

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is a time of the year when people make an effort to see family and friends, send cards, exchange gifts and express good wishes to one and all. It is a time to be friendly, hospitable and generous. It is a special time of the year which is necessary and important when many people, young and old alike, still experience the magic and mystery of the festivities. Some do find Christmas an extra lonely time - their loneliness is made worse by the celebrations of others - or the poverty of the poor is emphasised by the extravagance of the affluent. But what is the real meaning of Christmas?

Christians believe that Almighty God, the Creator of the whole Universe came into this world as a baby born in Bethlehem. The child was called Jesus and it happened nearly 2,000 years ago. Christmas time is the opportunity to focus on this most incredible event.

The birth of Jesus caused great controversy. The name Jesus means Saviour and the purpose of his birth was to ensure that everything necessary was done to put right all that is wrong in the world. But, as with his birth, his life was also controversial. His words and deeds were unwelcome and he was condemned and crucified. The death of Jesus on the cross became the means by which all the barriers which separate human beings from God or barriers that divide people were broken down. Three days after the execution of Jesus he was raised to life and lives today.

He deigns in flesh to appear,
Widest extremes to join
To bring our vileness near,
And make us all divine.
And we the life of God shall know
For God is manifest below.

Charles Wesley.

Christmastime is a celebration of the coming of God into our world to share our lives; to express his love for all people and to enter into our joys and sorrows, our pleasure and pain, our triumphs and failures. To bring together all that separates us from Him and from each other. He comes to save us from grief, despair and a sense of hopelessness. He offers to us new life through faith in Jesus Christ. It really is an exciting time of the year. You are invited into any of the churches in this community to share the wonder of all God has done for us.

Unto us a boy is born,
King of all creation.
Came He to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.
Now may Mary's son who came,
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

(15th Century)

Shalom,

George Palmer.

A real Christmas flavour in your Totley Independent this month. Apart from the above article by our local Methodist Minister there is a list of Christmas services on page 7, a good walk to help you work up an appetite on page 6 and a cautionary tale on page 5. Have a good read and enjoy this issue.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TOTLEY RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE.

We would like to congratulate John Perkinson, our current Treasurer, on his election to Captain of the Abbeydale Sports Club Bowling Team as from January 1990.

Unfortunately this has meant he is having to resign from Treasurer of the T.R.A. committee, a position he has held for the past eleven years. John will however continue his work with the Totley Independent and also remain a committee member of the T.R.A. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank John for his long and valued service.

Other changes to the committee will be that Mrs Margaret Coldwell will be our new Treasurer and Mrs Eileen Woods our Secretary.

The members of the committee are as follows:- Les Firth (chairman), Don Clare (vice-chairman), Margaret Coldwell (treasurer), Eileen Woods (secretary), Amanda Hardwick (minutes secretary), Ken Coldwell, Jennifer Burns, Margaret and Harry Woofinden, Sid Otter (T.O.P.S.rep), Ernest Rudkin, Mike Williamson, Harold Reynolds, John Perkinson, Edwin Pocock, Maurice Snowden (Totley Independent), Kath Wilson and Alf Monks (Tenants Section reps).

Committee meetings are held each month to discuss and hopefully improve upon problems and services within Totley as well as arranging various events such as the Totley Show and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

Since my last letter in the Independent about events and the replies received (nil!) we have organised two illustrated talks in the Totley Library for Monday 5th February and Monday 2nd April 1990. More detailed information will be published nearer the time. Should these be successful we would arrange for further talks during late autumn.

If you have any ideas for events, or problems within Totley which you would like us to consider, **PLEASE** do not hesitate to contact me (Tel 364190) or any of the above committee.

Les Firth, Chairman, T.R.A.

ARE YOU A PLAYWRIGHT?

Rony Robinson of 132, Totley Brook Road is currently engaged in editing the "Upstage" series of play collections for early publication. He is looking for material and/or ideas and should be contacted if you are a prospective or intending author.

CRIME REPORT

The latest police reports for the area suggest that we have had a spate of thefts considerably beyond previous intensity. Whether this is because there is a new "team" on the prowl or whether it is because of relaxed vigilance on behalf of house-holders and car owners is a matter of speculation. We can hardly believe that it is Father Christmas collecting his sack-fulls to distribute on Christmas Eve!

