

Special Celebration Issue

The 100th

# Totley Independent

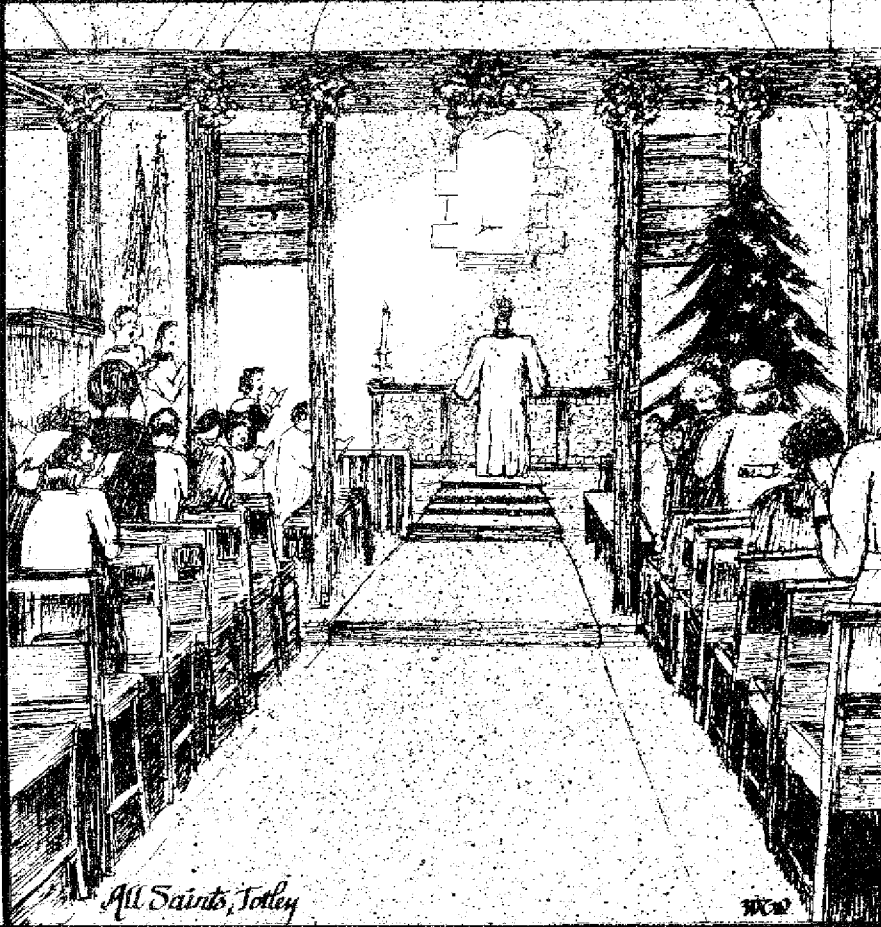
December 1986

25p

January 1987

And gold and incense bring

Things shall fall down before him



All Saints, Totley

W.C.W.

All nations shall adore him

His praise all people sing

Published by the Totley Residents Association

# THUNDERER

Well, we've made it! For 100 issues now, over 2½ years, the Totley Independent has featured the news and current affairs of Totley and district, as well as recalling in words and pictures, the Totley of days gone by.

Indeed, so effective have been the historical contributions to this magazine, that almost all mentions of Totley in the city library "Sheffield Collection" index, refer the reader to one issue or other of this magazine. We continue to record life in Totley today, for the benefit of future generations.

The reactions we get from readers suggest that we publish what people want to read today too. The magazine makes a small profit each month through sales and advertising, which provides Totley Residents' Association with funds to subsidise events for the local community, such as the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, the Junior Disco, the Barn Dance and the Totley Show.

But popular though the magazine appears to be, one thing continues to baffle us and that is why, from a sales peak of 1300 copies per month some years ago, we currently have difficulty in selling 750.

## Letter from TRA

### Chairman

The Totley Residents' Association was formed in 1977 with the following objectives:-

- 1) To work towards providing facilities for recreation and other leisure time pursuits;
- 2) To provide opportunity for social, cultural and intellectual development;
- 3) To work for the benefit of the community and to foster a community spirit;
- 4) To collaborate with existing and other organisations in pursuing these and other charitable objectives.

Although originally there was a fee per family for membership this was changed so that all people living or working in the Totley area are deemed to be members without paying any subscription and regardless of political persuasion, nationality, religious belief, race or colour.

The Independent is sold through 17 sales points in Totley, Dore and Bradway; some people have their copies delivered by local newsagents, by post, or by individual agents; we sell copies at events like the Totley Show; we advertise the magazine on local notice boards and in shops and we have recently arranged promotional leaflet drops in some districts.

Still we cannot get sales above 750. Admittedly, we rely heavily on people remembering to buy their copy each month, but that has always been the case, even in the days when we were selling nearly twice as many copies.

So we hope that people buying this special issue, whether new or "lapsed" readers, will become regular subscribers in the future. (Our sales outlets feature in our library exhibition and from the next issue, the price will revert to 15p). We hope also that we can rely on you to recommend the magazine to your friends and neighbours. We hope that in this way, sales figures will increase, the 15p cover price can be maintained, Totley Residents' Association will be able to organise more events for all sections of the community and this monthly chronicle of Totley life will continue for the benefit of current and future generations. Thank you for buying this special issue. A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Committee members put an enormous amount of effort into arranging events such as Barn Dances, Dinner Dances, Sports Nights, the recent Totley Show, Senior Citizens' Christmas Parties and many other social events.

Much time and effort has also been directed towards various Council Departments to try and improve conditions such as road safety, road repairs, cleaning services, road gritting, provision of rubbish skips and pestering for a better bus service. Should you have any problems, social ideas, or anything you feel can help to maintain our objectives, please contact any of the committee.

Finally I would like to congratulate all who have been involved with the Totley Independent and wish them all success for the future.

Pas Firth

## WIN A PRIZE

This copy of the Independent could win you a prize in our Centenary Issue Lucky Number Draw. The prizes are:

- \* A £10 VOUCHER OF YOUR CHOICE
- \* A BOTTLE OF WHISKY
- \* A FRAMED ORIGINAL DRAWING BY BILL CARTER WIGG

Look at the back page of this magazine. You will find a unique number. Keep the magazine in a safe place - if yours is a winning number, you will need to produce it to claim your prize.

The three winning numbers will be drawn at the end of January (or when we sell out - which ever is the sooner!) and publicised on posters throughout the area. Winners will be asked to telephone their claims initially. (No cash alternatives will be given).

The names of the winners will be published in the March issue of the Independent.

## whisperer...

Let's start this month by talking rubbish . . . . . the Council has announced that from December 1st Sheffield dustbins are going to be emptied on the same day each week . . . . . that'll be nice . . . . . While we're on the subject, have you seen the new litter bins outside the Cross Scythes? . . . . . Hopefully this will mean an end to the litter problems at the terminus . . . . . The Cross Scythes had a bonfire party this year . . . . . so did the Cricket, the Shepley Spitfire and the County School . . . . . And the Shepley has had new wall signs fitted . . . . . A new venue for drinks and sit down snacks is Davy's at Totley Rise . . . . . Meanwhile the infamous "S" bend at the top of Mickley Lane has been straightened out by Derbyshire County Council . . . . . What will happen now at the bottom end, on the Yorkshire/Derbyshire border? . . . . . As a special treat for the 100th issue, we were going to make contact with other Totleys around the world and exchange correspondence and possibly even arrange visits . . . . . but there aren't any!

