's "Hills House" with considerable aplomb. As he's only five it looks as though we've got the future secured, talent-wise.

Some people knock the Crucible. They should talk to the youngsters who are getting these chances, this glimpse of the stars. They're the ones who really matter, after all.

Adrian Schofield.

## Midwife

### Retires

Totley's District Midwife during the early seventies has retired after an express delivery of a nursing career.

Joyce Faris, of Brinkburn Close, only took up nursing at the age of 38 after bringing three children of her own into the world.

But when she retired in January, after just 18 years in the profession, she was Assistant Matron at Sheffield's popular Jessop Hospital.

"I had my three children and then decided to take up a career," said Joyce, whose husband worked for the then Regional Hospital Board.

"I wanted to be of service to other people so I trained to be a midwife."

After her initial training at the Northern General Hospital she spent 5 years as the District Midwife in the Dore and Totley area. After that

## LIVE WIRES

The organisers of "Livewires", the free newsletter for parents with pre-school children, are holding a Market in Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall on Saturday March 22nd from 2 pm - 4 pm.

Stalls can be hired by local groups or individuals at a cost of £2 plus 25% of the profits made, for "Livewires" funds, to produce the newsletter.

If you wish to book a stall please contact Diane - Tel. 352109.

## NEW CLUB

Thursday 16th January saw the opening of the Totley County Junior Club. The club is open to all pupils in junior classes at Totley County School and is held on Thursday evenings at the school from 6.30-8.30. On the opening night over 85 children enjoyed themselves in a variety of activities including disco music, table-tennis, badminton, snooker, indoor bowls, swingball, computer games, darts and various board games. Club leaders are Alan Vitty and Paul North.

she took a position as a nursing officer at the Jessop maternity hospital and was later promoted to Assistant Matron.

Her role was supervising the city's network of district midwives and the hospital's ante-natal clinic. She was closely involved in teaching Parentcraft to prospective Mums and Dads.

"I really enjoyed Midwifery and it was a big wrench to leave but my husband retired three years ago and now I intend to enjoy life with him."

She doesn't however, rule out a new career. "You never know with me, I just follow fate," added 55 year old Joyce. Coincidentally, her last delivery in December was a little boy called Christopher - the grandson of Independent artist Bill Carter-Wigg.

Jeremy Watson

## Protect Your Home

Only 19 people attended a talk on Crime Prevention at Totley Library on 3 December, presented by South Yorkshire Police Crime Prevention Department. Detective Constable John Miller gave a talk and showed a video and local community policeman, PC Chris Emsley, also attended. The crime rate is increasing. People carelessly leave property unprotected and thieves take advantage. On average, six houses are completely cleared every year, including a complete fitted kitchen. Video recorders are very popular among thieves. So what can you do to protect your property?

- \* Don't leave keys in doors. Good solid doors without glass panels are best. Doors with glass panels should have iron grids fitted.
- \* Fit chains to doors, but remember chains are not locks and locks should be fitted too.
- \* Renew old door locks which have been on for years. Five lever mortice locks are the best.
- \* Door viewers are a good idea - you can then see who is knocking.
- \* Old fashioned sash windows are best - builders are now installing them in new houses.
- \* Fit locks to windows.
- \* Ask callers to produce identification.
- \* Don't grow bushes all around the house - they provide perfect cover for thieves.
- \* Don't leave ladders around for example in unlocked huts.
- \* Alarm systems are a good idea and some are reasonably priced - ask the Crime Prevention Officer for advice.
- \* Neighbourhood watch schemes are a good idea too.
- \* Cancel milk and newspapers during your holidays and ask neighbours or the police to keep an eye on the house.
- \* Special paint can be obtained to deter thieves from climbing drainpipes, but there are legal requirements over its use and the police should be consulted.
- \* Leave a light on when you go out.

- \* Mark possessions with your address and postcode using a special marker pen. Most police stations have ultra violet equipment for checking goods recovered but unidentified articles cannot be returned to their owners.
- \* Video recorders give off a green glow which can be seen above closed curtains, so you should keep them covered.
- \* Take photographs of jewellery, antiques and valuable possessions to supplement descriptions.
- \* Don't keep money in the house but deposit it in banks, post offices or building societies.
- \* Ask the police to code bicycles.