Seriously, it is actually a matter of very great concern because the thefts or attempted thefts in this area have been at the rate of three a week. Many have occurred during the day and hence would seem to be avoidable if greater vigilance could be achieved. Are there unwelcome visitors prowling our roads but who, perhaps, appear to be very plausible, law-abiding citizens? Are we being less careful in fastening doors and windows? Are we leaving valuable items in too-obvious positions so that they can be "lifted" easily? It certainly seems, from the long lists of incidents, that there are far too many people in Totley and neighbourhood who are now regretting that they did not take some more elaborate precaution!

The message is very clear! We must all keep our eyes open and be aware of helping the thieves as well as doing our best to help the police to catch the offenders.

SIT. VAC!

Regular readers of the Totley Independent will notice that there is a name missing from the staff list this month. Clare White has typed a great deal of the wording which has gone into the Independent in the last two years but has had to drop out of the team for the time being at least. We are very grateful to her for what she has done and hope that we can fill the gap before too long.

Talking of gaps! We urgently need one or two (or more!) people who will contribute occasionally from bits of news or gossip which they may come across. It doesn't need much work - just to remember to write something down when it happens and drop it in to one of the collecting points. We feel it is important that contributions are gathered from as wide a source as is possible to help us to present a varied diet to our readers.

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GARDENING TIPS

Well, 1989 is nearly over and very nice it's been too for most gardeners. Except for the drought everything in most gardens has been lovely. Let's hope that 1990 is just as good particularly for beginners to gardening as 1990 is "Gardening for Beginners Year". Trade magazines and manufacturers will be doing their best to encourage people to take a keen interest in gardening. I hope to do my bit both in the shop and through the "Independent"

Lawns. Rake up leaves and worm casts.

- * Spike and rake in sand where you have any wet spots.
- * Keep off the grass in frosty or snowy weather.

Flowers. Pick over plants under frames or cloches and dust with fungicide.

- * Check dahlias.
- * Dig and prepare new beds.
- * Bait slugs. Use a wildlife friendly one.
- * Sort out seeds collected in summer, labelling them clearly.

Greenhouse. Bring in bulbs potted in autumn for forcing. Place in a cool airy position keeping compost moist. When flower buds show transfer to the house.

- * Clean propagators ready for early sowing. For heated models check that heating elements and thermostats are in working order.
- * Keep the greenhouse frost free. Plants which require more warmth should be placed near the heater. Make sure all draughts are stopped up.
- * Check over all plants, water sparingly when required. Succulents can be allowed to shrivel without harm.
- * Ventilate freely on warm sunny days. Don't forget to close them in the afternoon.

Fruit. Continue to prune top fruit and complete bush fruit pruning.

- * Make sure raspberries are secure to their supports.
- * Firm in newly planted trees and bushes.
- * Spray apples with tar oil winter wash.

Vegetables. Firm in any plants loosened by frost.

- * Dig and manure ground, apply lime to acid soils and to any ground where cabbage is to be planted.
- * Prepare runner bean trench.
- * Boxing day is the traditional day for planting onions and leeks (ready in time for the Totley Show!)

Trees and Shrubs. Deciduous trees and shrubs can be planted when weather permits but don't plant evergreens at this time of the year.

- * Hybrid tea roses and floribundas should be cut back by half to prevent wind rock.
- * Check tree ties. Make sure they are not too tight or chafing the bark.
- * Gently knock snow off conifers and evergreens.
- * Remove deadwood and misplaced or crossing branches from deciduous trees and shrubs.

Houseplants. Keep plants well away from radiators and open fires and out of draughts as much as possible. Sensitive plants such as maidenhair should not be kept in rooms where temperature drops very low at night.

- * Allow composts to dry out slightly on the surface before watering. Do not let plants stand in a pool of water.
- * After flowering keep daffodils and hyacinths growing until the leaves yellow.
- * Use insecticide pins to control aphids and whitefly. Don't use on primula family.
- * Many plants will need more light at this time of year especially variegated ones. Move them nearer to a window.
- * Kalanchoes need 14 hrs of darkness every 24 hrs for a month to make them flower. Put them in a cupboard where all light is excluded. Once the flower buds have formed treat them normally. They may not be as compact as when they first flowered.
- * Don't disturb plants for a fortnight each side of Christmas by repotting etc. Most of them will need all their resources to cope with lack of light on these short December days.