## MEMORY LANE

It was the day that Independence came to Totley - July 4th 1977 - when the ancient village cast off the yoke of Sheffield. Under the headline "Military Junta To Seize Power" the first edition of the Totley Independent recorded the historic event.

Tired of the bureaucracy of the Town Hall, the people of Totley had declared UDI. The front page showed a border post established on Totley Rise with soldiers - actually Boy Scouts - manning a fearsome machine gun tower.

On Totley Rise signs had gone up for the village's first Embassy, customs post and immigration control bureau, while from outside the NatWest Bank, a tank kept vigil.

The cartoon and front page story - written by self-styled head of Military Intelligence, Brian Edwards, the Independent's first editor - was designed to capture the new spirit in Totley, engendered by the recent formation of the new Residents' Association.

Although there had been similar organisations in Totley before, this fusing of residents and tenants was unique and the Independent was designed to give the new order a powerful voice. As the newspaper's first comment column said: "Totley Independence is no joke; many decisions now taken by outsiders were once made in Totley itself. We used to be a Derbyshire village of some importance and we are fast becoming just another area of sprawling suburb."

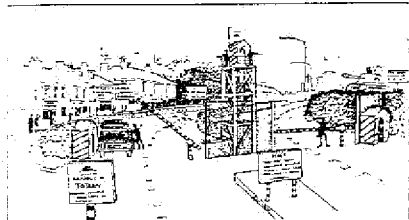
"It is no use just moaning - let us all take some action to restore control over our area." The column - now and then called Thunderer - called for the formation of a Parish Council and it was this spark of independence that ran throughout the first editions of the village's own paper. Alan Jockel, the Chairman of the Residents' Association and the Vicar of Totley for just over a year, took up the theme in his personal address on the back page of the first Independent.

Though Totley was a pleasant place to reside, he wrote, "some people have become lonely and isolated and in terms of population growth it has outpaced its facilities.

To combat this, the Residents' Association are seeking a community meeting place somewhere in Totley and I hope that when such a centre becomes available it will have the facilities to cater for all the residents, especially the elderly and the young." Sadly, more than nine years later Totley still has no central meeting place for everyone in the village.

## TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

Published by Totley Residents Association  
Issue no 1 4th July 1977 Price 10p



## MILITARY JUNTA TO SEIZE POWER!

THE TOTLEY INDEPENDENT has utilised an underground network which threatens to seize control of Totley by military force and declare independence as a 'people's republic' in the next year.

Apparently, plans to seize a 'people's republic' in the next year are well advanced and the Independent will be the first to report on the progress of the 'people's republic' in the next year.

It is believed that the 'people's republic' will be a 'people's republic' in the next year. The Independent will be the first to report on the progress of the 'people's republic' in the next year.

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Brian Edwards, Jeremy Watson and Geoff Nixon were the architects of the Totley Independent. While Brian produced the artwork and put together the magazine, Jeremy concentrated on the writing and Geoff began to drum up the advertising support that has been the cornerstone of its financial success.

Stories in the first issue included the heroic efforts of two teenagers, David Blakely, of The Grove and his girlfriend Suzanne Leach. They built their own tandem and then cycled it the 330 miles to Torquay in three days. At the same time they gained local sponsorship and raised hundreds of pounds for handicapped children. Then the magazine focussed on the fight by residents in the Quarry Road area to save a 70 foot lime tree from the axe. A builder wanted to chop down the specimen tree to make way for a bungalow.

The magazine reported that planning permission had at last been granted to Totley and District Environment Society to

clean up the old Pinfold at the top of Hillfoot Road.

The Pinfold, formerly an enclosure for impounding stray animals, is now a delightful garden just outside the entrance to All Saints' School. Bob Warburton, a teacher and environmentalist, also made his debut in the Independent's first issue. His wide-ranging column on the wonders around us became one of the magazine's best-loved features.

Last, but not least, the magazine carried news of the revival of an old Totley tradition - the annual Sports Day. As well as carrying a map and plan of the events to come, there was a report on the comeback of the Tug O'War to the village. Thanks to Danny Reynolds of Baslow Road, Brian Edwards was able to provide a sketch of the 1924 team from an old photograph featuring his 16-stone Dad, the team's anchorman, and a giant of a policeman called "Straightback" Bagshawe.

Danny, lamenting his 67 years, said he would love to take part. "By God I would," he told the Independent.

"Although I'm too old to take part myself, lads in the village would really enjoy it."

And, by all accounts, they did.

Jeremy Watson

## QUIZ

Pseudotricks has been at it again! How is your Totleyteracy? Inspired by "Totleymerick" the following cryptic questions all have one-word answers commencing "Totley..." If you get stuck, you'll find the answers on page 14.

1. Not to be found at Heatherfield.
2. Transport for local brides.
3. Plenty with five pubs and two off-licences!
4. Surely this can be washed in public?
5. WORDS for TOADS
6. There are a few such trees around here.
7. Any on the kitchen floor?
8. Can't say thith!
9. Always welcome up the hill.
10. If your cat hasn't one, there is plenty outside.



# FARMING SCENE



As this is the centenary issue, I thought it would be interesting to look back 100 years to see how agriculture was faring then and perhaps draw some comparisons with the agricultural scene today.

The nineteenth century was a time of slow and often painful transition from the feudal system set up nearly a thousand years before to the basic farming pattern we have today. The Enclosures Acts of the late eighteenth century resulted in many thousands of miles of hedges and walls enclosing what was previously common grazing or arable land, with people of wealth or influence annexing the best, leaving poorer villagers with land incapable of supporting them. This broke up the communal system and large numbers of people moved to urban areas.

The repeal of the Corn laws in 1846, thereby allowing the importation of grain, had little effect until 1875, when a series of poor harvests led to the gradual build up of cheap imports. By 1890, the market was swamped, leading to poor prices, which in time led to largescale unemployment in agriculture and a switch to livestock farming; but this unfortunately coincided with the first arrivals of refrigerated beef from Australia in 1883, causing a slump in beef prices and a further decline in the agricultural workforce and village community as a whole. These cheap imports were welcomed by the Government as a way of keeping down wage costs in industry, but they condemned the farmworker to poverty wages and chronic housing. There was also a slow change occurring in the methods of production, with some mechanisation of arable operations again reducing labour requirements: by 1900 only 10% of the pre-1850 workforce remained.

Although the steam engine had begun to be used for ploughing, the weight of the engine and design of the plough made it suitable only for large, flat,

regular-shaped fields. The headlands then had to be ploughed by the normal method of 1850 - the oxen or horse plough. These ploughs were mainly wooden with metal shares and pulled by one, two or three animals, with one acre per day being the accepted workrate. Some crops were still hand-broadcasted, but most were now sown by seed drills in lines. As there were no chemical weedkillers, this made the task of hand-hoeing the crops much easier.

