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# TOLLEY AND FRIENDS

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Tolley  
Residents  
Association

DEC. '96/JAN. '97

No 199



A Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN S17 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Dore Methodists.

Dec 22nd 10.30am. Family Carol Service.  
6.00pm. Carol Service.

Dec.25th 9.00am. Family Service.

### Totley Rise Methodists.

Dec.11th 7.30pm. Carols by Candlelight  
Dec.22nd 10.30am. Family Carol Service.  
Dec.24th 11.15pm. Midnight Communion,  
Dec.25th 9.30am. Family Service.

### United Reformed Church,

#### Totley Brook Road.

Dec. 8th 6.30pm. Christmas Tree  
Decoration Service.

Dec.22nd 10.30am. Morning Christmas  
Service.  
6.30pm. Candlelight Carol  
Service.

Dec 24th 11.15pm. Joint Communion Service  
at Totley Rise Methodist Church.

Dec.25th 10.30am. Family Service.

### Dore and Totley Christian Fellowship.

Dec.22nd 11.00am. Christmas Celebration,  
Dore Junior School.

### English Martyrs.

Dec.25th 9.15am. Christmas Mass.  
Other Services at Meadowhead.

### Christ Church Dore.

Dec 22nd 9.30am. Family Service and  
Nativity Play.  
4.30pm. Candlelit Carol Service.  
6.30pm. Candlelit Carol Service.

Dec.24th 4.30pm. Crib/Carol Service for  
the Family.

11.30pm. Midnight Communion.

Dec 25th. 8.00am. Holy Communion.

10.00am. Christmas Morning  
Service.

### St. John's, Abbeydale.

Dec 22nd. 6.30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols.

Dec.24th 5.30pm. Christingle Service.

11.30pm. First Communion of  
Christmas Day.

Dec.25th 8.00am. Holy Communion.

10.30am. Family Service.

11.00am. Holy Communion.

### All Saints', Totley.

Dec.22nd 12.00 noon Christmas Memorial  
Service.

6.30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols.

Dec.24th 4.30pm. Crib Service.

11.30pm. First Communion of  
Christmas.

Dec 25th. 8.00am. Holy Communion.

10.00am. Family Communion  
with Carols.

11.30am. Cheshire Home Communion.

## TOTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The whole school from reception to year six were involved in planting bulbs in Green Oak Park at the end of October. It was organised by Sheffield Landscape Services and run by the Park Ranger Service.

I enclose a written account from one of the children.

### BULB PLANTING IN GREEN OAK PARK.

It was a lovely Autumn afternoon, the wind was blowing, the sun was shining and the ground was covered in a carpet of red, yellow and brown leaves. It was the 24th of October. Our class Y6 was going to Green Oak Park to plant some bulbs. All of Totley Primary School were going down, but our class was going at that moment. I was very happy as we turned out of school drive on to the pavement.

Finally we arrived at Green Oak Park after 15 minutes of walking, As we arrived we saw lots of holes and clumps of earth beside them. Then two nice gentlemen called George and John from the Park Ranger Services showed us how to plant the bulbs. They told us to start at the outside of the ring of holes and place the bulbs root side down into the holes. After that we had to break off some soil from the bottom of the clumps of grass, to let the air through. Then we took the remains of the soil and placed it on top, we stood on top of them to make them firm and level. When we finished planting 3 bulbs, I had a go at the bulb planter, which is a metal rod with a hollow cylinder at the bottom. You push the bulb planter into the ground and then you pull it out and you have got a hole to plant the bulbs in.

I really enjoyed planting the King Alfred daffodil bulbs because it would make the Park a lot nicer and daffodils are my favourite flowers. When Spring comes and the daffodils have flowered, I can't wait to see them. It will be like a carpet of yellow.

Danielle Quayle.

FRANCIS, MARY and ANNA HALL of AVENUE STORES WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR CUSTOM THIS YEAR.

A VERY HAPPY and HOLY CHRISTMAS and a PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

## GARDEN COMPETITION

The Totley Residents' Association Committee have been considering some possible steps to encourage gardeners in the area. This short report is to describe some of the thinking that has gone on so far and to invite comment or suggestions from others so that more firm proposals can be settled in time for summer of 1997. Put your feet up during these long winter evenings and dream up what you would like to see happen during the next year.

One suggestion is that we should run a competition for the best garden in Totley. The criteria for best would have to be determined but such qualities as colour, tidyness, variety, quality of produce etc are suggestions. The idea is that those who wish to have their gardens considered for the competition should nominate themselves by (say) 1st April, and then the gardens would be inspected by unannounced visits in the period between then and (say) 15th August. There might be three such visits during the period by an anonymous panel nominated by the Residents' Association Committee. Their judgements and comments would be announced at about the time of the Totley Show, early in September. It is thought likely that prizes would be available for the best three entries.

Another idea is that there should be a 'Garden Walk' organised at some time during the summer. Again this would require people to nominate themselves (or be nominated by neighbours) and a walk would be planned on some agreed day so that as many people as were interested could admire the work of those who were nominated.

There could be variations on these ideas or there is room for different suggestions. Perhaps we would need, for example, to distinguish between front and back gardens. Your comments are invited. Please pass them as soon as possible either to the Totley Independent at 6, Milldale Road, or to any member of the Totley Residents' Association Committee.

## OUR CHRISTMAS BABY

A babe was born to us this year,  
Not upon a midnight clear,  
Nor when the snow lay roundabout,  
But early in September.