Well, have a nice Christmas everybody and I look forward to chatting with you in the New Year. Cheerio for now.

Tom. Busy Bee.

BACK NUMBERS.

Last months request for help in completing a set of Totley Independents yeilded quite a bit of response. We are however still missing the following numbers:-

1, 2, 4, 84.

We can always photocopy old numbers, but it may be that unwanted copies exist in old cupboards etc. So, if anyone can help please contact the Editor on 362822

a cautionary tale

WALK OF SHUTTERBY AT CHRISTMAS.

You know how it is at Christmas, after the day itself, more than replete with turkey and pudding and all the trimmings - and Boxing Day with generous helpings of leftovers - that one feels rotund and generally figure conscious. Perhaps because the sun was shining, perhaps because I had read too many of John Barrow's walking notes, but I persuaded myself that a breath of fresh air and a little exercise was the order of the day. I put on my boots and thought about the stretches of Blackmoor.

So it was in the early afternoon, with a fair amount of winter sunshine, that I set out to cross Baslow Road, just by the Post Office, to go down past the Cricket Inn and to let circumstances dictate from there.

We all know the beauty of Blackmoor, even in wintertime, but winter afternoons are deceptive, and the shades of night (as the poet put it) were falling fast. Far in the distance sweeps of headlights denoted the passing of traffic on the main roads surrounding the moors and I was reasonably confident that I knew the paths well enough. Or I would have done if the wind had not sprung up, carrying flurries of snowflakes before it. The snow started settling round the rims of hollows where the few sheep were huddled together.

Suddenly, near at hand, I heard voices. Not enough to pick out actual words, more like a chant rising and falling on the wind. As I drew nearer the volume of chanting grew louder. I came upon a pile of rocks I do not remember having seen before - some upright, some crossways almost circular in layout. To my amazement I saw a group of white robed figures raising their arms in unison with the chant. "Not for me", I thought, "get out fast". As I turned my boots must have clattered against a loose stone, and the entire company turned on me as one man. "Seize him" someone called. I wasted no time but, as I rushed down some crudely formed steps, I slipped. I must have hit



my head against something, and I remember no more..... Anyone who has had the misfortune to be in hospital knows exactly what a hospital bed feels like and somewhere in the gathering realms of consciousness I knew where I was and realised that people were standing about me.

"What's happened", I managed to croak. Someone bent over me "You won't remember what happened" they said "but you were knocked down just after 2 o'clock when you crossed Baslow Road.

Anon.

HEALTHY EATING

All about Bramleys.

Bramley cooking apples have a world wide reputation. First grown by the Merryweather family in Nottinghamshire around 1851, its distinctive large size and full flavour makes it the perfect culinary apple. Despite strong opposition it won an International Gold Medal as the finest cooking apple. Try this delicious recipe:-

Rich Bramley Pudding. serves 6.

Calories per portion 427.

Ingredients: 2 lb/900 g Bramley Apples,

1 stick cinnamon.

4oz/100g butter.

2 eggs.

2oz/50g soft brown sugar.

Finely grated rind and juice
of 1 lemon.

1oz/25g chopped mixed peel.

8oz/225g puff pastry.

Method:- Set the oven at 200C/400F/Mark 6. Peel, core and slice the apples and cook gently with the cinnamon and a little water until tender. Puree or sieve. Beat in the butter, eggs and sugar until evenly mixed. Stir in lemon rind, juice and chopped peel. Roll out the pastry to line a 9in/23cm round pie dish. Spoon the apple mixture in and bake for 20-25 minutes, until firm and golden. Serve warm with cream or yogurt.

John Scriven.

DRIVERS WANTED.

The developments in the Transport 17 activities reported in our last Totley Independent demonstrate the need for more volunteer drivers to help with the increased traffic. If you think you might be interested contact Michael Finn on 363332 for more details.

Walks

Around

Totley

AROUND SHEFFIELD'S GREEN BELT. WALK No 10.