The fertility of the soil was maintained by crop rotation, the application of manure from the farm animals and near to towns, large quantities of human waste were also used. Also John Lawes had begun to produce the first artificial fertilizer 50 years earlier, by converting bones into bonemeal and he eventually set up the first factory using mined potash and phosphates. The gradual acceptance and use of this led to much better yields of crops and grass.

Strange as it may seem, a large proportion of cereals were still being cut and tied into sheaves by hand, the men cutting with the women and children

tying and standing the sheaves in stooks to dry, before being loaded onto horse-drawn wagons to be stacked in barns or in ricks perched on top of staddle stones. These stones held the crops three feet off the ground, preventing damage by damp and especially rats and mice, which abounded in these days. The introduction of the "reaper" which cut the corn and left it in bundles ready for tying (and more especially the importation from America in 1878 of the McCormick "binder" which also tied the sheaves with string), revolutionised cereal harvesting. The centuries old method of beating the sheaves with flails (long hinged sticks) to extract the grain was very much in use, although "progressive" farmers had begun to use small mechanical threshers. The introduction of large, mobile, steam-powered threshers in 1870, gradually replaced the other methods on the larger farms. The grain was taken to the local water or windmill for grinding into bread flour or animal feed. In 1850 2 million acres produced 6 million tons of grain; today the same area would produce 24 million tonnes.

McCormick was the founding company of what is now International today, (with a large factory at Doncaster). All cows were hand milked. During the summer this often took place in the field with the milk being taken back to the farm to be sold locally, as there were no milk pasteurising and bottling plants, or butter and cheese factories. The doorstep plate was in its infancy: the farmer would wheel a churn of milk around the village, measuring out the milk with a dipper into the housewife's jug, while his wife, daughters and maidservants toiled away at home making butter and cheese with the surplus. Large towns obtained some of their milk from surrounding farms, but also had large milking herds near their centres, often housed in very poor conditions, where milk still warm from the cow was sold. Large flocks of sheep were kept not only for meat, but more importantly in those days, to supply wool to the clothing mills, and the export trade. The hand shearing of these flocks was a communal event, where farmers joined together to help with each others sheep. Pigs were kept in small numbers on most farms, or in the cottage "sty".

With there being no slaughtering regulations, the animals required for the village meat supply were killed on the farm or at the local butchers, often in a crude manner in unhygienic conditions. Surplus stock was often driven on foot distances up to 300 miles to the city markets to supply the urban population. (Must have been very lean by the time it got there!) The Smithfield meat market in London was originally a livestock market where thousands of animals from all over eastern England were sold to city butchers.

Edwin Rocock

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS



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#### LOTTERY WINNERS

SEPT. Akai Twin Cassette Stereo  
Radio - No. 250 Mr R J Parkes.  
£10 Gales Voucher - No. 170 Mrs  
M Warrender.  
OCT. Philips Hostess Trolley -  
No. 162 Mr C W Bodsworth.  
£10 Gales Voucher - No. 82 Mr  
J A Levick.  
NOV. Christmas Hamper - No. 105  
Mr P C Needham.  
£10 Marks and Spencer Voucher -  
No. 3 Mr D Rutiven.

#### PAPER COLLECTIONS

A skip will continue to be  
in the college car park on  
the second Saturday in  
every month. Next collections  
13th December, 10th January.

#### CHRISTMAS POST

We will be helping with the  
Sheffield Scouts Post again  
this year when the follow-  
ing charities will benefit:  
Lodge Moor Hospital Spinal  
Unit, St. Lukes Nursing  
Home and the Chris Fund.  
The stamps (10p each) will  
have pictures of garden  
birds on them. Cards can be  
posted in the **SPECIAL BOXES**  
**ONLY** (not GPO) for delivery  
in Sheffield. The last day  
for posting cards in the  
Scout postal system is  
Wednesday 17th December.  
We are hoping that the fol-  
lowing shops will again  
assist by selling stamps:  
Avenue Stores, R N Kelly,  
United News and Peter  
Casson.

If anyone has any problems  
regarding the Scout Post,  
please contact Alan Vitty  
(367367).

#### USE OF ROOM

We have available, during  
the daytime, a large room,  
suitable for regular use  
for a coffee morning,  
meeting etc. This room is  
in the Scout HQ and we  
would like the building  
to be in regular use by  
the community. If you are  
interested then we would  
be pleased to hear from  
you.

Alan Vitty

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# GREENOAK HOUSE

by J. Deryck Bell

## PART 2 Young Caprons of Greenoak

One of John Capron's earliest memories was of being "lost at Dore" about 1900; being taken in a double pram with his baby brother Gerard, to explore the "wilds of Dore", by two ladies, who got lost. They must have travelled miles in wrong directions and when darkness fell they panicked, a panic which was felt by John, but they ploughed on and finally found their way back to Greenoak; the two children being soothed down with dollops of golden syrup.

Another early memory was of going into his father's dressing room in the tower, which opened out from his parent's bedroom, to watch him shaving with a cut-throat razor. So fascinated was he that he took to going in every morning to watch the operation, whilst outside and overhead was the endless chatter of starlings, either making their nests or flying past the window.

Greenoak was at that time deep in the heart of the countryside and John remembers a certain air of peacefulness in the environment; of being awakened in the morning to the song of thrushes in the lilac bushes by the entrance of the yard gate and of going to sleep to the drowsy churr of corn-crakes in Jack's field. He and his younger brother Gerard were very good friends and companions; Maurice their elder brother being either

away at boarding school near Matlock or later apprenticed at Vickers. When John was seven, he took charge of the few poultry they kept, a chore which he enjoyed. The two boys kept rabbits in the wooden hutch in the yard corner opposite the coach house, occasionally letting them out in Jack's field. Roaming through the wood overlooking Totley Brook Road and fishing for sticklebacks and loach in the brook was a constant delight. They were also great cyclists riding as far as Southwell, Lincoln and often up to watch work on the Howden reservoir.



The Old Coach House, Greenoak House.

With the family, they went for long moorland walks on forbidden drives and footpaths.

Their father knew Payne Callway, the Duke's agent, who gave him a key to the gates, so they could wander at will, defying keepers if challenged, which they often were. Keepers in those days were far more aggressively active in keeping people out, bearing no resemblance to characters like Seth Armstrong of Emmerdale Farm fame! Mr Green, a Totley postman, used to cut John and Gerard's hair, placing a bowl over their heads to get the correct shape, then blowing the hairs away. They hated his powerful puffs on their skin and eventually they were taken to a hairdresser called Purkiss, who had a shop near the Town Hall in Sheffield. There were two doctors serving the area, Dr Parsons, who lived at the first house on Totley Brook Road, and their own Dr Thorne, who lived in the Beauchief area and visited them at Greenoak in a dog-cart. Dr Parsons had a car, which failing to fire one day, was stuck on the road just outside their back-yard gate. The young Caprons all poured out and enjoyed pushing him down towards Totley Rise, when after about fifty yards it fired and off he spluttered back to his surgery. Dr Parsons always wore an overcoat with a high fur collar; the children thought he looked like a vulture perched high up and peering ahead!