Remember - delay, deny, deter.

Margaret Goldwell.

## RAMBLERS' BOOK

Rambling enthusiast Roy Bullen of Furniss Avenue has compiled and published an anthology of quotations for ramblers, entitled "Let us foot it out together."

The booklet is on sale, price 75p including postage from his home, which is 15 Furniss Avenue, Sheffield S17.

The Ramblers' Association celebrated its 50th Jubilee last October with a mass rally on the top of Loose Hill.

This rally marked the beginning of the Ramblers' new "Forbidden Britain" campaign, a protest against the exclusion of the public from privately owned hill walking areas. The National Trust land around Loose Hill was bought by public subscription to honour G.H.B. Ward, who was the first secretary of the Sheffield Labour Movement, founded the "Clarion Ramblers". This organised rambles for the working man and many will remember the Clarion Ramblers' hut at Owl's Bar. Quotes from Ward's fiery speeches and from other earlier ramblers, including Sheffield's Ebenezer Elliot, the corn law rhymers, appear in the book. Together with some apt lines from literature, these make an interesting 15 page volume.

## THE LOCAL STAGE T.O.A.D.S.

Following the success of "Dead Loss" - happily a total misnomer - the Society has the Spring production nicely under way and is casting for a comedy drama by Falkland Cary, "Candid Peck". The plot is familiar and has been used by Hitchcock among others, telling of the devious efforts of a wealthy host attempting to unmask his would-be murderer from a party of oddly invited dinner guests, every one of which (naturally) has a motive, as well as (traditionally) the opportunity to bump off the chap. More of the deadly deed in the next issue, meanwhile, anyone interested in membership or instant fame can take advantage of the open invitation to join the usual 7.30 Tuesday meeting at St. John's Hall.

Adrian Schofield.

## The Dramatic Society Dore & Totley United Reformed Church



Church Hall, Totley Brook Road

Buy a ticket for "The Secret Tent" and you will see a play with a generous mixture of romance, murder, robbery and gossip. Tickets on sale from Feb. 17th from Society members, Martin's shop and Mrs. H. Waterland Tel. 360717. Price 80p for Adults, 50p for Students and on Wednesday only 50p for Senior Citizens. The play produced by Kate Edisbury, will run from March 12th to 15th in the church hall, Totley Brook Road at 7.45 pm.

Alan Muxlow

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## STAFF

EDITOR  
JOHN BUTTERWICK  
11 Stocks Green Drive 369413  
\*\*\*\*\*

CONTRIBUTORS  
Bob Warburton, Brian Edwards,  
Chris Woodhead, John Marshall,  
Adrian Schofield, Colin Wells,  
Jeremy Watson, Tim Russell,  
Mike Williamson.  
\*\*\*\*\*

DISTRIBUTION & ADVERTISING  
JOHN PERKINTON  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

COPY DATE FOR MARCH  
ISSUE IS TUESDAY  
15th FEBRUARY

## DIARY

### February

1st	Sat	10am	Jumble Sale at Totley County School.
6th	Thurs for 2 weeks		Exhibition of hand painted miniature figurines, by local craftsman Paul Glover, at Totley Library.
8th	Sat		Totley Scouts waste paper collection. Skip at College car park until noon.
8th	Sat	2pm	All Saints' Sunday School Jumble Sale in the church hall.
10th	Mon	7.30pm	Totley Residents Association Committee Meeting.
11th	Tues	7.30pm	Cheshire Home Annual General Meeting.
11th	Tues	9am	Totley Independent Staff Meeting.
14th	Fri		Valentine's Dance at Cheshire Home.
17th	Mon		Tickets on sale for United Reformed Church Dramatic Society Production of "The Secret Tent" from 12-15 March.

### March

4th	Tues	7.45pm	Dare and Totley Community Arts Group present "Music as She is Spoke" with Fritz Spiegl at King Lebert's School. Admission: adults £2, students and OAPs £1. For tickets, phone 364247.
5th	Sat		Totley Scouts waste paper collection. Skip at College car park until noon.



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