A pre-Christmas walk of some 10 miles to whet the appetite. Around Ecclesall Woods, Ringinglow, Houndkirk and Totley Moors. Allow 5 hrs.

Start from Totley Rise. Enter Poynton Wood via Mill Lane (as described in Walk No7). After skirting the woodland of Bradway Bank take a lower level path which dips towards an iron fencing above the railway line. Cross a field area and take a broad track to Twentywell Lane. Cross the road by the rail bridge and a path heads direct to Dore and Totley station. Walk along Abbeydale Road South past the Garden Centre and enter Ecclesall Woods by a bridle path (signpost). We now follow part of the Sheffield Round Walk through delightful woodlands along the banks of the Limb Brook. Head to the right along the main path towards Rycroft Glen, (note the bird sanctuary on the right) and make for the junction of the Hathersage Road with Limb Lane. Proceed into Whirlow Brook Park with its fine rock gardens. Follow the main drive to the Hall (the catering facilities, the park and woodlands are owned by Sheffield City Council). Take the woodland path behind the buildings to join a broad track through the Limb Valley (well signed). Pass picnic tables en route to ruined farmstead of Copperas House. (Lead was smelted in this vicinity in the 18th century). Negotiate a stone causeway to field area and stile to the hamlet of Ringinglow. History abounds with the Round House built in 1795 and the now modernised "Norfolk Arms" inn, formerly called the "Ringinglow Inn". Note the chapel along Sheephill Road built in the last century also to serve as a school. The cost was £100. This Anglican Chapel and adjoining piece of land has recently been sold to convert to a fashionable residence at a mind boggling figure.

Head back along left to the Houndkirk Road (Once the ancient turnpike route from Sheffield to Buxton). For over 2 miles this rough highway splits the moorland areas of Burbage and Houndkirk. These were once grouse-shooting domains of the Duke of Rutland. Note the ruined homesteads of Badger House and Oxdale Lodge. Cross the Thieves Bridge which spans the infant Redcar Brook, feeder of the River Sheaf,

at around 1200 ft. The views are superb with the Ox Stones dominating the skyline above Burbage Moor. This area is only just beginning to grow back to normal after the disastrous fire of 1976, carelessly started in Lady Cannings Plantation and destroying 4 square miles of moorland pasture. After the long stretch of the Houndkirk Road we descend towards Fox House and Parson's House (Outward Bound Centre, Knowsley Trust). As we leave the last gate swing over to the left towards the Stony Ridge ruined farmstead and nearby Toll Bar boundary stone. Cross the busy A 625 and into the peaceful sanctuary of Blackamoor. The main track fringes the line of Rhododendron bushes and crosses the open moor towards the remnants of Strawberry Lee Farm. The main path descends under Blacka Hill and Totley Moor. There is a fine beech tree avenue and track that leads into Strawberry Lee Lane and the homeground of "Cricket Inn". Before we tackle the cobbled causeway to Hillfoot Road and home we are once again tempted to sample a well-earned festive season tippie at the tavern after a grand walk and to plan still further outings in the New Year around Totley.

John C. Barrows.

The sketch map for this walk needs to be rather larger than we have space to print here. Copies may be obtained (free of charge) from John Perkinson or Maurice Snowden - see addresses page 12.



"The computer's got it wrong again, it says there's only one Tot in 'Tot'ley."

Christmas Services

DECEMBER 24th

Christ Church, Dore.

4.30 p.m. Carol Service.
11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion.

Dore Methodist.

10.30 a.m. Parade Service.
6.00 p.m. Carol Service.

All Saints, Totley.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.30 p.m. First Communion of Christmas.

English Martyr's Totley.

9.15 a.m. Mass.

Dore and Totley Christian Fellowship.

10.30 a.m. Christmas Eve Praise at the
Communal Building, Totley Poly.

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church.

10.30 a.m. Family Worship.
11.30 p.m. United Communion Service.

Totley Rise Methodist Church.

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship.
6.00 p.m. Carol Service.
11.30 p.m. United Communion at the U.R.C.

St John's, Abbeydale.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion.
11.30 p.m. First Communion of Christmas.

DECEMBER 25th.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.00 a.m. Matins.
12.00 noon. Holy Communion.