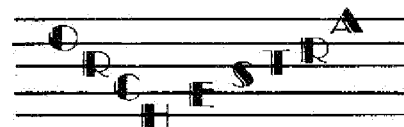
John remembers many people and families who lived in the area before they left. The young Caprons in their tender years felt in some awe of the Milners of Totley Hall, who were always graciously kind, inviting them to several annual "occasions" at the Hall; one being the visit at "daffodil" time, when they were taken round the garden by Mrs Elsie Milner herself. They liked her, she was nice and not too formal. Sometimes they joined Marjorie Milner, (the only daughter), who drove the two boys in a giant sized wash basket mounted on wheels, behind an agile young brown donkey called Betsy, down the lane and along rough cart tracks towards the woods. Marjorie, a veritable "Tottenham Badicca", stood up to drive, urging on the young donkey to greater speeds, with shouts of "WHY OH BETSY", while their poor sister Dory lumbered after them, driving their poor old Jack, in the more conventional pony cart. They liked Roy Milner but were frightened of his elder brother Billy. Some years later in 1914, early in the War, Roy was killed in action; a terrible local tragedy. Not far from Greenoak lived the Earnshaws of Totley Grange and the Hlisons who owned the big house down Hillfoot Road, almost opposite Penny Lane. John will never forget going to a party there and being coerced into dancing, ploughed manfully round the room with

Mrs Ellison, treading so heavily on her long black silk skirt that she immediately cast him loose! Down the lane (as they always called it), leading to Mickley were quite a few cottages, mostly inhabited by railway employees; Cook, signalman; Nunn, gardener (later, signalman and "jack-of-all-trades"), and old Mr Wing who kept an alsatian. Another Totley man was Jim Marshall, who was their gardener and handyman; his young son Neville was often round at Greenoak helping out. The vicar at Abbeydale was J.A. Kerfoot and the one at Dore, Rev. Gibson, who had two daughters, Queenie and Violet, and a son, Claud. Athol Capron sometimes walked up to Holmsfield Church, where the vicar was old Mr Bradshaw. John recalls the small open bus running to and from Cross Scythes and the station; a one-horse affair driven by Jim Larder, a curly black haired

lively character, always full of repartee, especially with the lady passengers.

Before they left Greenoak, John and Gerard were promoted to rat catching, using an air gun and traps. They had an exciting field day when Colin Thompson from Totley Rise, "an elegant and dashing butcher, who hunted and rode a spirited horse", brought ferrets and a dog to clear rats from the old barn beyond Jack's field and from their old stable block. They really loved living at Greenoak and always understood it had been the Toll Bar House. In many ways they were sorry to leave but their father had the urge to build himself a good stone house further into Derbyshire and eventually found the ideal site on 25 acres at Outseats, just clear of Mathersage and convenient for him to take the train to Sheffield.

END OF PART 2



Dore and Totley Orchestra is on the lookout for new members, particularly for its string section. All grades of violin, viola, cello and double bass players are welcome. There is no charge to members at present. The orchestra was founded in 1936 and rehearses every Tuesday evening from 7.15-9pm at Abbeydale Hall (where it is known as the Community Orchestra). The orchestra also needs a Musical Director (not just a stick wagger!) - an ideal opportunity for a music student, for whom an honorarium could be arranged. Anyone requiring further information should telephone Ken Soulsby on 367631.

## Jimmy's Hat Trick

Local entertainer Jimmy McWilliams has now completed a musical hat trick. Having popularised "The Sheffield Song", with a premier before the Lord Mayor and several appearances on Yorkshire TV's Calendar Programme, Jimmy has now completed "Song for Totley" which will be aired locally around Christmas. Also, along with pianist Bill Snape, he has written a signature tune of opening and closing chorus, especially for Totley Troupers. Many people who saw Jimmy on TV, singing the praises of Barnsley, thinking the show was live, were surprised to see the song come to an abrupt ending owing to an incorrect introduction by the Calendar pianist. Jimmy too says he was stopped in his tracks. "Actually the spot was recorded three times on tape and during the broadcast, the wrong tape was played." Jimmy's prize possession is a letter of apology from Yorkshire TV. He commented, "Now I won't have to keep explaining to people that it wasn't my mistake. I'll just show them the letter instead".

Mike Williamson



# LETTERS



The Quadrant  
Totley

Dear Sir

By kind permission of our local chemist Stefan Raikescroft, of 185 Baslow Road, there will be a collection tin in aid of the Millhouse Animal Sanctuary, Mayfield Road, Fulwood in his shop. Any tins of dog or cat food would be greatly appreciated also. Please help to feed these animals over Christmas. This animal sanctuary is now a registered charity, but it has neither the resources nor the manpower to devote the massive amounts of time needed for large scale fund raising. Many animals are close to death when they arrive. There are over 150 animals at Millhouse, nearly all rescued victims of cruelty and neglect. The work of the sanctuary ensures them a long and happy life. The sanctuary also has a scheme for sponsoring an animal. For further details phone Pat Hartley, day 302907 evenings 340764.

Pat Sneath

Totley Brook Rd  
Sheffield

Dear Editor

Some of your readers may be interested to know that there are places available for children aged 3-5 at Totley Rise Methodist Church Playgroup on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The new term starts on 7/8 January, but anyone is welcome to visit us on a Wednesday or Thursday morning before then (up to 11 December). We are open 9.30am-noon and the fee is 60p per morning. If anyone would like more information about our playgroup please ring me on 364718. Yours sincerely

Frances Dean  
(Playgroup Secretary)

NOTE We have also been informed that the R.S.P.C.A. is running its Christmas Appeal for tins to feed the dogs and cats at the Shelter at 23 Spring Street. Tins are being collected by Mrs D Styles of 10 The Quadrant, Totley.

# warburtons world

The one certain thing in this world is that nothing stays the same for long. You won't need reminding that this is edition 100, and much that has happened since the first copy of the Independent hit the newsstands has (with few exceptions) been quite beneficial to our district. The village still looks more or less the same (if you don't walk along Totley Hall Lane); Totley Brook still flows relatively unpolluted; the magpies continue to prosper throughout the district and many meadows are idyllically pleasant to walk through if we ever get the weather to try. There are still one or two things which could be improved as well as the bus service. Let me share with you some of my hopes for Totley, its wildlife in particular, over the next few years. Firstly, that Gillfield Wood should be taken over by the Recreation Department and managed as amenity woodland, in consultation with the residents of Totley. It has always seemed quite iniquitous that this has not been the case in the past. If some of our locals were involved, perhaps we may again enjoy autumn blackberry-picking in the wood or a summer picnic in one of its glades - now darkened (temporarily I hope) by dense stands of Larch and Sycamore, or how about a spring stroll amongst the soft greens of the more natural Oak, Birch and Rowan? It would be a pleasant labour to be involved in re-creating



## Townswomen's Guild

A Guild has been started in Totley called the Totley (M) Guild. They meet at Totley Rise Methodist Church, Baslow Road on the third Tuesday of each month from 10am-12 noon. For further details contact the Secretary Mrs E.M. White, 17 Chatsworth Road, Totley Rise. Phone 360328.

the kind of open atmosphere which once existed and which we enjoyed in Gillfield. It would be cause for further delight if the meadows adjoining Totley Brook could be kept in their present state and managed so that the masses of flowers could be admired by walkers and, more importantly, used by the millions of insects in our district. Damp meadows are sadly becoming very scarce and we should strive to maintain what we have.

Perhaps the Barlow Hunt could be persuaded to stop annoying our local foxes (I can't remember it ever being more serious than that!) and follow a scent trail instead. I wouldn't want to deprive anyone of the splendid sight of the hunt, and I'm sure a lot of people get great pleasure from riding to hounds - pleasure which surely would not be diminished if they followed a trail instead. Besides, what would the Christmas Card manufacturers do?

Our village well should be given some semblance of dignity by being re-sited somewhere rather more appropriate than its present location. Maybe a corner could be made near the cottages on Summer Lane or by the Pinfold garden.

Somehow and somewhere, it would be most satisfying if we could acquire a community centre for the village. Abbeydale Hall is all very well, but it's just not Totley! Finally, on a personal note, it would be really exciting, as I creep around our hedgerows, to find something really rare - or unknown! Just imagine the Totley Flycatcher, Green Oak Warbler or Monnybrook Campion. They do have a certain ring to them don't they? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could greet the 200th edition of the Independent with a list of some positive achievements taking our local environment a better place. Far better than to publish a catalogue of complaints and sad regrets at opportunities missed.

Bob Warburton



## TRANSPORT 17

Last October, 42 people, mainly elderly and disabled, set off for a weeks holiday in Eastbourne, with the help of Transport 17. Ron Hogg reports.

The journey to Eastbourne took us right through the centre of London, where we enjoyed the sights including Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey and many interesting aspects of London were outlined by our coach driver. Once at the hotel, we found the staff very helpful and the meals excellent. It helped also that the weather during the holiday was glorious.

There were many interesting organised trips throughout the week. On the Monday we went to Battle and Hastings, but whilst at Hastings, we missed dear old Mrs Fisher when ready for returning. After a frantic search, we found her sitting alone on the promenade, enjoying the sunshine and the peace and quiet!

On the Wednesday a full day tour was arranged to Brighton and the House of Pipes at Bramber. The House of Pipes was most interesting, consisting of thousands of smoking pipes from all over the world and from all periods of history, as well as all kinds of tobacco.

Thursday was "Tipplers day", when we went to an Old Coaching Inn for a wine tasting session. We were offered fairly large samples of local homemade wines. There were six different wines and our leader Mrs H. warned that anyone who was the worse for drink would have to walk back to Eastbourne! Other day trips took in Beachy Head and Alfriston.

Evening activities included a Bingo session, singing and dancing organised in the hotel and theatre trips to see John Inman in "Pyjama Tops" and to hear the music of Ivor Novello.

This splendid venture was organised by Mrs Sheila Hogg and Mrs Irene Wells, to whom a debt of gratitude is owed, not forgetting the hotel staff and coach driver Eric.



## CRIMEWATCH

No-one needs any reminders that winter is now with us and in addition to the general gloom and despondency, the darker nights bring more tangible problems. They offer greater opportunities to those who find crime an easier way to earn a living than honest toil. In winter, it is doubly important to keep your eyes and ears open. Strangers in the neighbourhood are not as evident in winter as they are in the longer lighter days of summer.

Empty or unoccupied houses are all too obvious and an inviting target for the burglar. Those of you who must leave your houses unguarded, particularly at night, please try to make arrangements to have curtains drawn and lights turned on to create the impression that the house is occupied. If that is not possible, please ask neighbours to pay greater attention and never be afraid to report anything suspicious to the Police.

All too often heard following a burglary is something like: "I saw this strange car BUT .. . ." or "I didn't like the look of the lad BUT .. . ." or "I thought they were on holiday BUT .. . ." If something or someone doesn't look "right" no matter that you think it might be nothing, ring the Police. Don't make things easier for the thief.

## HELP

We have been asked to remind people to investigate please when they hear an alarm and see a "Help" sign outside an elderly person's flat. Passers-by have been observed recently stopping and looking, but then walking on without taking any action.

### WHITLOW HALL FARM TRUST

This Trust, which caters for the needs of handicapped and disadvantaged children, needs volunteers to help with fund-raising.

They are presently holding a Car Raffle and need to sell tickets in as many places as possible. Please contact Karen Thompson on Sheffield 750748 if you can help.

## TOTLEY PAST

We use this 100th issue as an excuse to peep back in time at the Totley of old.

### 50 YEARS AGO

The farmhouses up on the moors at Strawberry Lee were demolished in 1936. Three years earlier a notice board had been put up saying "Hot water for tea provided, minerals etc. Through road to Fox House". These refreshments were served for the next two years, catering for the growing number of ramblers. The Beauchief Abbey sheep-grange had been close by as far back as the 12th Century. The walls of the Strawberry Lee farm pastures still stand today.

### 100 YEARS AGO

About this time, 1886, Totley

Take proper care of your possessions. Good quality door and window locks do not cost the earth, are normally relatively easy to fit and may well provide that extra deterrent to a thief. Lock cars in the garage at night; if that is not possible, then make sure that any attractive property is safely out of sight and locked away in the boot. Make sure the car itself is locked and that the keys are safely inside the house. Those of you who keep freezers in garages or outhouses should make sure that they too are locked and secure. Unfortunately this is becoming an increasingly attractive area to thieves.

Ensure that bicycles are locked away and out of sight - ladders too. This might seem obvious but sadly the contrary is true. Anyone requiring expert advice on the best way to safeguard their property should ring the Crime Prevention Department at Heeley Police Station (tel. No. 500700). A full survey of your house will cost nothing and may well give peace of mind.

For more general enquiries telephone the Police Station at Woodseats, (no. 500200). For emergency calls - ring either 500200 or if you cannot remember that, the old stand by 999.

Never be afraid to call the Police.

P.C. Chris Emsley  
Totley Community Constable

Rolling Mill was closed. Originally built for the rolling of lead brought over from Derbyshire, it had also been known as the cupola. By 1874, Lyzack Sons & Turner were using the mill for rolling steel. Mill Cottage on Mill Lane, Totley Rise was the Mill Managers House and the Rolling Mill cottages adjoin the river close by. The dam area is defined by the large field at the back of Totley Rise shops; when the dam wall (approximately on the site of Milldale Road) was demolished, the stone was used to build the tearooms (now the restaurant) at the Waggon and Horses, Millhouses.

### 150 YEARS AGO

In 1836 Tolls on the Greenhill to Stoney Middleton (known as Owl Bar) turnpike were leased out for 3 years to Joshua Bower the younger of Hunslet, a glass manufacturer, George Thurgoland of Huddersfield, Toll Bar Contractor and Enoch Blackburn of Hunslet, post horse duty contractor. The annual rent of £2350 included occupying and "enjoying" all toll houses on the route as well as receiving the tolls paid. The nearest toll houses were at Owl Bar and there was another just above the Busy Bee Shop on Baslow Road. The same syndicate were awarded the contract on most occasions up to 1875. In 1876 the local mole catcher was paid £3 7s 6d for his years work.

### 200 YEARS AGO

In 1786 William Green left 12 shillings a year from the rent of his house and croft in Totley for a distribution of bread at Dore Chapel every fourth Sunday.