9.30 a.m. Christmas Morning Service.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.00 a.m. Family Carols and Communion.

9.15 a.m. Mass.

10.30 a.m. Christmas Family Service at the
Conservative Club.

9.30 a.m. United Service at Totley Rise
Methodist Church.

9.30 a.m. United Christmas Morning
Service.

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
10.30 a.m. Shortened Family Service with
Carols followed by Holy Communion.

The Dramatic Society
Reformed



Dore & Totley United
Church

The players of the Dramatic Society of the Dore and Totley United Reformed Church excelled themselves this time with their acting of Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park". Some of us felt that the title of the play was not very well chosen but the play itself proved to be really funny. Even the six flights of stairs up to the flat (and even more onto the roof!) had an important effect on the plot and we certainly felt that there really were six flights to climb. The principal parts were taken by Margaret Stone and Andrew Tabor who did very well indeed but they were well supported by the rest of the cast. Just to demonstrate the appeal of the performance we canvassed the opinion of three youngsters in the front row. Without doubt they gave a 'thumbs up' sign! We look forward to the next performance in March.



215th Sheffield (1st Totley) Scout Group.

The winners of the Scout Lottery Draw for October were:- 1st Prize: Ladies and Gents Watches, Mrs Merrill of Green Oak Crescent (No 174). 2nd Prize: £10 Voucher, Mr Hardcastle of Stonecroft Road. Congratulations!



It may seem a long time ago now but the Farm Fayre held on 24th September was a great success attracting 6,000 people and raising over £4,000 for the Trust. We were glad to be able to give publicity to this event.

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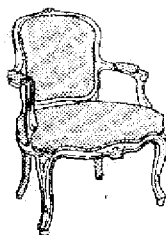
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FARMING SCENE



As the days grow shorter, so the bustle of activity on arable farms begins to decline. As potato harvesting finishes, cereal planting finishes and sugarbeet harvesting nears completion, so the outdoor life becomes indoor life, grading potatoes, cleaning repairing and mothballing machinery, loading grain onto lorries, mending that broken asbestos sheet on the tractor shed, burning the old cereal seed and fertilizer bags, tidying up here and there and in general catching up on all the "little" jobs that are given low priority during the busy periods. There are of course one or two winter outdoor jobs, hedgecutting and ditch cleaning feature on many farms, along with muck spreading and ploughing for next years spring planted crops.

On livestock farms the opposite is very often the case as outwintered stock need hand feeding and inwintered stock bedding and cleaning out also.

How the year has flown by, only a month to Christmas, and yet we have still not had that "break" we have been going to have "next week when we are up-to-date" every week since May, as there always seems to be another job waiting when one is completed.

Our pre-turkey plucking programme seems to revolve around the soft fruit with both the new and the old raspberry plantations to tidy up and tie in the new growth to the supporting wires. The strawberries require an overall application of Simazine to control any annual weeds that may germinate over winter, with the existing perennial weeds spot-treated with Glysophate applied by a knapsack sprayer. When the blackcurrant bushes have also been pruned to remove any broken or very low branches, we shall be able to retire to the potato store, to amuse ourselves overwinter, grading and bagging approx 150 tonnes of Spuds. What a drag!

Edwin Pocock.



MAKE WAY FOR CHRISTMAS.

A Christmas Celebration will be held in the Open Air on Thursday 21st December. A procession will leave Totley Rise Methodist Church at 7.00 p.m. and will follow a route to the Community Field on the Totley Brook Estate. A presentation of "The Gift" - a Christmas musical by Graham Kendrick will take place and everyone is invited to the occasion. The procession will return to the church for refreshments. You are invited to join us.

George Palmer.

MISS DOROTHY TROTT.

Many readers of the "Totley Independent" may be interested to hear news of Miss Dorothy Trott, former principal of Dore and Totley High School, which was in Grove Road, Totley until its closure in 1966.

Miss Trott lives in retirement in Poole, Dorset. She is in reasonably good health and has lively recollections of her life in Totley from the early years of the century.

She has published two books; "Tapestry of Life", an autobiography, and "Trotting Around", which describes her world wide travels. Priced at £7.95 and £12.95 respectively, both books are available from Mrs V. Highet (phone 361142).