### 250 YEARS AGO

On 28th September 1736, John Fenton and Jonathan Nodder wrote to the Lord of Totley Manor, Lord Middleton, to ask if they could renew their lease of Totley Coal Mine, offering a sum of £10-£11 per annum. Obviously the offer wasn't adequate because the mine was leased out to Henry Thornhill for 21 years.

### 350 YEARS AGO

At the dissolution of the monasteries, the Tithes of Dore and Totley were granted to Henry Fanshawe.

Brian Edwards

# Christian Life

## A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

### Dore Parish Church

We first hear of a Chapel-of-ease at Dore in the early seventeenth century when it lay in the parish of Dronfield. The first curate of whom we have any knowledge was Thomas Stanley who came to Dore from Handsworth in 1632, later becoming Rector of Eyam and a hero of the plague in 1665. Probably two church buildings preceded the present one, which was consecrated in 1829. Dore became a separate parish in 1843. Rev. J.T.F. Aldred was Perpetual Curate from 1849-1894. When the population reached 3,200 two further parishes were created - St. John's, Abbeydale and Totley. The population is currently 3,800 but further divisions are not contemplated.

### Dore Methodist Church

Earliest mention of Methodism

## Tenants' News

We have been asked by the Tenants' Section of Totley Residents' Association to point out that the Housing Advice Sessions have now changed venue.

They are now held at Totley Branch Library on the first Thursday of each month from 2pm-12noon.

As usual advice will be available on housing benefits and estate management matters. For enquiries please telephone 735411.

Editor

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Totleyheral
2. To tieymousine
3. Totleyquor
4. Totleyner
5. Totleybretto
6. Totleynden
7. Totleynoleum
8. Totleysp
9. Totleyft
10. Totleytter

in Dore is in the year 1790, and interesting records of the earliest members refer to the Dore Wesleyan pioneers, followed by the Primitive Methodists. In 1932 Dore became a society in the Ecclesall Circuit. For many years services were conducted in the members' homes. The site for the first chapel was obtained from Joseph Hancock in 1860; the chapel and school were completed in March 1861 and named Mount Zion. The small building had a congregation of about 30 members and about 20 pupils in the Sunday School. In 1967 the Church was rebuilt, and there are now about 90 members and a small Sunday School.

### St. John's Church, Abbeydale

The Parish Church of St John's Abbeydale was consecrated in 1876. The parish had been carved out of the parish of Dore, which had become, (it was said), "very populous". What that meant is a mystery because the new parish was only 1337 souls and Dore was then a small village! All that has now changed and the old Abbey Dale of Beauchief Abbey is suburbia and the grazing and arable land of Bradway is well and truly populated. St John's now serves many more people than was originally envisaged and is glad of the opportunities that are presented in the present day.

### Totley Rise Methodist Church

The earliest recorded reference to Methodism in Totley Rise stated that an Open Air Service was held at Totley Rise on 26th June 1881. In September of the same year Sunday evening services began in a room provided by Mrs Wint, and in 1888 a 3pm service was added. Totley became a busy area due to the railway line, and a group of business men from the Brunswick Chapel in Sheffield formed a Trust to erect the present building at Totley Rise, which was opened in 1896. In 1931 the main Sunday School was built. Enlargements and improvements to both the Church and Sunday School buildings were carried out in 1958 and during the 1970s.

### Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

This Church is a union of Protestant people of several denominations. It was called

Dore and Totley Union Church until 1972, when Congregational and Presbyterian Churches united to form the United Reformed Church. Dore and Totley U.R.C. since its foundation in 1888, has been served by Congregational Ministers; Rev. Duncan Wilson is the fifth since the formation.

The Church is nearly 100 years old and was founded when the new railway line to Manchester opened up the neighbourhood. The Church of Totley Brook Road was built in 1913; various rooms and buildings have been added since, thereby providing useful accommodation for the needs and activities of today's population in this area.

### All Saints' Church Totley

Whilst the first Church of England School was built in 1827 in Totley Hall Lane, it was the new Church School, built in 1876 in Hillfoot Road, which was used for regular Sunday worship in 1919. The foundation stone for the All Saints' Church was laid by Dr. Abraham, Suffragan Bishop of Derby on 26th July, 1923. It was at 7am on 15th November 1924 that the Bishop of

Southwell consecrated the altar and celebrated the first communion. At 2.30pm the Church was consecrated and in the evening the first Vicar Rev. Robert Jermyon Hutton was instituted. The Church Hall was built in 1964.

### The Church of The English Martyrs.

Early Catholic worship in Totley was held in the Cross Seythes Hotel, the altar being prepared by the Darwent Family.

It was apparent that a church was needed and under Canon Puttman a campaign to raise the finance began. It was difficult to find a suitable site, but the present one which left room for expansion was purchased. A parishioner, Mr D. Wilkinson, designed the building and the Church was blessed and opened by Bishop Ellis on 23rd February 1964. Since then the congregation has grown and many happy links formed with the other Churches in Totley.

Betty Bowring - Dore, Totley, Totley Rise and Bradway Christian Council



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## TALKING TURKEY

Care is needed when buying your fresh Christmas turkey, otherwise you might end up paying more than you thought for a smaller bird than you require. The adverts will soon be out in shops or on farm gates, saying for example "Christmas turkeys 90p 1b oven ready," or "Fresh turkeys oven ready £1.05 lb." Which is the best buy? Seemingly the first one, but is it?

If you buy a 12 lb turkey from there, you will very probably end up with a 10 lb bird costing £10.80 or £1.08 lb. In the second example, you would buy and get, a 12 lb oven ready turkey which cost £12.60 or £1.05 lb. The reason for this? In the first instance the turkey was weighed and priced before it was dressed (made oven ready) during which it loses around 2 lb in weight; in the second instance it was weighed and priced after dressing.

So always check when ordering a turkey that you will get and pay for the weight you require.

Edwin Pocock

## PETITION

Local residents who signed a petition in the Summer about the dangerous junction of Busheywood Road, Totley Brook Road and Abbeydale Road South, will be interested to know the reaction of Sheffield city Council, to whom the petition was sent.

It was pointed out to the Council that there was no restriction on parking at the bottom of Busheywood Road and traffic entering and leaving Totley Brook Road was at risk when turning into Abbeydale Road South. Similarly, traffic turning from Abbeydale Road South into either Busheywood Road or Totley Brook Road was being hindered by the situation. It was further pointed out that several accidents have already occurred due to the congestion and it was feared that it was only a matter of time before a major incident occurred.

In its reply, the Council reported that parking restrictions on Totley Brook Road and Busheywood Road had been approved by Committee for advertisement and subject to no objections

being received, an Order would be made. The Council observed that only 5 personal injury accidents had been reported at the junction over the past three years and as there were no common factors no trend could be deduced. The Council however undertook to conduct further investigations at the junction and any additional action that may be recommended would be submitted to Committee in the near future

### Independent Comment

We are grateful to Mrs. Betty Burgin for updating us on these developments. This infamous junction has featured on these pages many times, most recently in issue 96, when we speculated on the risk of a tragedy occurring. Let us hope and pray that this will not be the price to pay for improvements at the junction. The Council points out that "only" 5 personal injury accidents have been reported recently. In our view that is 5 too many.

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## LOOKING BACK

For six years, along with my wife Anthea, it was my privilege and pleasure to edit and compile the Totley Independent.

Looking back through my 29 cherished copies I find the variety of subjects covered is amazing. Can there really be so much of interest in a "mere" Sheffield suburb?

There does seem to be an almost infinite number of things going on about which to write and report. Maybe it is this that makes both our magazine and Totley unique?

We have 2 schools, 6 pubs, 2 licensed clubs, 4 churches, a Cheshire Home, Cherrytree, a library, a factory, farms, a major railway tunnel, the very busy Baslow Road, numerous societies and excellent sports clubs not forgetting the enthusiastic residents and tenants associations and the wide variety of live entertainment. Here recently the Transport 17 Minibus has improved the quality of life of many of our senior citizens.

Neither must we forget the large body of students at the Polytechnic.

"Locals" themselves can be relied upon to tell a good tale and there is always a story to be gained from our friendly shops and business premises.

What is the most important issue of recent years that the magazine has been involved in? Well it must be that of road safety - the Residents' Association successfully campaigned for the traffic lights on Totley Rise after a series of accidents.

What has been the biggest failure? The prospect of a much needed community centre is no nearer - but the fight will continue.

One event not publicised at the time occurred when the Independent was subject to a take over bid by one of the free newspapers. The correct decision was obviously made: we have survived - the newspaper is no longer with us!

Finally a word of thanks to all the artists, contributors and readers who as a result of the magazine I can now count as friends.



## Cheshire Home

Mickley Hall was honoured to be approached by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with information that Mr Sawang Tupkrisana of Thailand had asked to see round our Home on his official visit to this country. Apparently Mr Tupkrisana was most impressed with all he saw.

A number of our residents again entered the national Creativity Contest in London and carried off several awards. The standard was extremely high and the winning exhibits have been on show in the windows of the Halifax Building Society, Totley Rise and Avenue Stores Main Avenue.

The Autumn Fair at Dronfield Civic Centre was good publicity and raised around £550 for the Home.

The Bus Fund now stands at £7,400 making progress towards the £11,000 needed before qualifying for the £4,000 promised from the Westfield Contributory Health Scheme. The next event for the Bus Fund will be a "Silent Auction" with a Pea and Pic Supper at the Home on 3rd December, 7.30pm - 11pm. Tickets £1.50 from the Home. Suitable items for this would be welcome.

Our annual Christmas Coffee Morning will be on Thursday 11th December 10am-12 noon when we will have a "Bring and Buy" stall; also "Nearly New" Clothes, Crafts and Gifts will be on sale. Come and have a coffee and bring your friends. The AGM will now be held on Tuesday 16th December, 8pm at the Home.

With best wishes for Christmas and the coming year from everyone at Mickley.

B.M. Raven

John Perkinson in particular continues to do sterling work with distribution and advertising - a duty he has performed for 9 years.

May I wish Jackie and John Butterwick continued success. In its second year with them in the driving seat, the Independent has continued to flourish - not an easy task with a young family and the

## The Dramatic Society Dore & Totley United Reformed Church



Church Hall, Totley Brook Road

This competent company turned in another entertaining performance at the end of October, with their rendering of Alan Ayckbourn's "Time and Time Again", a play whose plot was, shall we say, elusive. The small cast of five all took on hefty parts but carried them off with few hitches.

Holding the piece together was Barry Rowntree as Graham Baker, the lusting grumbling man of the house, who ended up in a very funny fight scene, wrongly accused of "getting the girl".

Pam Ashmore played his long-suffering wife Anna, who also had to contend with her eccentric live-in brother Leonard - another interesting role for Andrew Tabor, who spent much of the evening talking to the garden gnome and dancing in the ornamental pond! Leonard was the unlikely suitor of Joan (Susan Bel), who was already engaged to sports-mad Peter, played by John Stone. It was the athletic Peter who set about his employer Graham in the mistaken belief that Graham had stolen his girl.

As far as the plot was concerned, that just about says it all.

There was a typically inventive Ayckbourn split-set, (a conservatory and garden), which allowed two simultaneous pieces of action, and earned a justified round of applause from the Friday audience as the curtain went up. The company took care to adjust the flowers and shrubs as the play centered through the seasons.

A good rendition, well-staged, but not the funniest or most engrossing comedy the company has chosen.

The next production, by way of contrast, will be the Francis Durbridge thriller, "House Guest" to be presented in the spring.

John Butterwick

recent addition of a beautiful daughter. Long may the Independent continue with such dedicated people as these.

Mike Williamson

## RONY ROBINSON REMEMBERS

The day I left All Saints in July 1952 we put on a play I'd written for Mrs Peacock. She said thank you, she was amazed. And I said I was going to be a playwright when I grew up.

Eight years ago when I was a playwright, working at Ban Littlewood's old Theatre Royal at Stratford East in London I did two plays that each began in school playgrounds. In "Snapshots", Liz, in her last week of elementary school in 1931 hangs about after school pestering her head teacher for a go on his bike. He doesn't give her one. And in "All Our Loving" Peter breaks a window with a snowball made of a lump of coke, in the hard winter of 1947. Janet Otter almost saves him from being slapped by Miss Marsden by volunteering to take the blame because, she wrongly thinks, they aren't allowed to ruler girls.

Both scenes are set in London. But really they began in the playground at All Saints in the days when the eponymous Mr S Mellor was headteacher and strictly Methodist Mrs S A Peacock ruled 34 without the need of a ruler.

And the Dubs were outside in the playground so that we could wee over the top. And the air raid shelter was left out in the field so the Germans could see when they came back to Blitz the Seniors for using it for kissing at dinner time.

And Rodney Andrew was my best friend, and Janet Smith still loved me, and Perks sold cocoa and sugar wrapped up in the Daily Herald.

Well, I broke a window in one of those 1947 winters we used to have. The snowball was made out of Mr Turner's coke, and I blamed Brian Horsefield, but everyone knew. I still dream of being caught.

I wasn't, but there were plenty of other injustices to make up for it. The eponymous S Mellor for instance, caned a whole roomful of us one autumn for going buying windfalls at four a penny from the cottage next to the Binfold after he'd clearly told us not to. (Only he hadn't.)

And what about that mental teacher who ruled us on the knuckles of our writing

hands every morning for not getting the answers right in his Mental tests, because he couldn't teach us how to do them properly?

And Miss Freeborough, who used to slap arms, and made the whole class laugh at me for colouring a house's roof purple, for when had I ever seen a house with a purple roof, John Robinson?

Anyway, I did break a window like Peter.

And I did fancy a ride, like Liz. Used to hang round after school, hoping the eponymous S Mellor would give us a go on his new Triumph Mayflower with its sharp edges and the globe on its bonnet.

I used to go straight up to Evans's for S Mellor's Oxbridges Long Tonic, even in scholarship year, and come straight back with the change. I never dropped it.

I laughed at his jokes, like when he told that Senior who'd



just swum 25 yards at Heeley Baths and got a certificate, that he obviously had water on the brain and that was why he'd failed his scholarship. And I never laughed at his loose-teethed singing about how far away Greenhill was, which it couldn't be because we used to lose to them at football regular.

And I let him cane me.

But he still never gave us a ride...