(Editor's Note: Mrs Highet is secretary of the Dore and Totley High School Old Pupils' Association.)

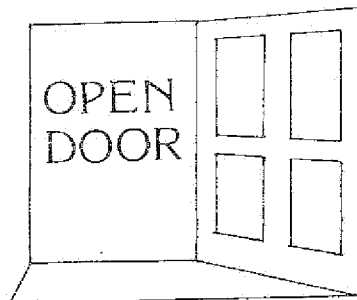
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May we take this opportunity to
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CAROL CONCERT AT TOTLEY LIBRARY.

Children from Totley County School will be coming to the Library to sing carols on Friday 15th December at 10.00 a.m. We will be serving coffee and mince pies in the interval. We have held these concerts for the last couple of years and they have been very enjoyable. The children sing beautifully and really enter into the spirit of the occasion. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the singing, or just to listen. It should be a very enjoyable morning.

Enquire at the Library for details:-
Tel 363067



LIAISON LUNCH.

Every two months or so there is an entry in the Diary which says "Liaison Lunch". This signifies a short meeting (lunch at 12.15 followed by a meeting from 1.00 till 2.00 p.m.) of many of the people responsible for community affairs in the neighbourhood. Such groups as Luncheon Clubs, Housing Department, F&CS, Police, Transport 17, Cheshire Home, local clergy to name but a few find it useful to acquaint each other of local needs, problems, activities and aspirations. The meeting is quite informal and the group have no corporate executive responsibility but it speaks volumes for the spirit of the area that such a meeting is possible and has continued over many years. At recent meetings such diverse topics as The Good Neighbour Scheme, Sheltered Housing, Caring for Carers, DHSS Benefits, the Library and URC Craft Fairs, Transport 17, Cherry Tree Home and others have been ventilated. Informal discussion over lunch ensures that people involved in all the various activities can get to know each other and each other's work better.

DECEMBER 1989 JANUARY 1990 DIARY

Sat. Dec. 2nd T.R.A. Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.
United Reformed Church Hall. 4.00 p.m.

Fri. 8th Ladies Evening Guild Christmas Party. Abbeydale Hall. 7.30 p.m.

Sat. 9th Scouts Paper Collection. Skip at College Car Park.

Fri. 15th Carols in Totley Library. 10.00 a.m.

Tues. 19th Townswomens Guild. Methodist Church Hall. 10.00 a.m.

Thurs. 21st "Make Way for Christmas". Totley Rise Methodist Church. 7.00 p.m.
(see notice)

Sat. 23rd Carol Singing on Totley Rise. 10.00 - 11.30 a.m.

Sat. Jan 13th Scouts Paper Collection. Skip at College Car Park.

Sat. 20th Copy Date for February Independent.

Tues. 30th Liaison Lunch. All Saints' Church Hall. 12.15.p.m.

SHEFFIELD'S WOODLAND HERITAGE.

A beautiful new book has been published by Sheffield City Library describing and illustrating the woodlands which abound in our city. The history, associated crafts and industries, their present situation and possible future destiny are covered. There are many references to local woods such as Gillfield, Holmesfield and Ecclesall and the local interest is enhanced because the illustrations are by Bob Warburton who lives in Totley and who has given many illustrations to the Totley Independent in past issues. Copies are now available in the local library at £3.95 which represents very good value for money to all who enjoy our woodlands.

WELCOME LEAFLETS.

The Totley Residents Association Committee have produced a small booklet of welcome for newcomers to the district. It contains a map of the area, some useful information including telephone numbers and is generally designed to help people feel at home in new surroundings. Members of the Committee try to get these leaflets to people as they move in but this is not easy and other residents are invited to help by notifying members of the committee where such leaflets would be useful. There is a very good community feeling in Totley and it needs to be fostered and developed as much as possible.

THE INDEPENDENT FOR FEBRUARY.

The NEXT issue of Totley Independent will be available from the usual distribution points on Thursday 1st February. Copy date for this issue will be Saturday 20th January 1990.

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Bill Carter-Wigg.

Items for publication may be sent to or left at 1, Quarry Road, 2, Main Avenue, V. Martin's (Abbeydale Road South) or Totley Library..

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