Funny what you learn at school isn't it? Not always the useful stuff about rods, poles and perches, or the plurals of ox and the female of fox, and how to sit up straight, and who Moses' brother was when he was at home.

I learned among other things that those in authority over us can sometimes be mean and unfair. And wrong, even. (All our roofs on the Laverdene Estate are purple).

I've written dozens of plays since 1952, often about such things. Strictly Methodist Mrs Peacock is the only teacher from then I'd like to have come to see them. In

## TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Notice Boards

A new board has been erected at the Mickley Lane entrance to Greenoak Park.

### Bus Services

Amid a welter of complaints about Totley's bus services, especially the 24, a sub-committee was formed to consider appropriate action. Local residents are invited to lodge specific complaints at a special "complaints box" in the library, or to send them to the Independent. They will be passed on to the Committee.

### Senior Citizens Party

Details of the Christmas Party to be held on 6th December at Totley College were finalised. Entertainment would again be provided by Jimmy McWilliams and friends. Tickets, priced at 70p, are on sale at both Post Offices until 5th December.

### Totley Show

The following winners' certificates are still unclaimed: Mr H Kelham (2nd Marmalade); Mr Holmes (1st Sculpture); Mrs Brown (2nd Shortbread); Mrs O R Powell (3rd Floral Basket); Mrs O Powell (2nd White Loaf). The certificates can be collected from the library.

her strictly Methodist way she had a wonderful sense of humour, and none of the others did. And she was the only one who never slapped or ruled or caned.

She taught me most of what I know.

And she was able to be amazed in faraway 1952 that a bunch of kids in her scholarship class could make up a play. She'd be amazed by some of the things that go on in plays now, too (And being amazed is quite good for you isn't it?)

Oh, and she never said I couldn't be a playwright, like the others would have.

(Though she would never, in her strict Methodist way, have let me use brackets, or say "I" all the time, or use words I didn't understand, like "eponymous".)

## SCOUTING IN TOTLEY

1911: Scouting began in Totley (11th Sheffield). Captain was Mr Foulstone. Meetings held in the Church School. But 11th Sheffield ceased to exist in 1916.

1934: Leslie Aubrey started the All Saints' Boys Club. After four weeks these boys decided to join the scout movement and became All Saints' Totley Scout Group. Meetings were held in Church Crypt and later in the tea rooms by Crown Inn.

1943: Group became an "Open Group" and was renamed 1st Totley. Meetings held in various places including parents' garages, Totley Brook House, "Horse Hut" on Totley Bents and Totley Hall.

1939/45: Group carried on successfully throughout the War years, run mainly by the boys themselves due to Scouters being called up.

1948: 14th Birthday Party held in Greenock Hall (now the Conservative Club). Friday April 23rd. Also this year, Mr A P Birley became Group Scout Leader (GSL).

1949: Start on own HQ in Totley Hall Lane. Block of buildings purchased from B.W. Camp at Redmires, dismantled and then best bits salvaged and erected at Totley. All work carried out by the boys and parents.

1951: New HQ opened by Mrs Towser of Totley Hall.

1960: Raymond (Kim) Gale was appointed GSL.

1970: Derek Maltby appointed GSL. Group transferred from Chesterfield District to Sheaf District and became 215th Sheffield (1st Totley).

1977: Gordon Wragg appointed GSL. Group told to improve premises or move. (Site was in a conservation area and the

## THE LODESTAR

## Poets Corner

The lodestar points the unerring way  
To a civilisation in advanced decay.  
To what avail are rockets shooting high,  
When Cruise and Pershing skim the midnight sky?  
Space exploration is as nought,  
When money's spent, and missiles bought.  
When half the world is starving, others glut  
On epicurean fancies, minds quite shut.  
And exploitation of our precious earth  
Advanced so far, we have forgot its worth.  
How dull, like ostriches, we grimly mope,  
Just taking what we can, bereft of hope.

R. Pursglove

## THANKS

The Coffee Morning held at the Conservative Club on October 16th in aid of Martin House Hospice raised about £100. The Totley Evening Guild thanks all who supported them by attending or providing items for the raffle.

building would have to be demolished and rebuilt in brick with a stone frontage - estimated to cost over £50,000).

1978: Group offered site on Aldam Road.

1980: Group decided to accept site and started looking for a suitable building.

1982: A builder had bought a Ward at Wales Park Hospital from Health Authority. After finding it was not suitable for his purpose, he then sold it to the Group.

1983: Building commenced using Vol'serve, but it was eventually finished by helpers and parents.

1984: Robin Carter appointed GSL.

1986: New HQ officially opened on 19th July by Arthur Birley and Ida Bramall.

Derek Maltby  
Robin Carter  
Alan Vitty.



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## OPEN DOOR

A new drop-in coffee morning has started at the Church Hall, Totley Brook Road, every Thursday morning from 9.30-12 noon.

Open to all, Open Door is a non-profit making venture supported by members and friends of local churches and also Dr Marian Jepson and Mrs Anne Varah, with other social, community and health workers, who will be on hand to give advice and information to anyone who asks.

So whether you are just passing, feel like company, want somewhere to rest your feet, or find out what's going on locally, you will be welcome where you see the sign of the open door.

## CROSS SCYTHES



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Peter Swift's (Totley Rise),  
V Martin's (Abbeydale Rd Sth).  
\*\*\*\*\*

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS  
SATURDAY 17th JANUARY.

## DIARY

LUCKY NUMBER

2 500

### DECEMBER

- 3rd 7.30pm Silent Auction & Pie & Pea  
Supper at Cheshire Home.
- 6th IRA Senior Citizens Party at Totley College.  
Tickets 70p from both Post Offices.
- 11th 10am Cheshire Home Christmas Coffee Morning at  
Mickley Hall. Bring and Buy, coffee etc.
- 12th 7.30pm Totley Ladies' Evening Guild Christmas Party  
at Abbeydale Hall.
- 13th Scouts waste paper collection. Skip at college  
car park until 12 noon.
- 13th 10am Christmas Fair at County School. Including Santa  
Claus, carols, cakes and refreshments.
- 14th 8.15pm John Wade singers present "Carols and Operas  
for Christmas" in Buchanan Hall, Totley  
College. Tickets £1.00 at the door or phone  
360820 / 360122.
- 16th 8pm Cheshire Home AGM at Mickley Hall. All welcome.
- 17th Last day for posting Christmas Cards in Scouts  
postal system.

### JANUARY

- 10th Scouts waste paper collection. Skip at college  
car park until 12 noon.

### THE OLD 'OSS

In our last issue we asked  
for information on the old  
mummers play "The Old 'Oss",  
performed at Christmas in  
Dore and Totley in days gone  
by.  
Mrs Joyce Cook of the  
Quadrant has kindly provided a  
copy of an article by Rory  
Greig on the subject, pub-  
lished in 1973 by the Univers-  
ity of Sheffield.

The version is different from  
the one already in our posses-  
sion and makes interesting  
reading, covering activities  
at both the Devonshire Arms  
and the Hare and Hounds. At  
a future date we may be able  
to reproduce extracts.  
We would like to hear from  
any other readers who have  
knowledge or memories of "The  
Old 'Oss".

Mike Williamson

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