No donkey ride along the road,  
No searching for a poor abode,  
Just travel in the family car,  
That morning in September.

No humble manger for a bed,  
No straw on which to lay your head,  
All modern comforts were to hand,  
That morning in September.

No shepherds from the fields afar,  
Nor wise men following the star,  
But friends and family saw you,  
That morning in September.

They did not bring frankincense and myrrh,  
Nor gold on you did they confer,  
But toys and bibs and babygrows,  
That morning in September.

You joined a loving family,  
Far wider than the eye can see,  
Founded by that other babe,  
Born in December.

Another babe born so long ago,  
In whose footsteps we hope you'll grow,  
We're glad you're here to celebrate,  
His Birthday in December.

## DORE & TOTLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH EVENT

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## SHEFFIELD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION.

Since the Midland Main Line was privatised and the franchise obtained by National Express earlier this year, so many new ideas have been introduced it is difficult to keep up with them.

First there was free tea or coffee for ALL passengers to London which was quickly followed by an offer of £29 return for TWO passengers (plus free tea/coffee).

Then came the news that new trains were to be purchased for the semi-fast Derby/Nottingham to London service and the frequency doubled.

Following that the 4-Sight ticket was announced which allows TWO to FOUR people to travel for an incredible £29 return PLUS a free Underground all day ticket for central London PLUS free tea/coffee. That offer lasts until 31 May 1997 but must be booked in advance. Tickets may be reserved by telephone (0345 125 678) provided you telephone at least 5 days in advance.

As if all the above were not revolutionary enough, a special Christmas offer has now been advertised of £20 per person for two people (must be two people) return Sheffield to London, which included FREE all day travel on central London BUSES and UNDERGROUND, FREE RESERVED SEAT and FREE £2 voucher to spend in the buffet car. Tickets must be bought in advance but are available until 31st January 1997. IN ADDITION you are automatically put in a prize draw for cash prizes up to £500 and for £5 you can upgrade your ticket to FIRST CLASS (Children go half price).

For full details or telephone booking dial

0990 125 241.

## MEMORIES of a TRAIN SPOTTER

As a young lad and a train spotter, I well remember the old sidings at Totley, it ran from the main road to just short of the Bridge between Totley Brook Road and Grove Road. Slow trains were shunted on to it to let passenger trains go through the Tunnel in safety in case of a breakdown. We used to climb on the fence and talk to the drivers as they waited to proceed. Useful information regarding the movement of engines locally was often obtained from our little chats. As the train left the siding we used to go and stand on the bridge, it was great fun as the steam rose through the wooden walkway and engulfed us for a few moments.

Don Martin. An Original Totley Rise-ite.

## SCOUT LOTTERY

Winners of the 1st Totley Scout Lottery Draw for October.

1st Prize. No.17.

Black & Decker Strim & Edge GL570c Strimmer.

Mr & Mrs Bevan, Sunnyvale Road.

2nd Prize. No.71.

£10 Voucher.

Mrs Walton. Stonecroft Road.

## DORE, TOTLEY AND BEYOND

"Dore, Totley and beyond" is the title of a new 100 page book by Brian Edwards. The publication has 153 illustrations supported by captions.

The book should now be on sale at local shops and also at Sheffield and Peak District book shops.

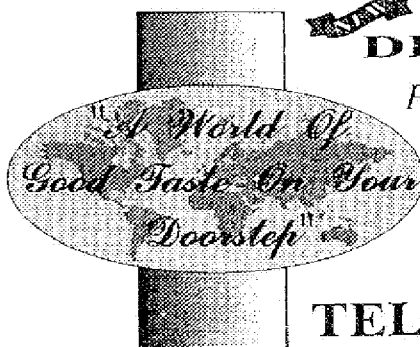
We hope to be able to review the book in the next issue of the Independent.

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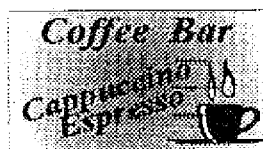


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## WHISPERER.

The lit up sign that was placed at the corner of Hillfoot road about two years ago has now disappeared, what about getting the telephone box moved to a more suitable place instead of in the middle of the footpath.

A new boundary sign has been put up near the brickworks which says Sheffield City Council TOTLEY, at last people driving into the area will know when they are approaching our village, the sign also says Yorkshire water working in partnership with Sheffield City Council.

The pinfold on Hillfoot road has had major work done in the last few months shrubs have been cut back and plants put in most of the work seems to have been done by Gerry Roberts who seems to have spent most of his summer there. Thanks Gerry you have done a good job and lets hope it can be kept tidy and not get overgrown again.

It was understood that a plaque had been purchased for the pinfold what has happened to it ?.

The trees on Baslow road near Totley Primary school have been chopped well back.

At a recent residents meeting it was decided to ask the council to look at the following areas:-

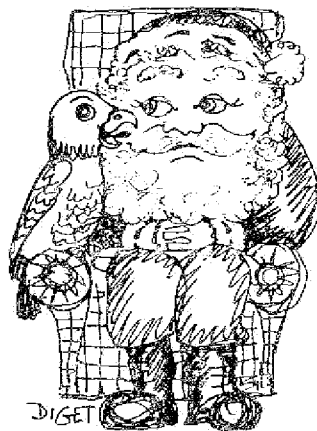
The Totley Rise shopping area has been a problem for many years. We have asked many times for it to be made a one way system but the usual excuse is "no money". All it needs is for two new signs at both ends. It would help if local motorists would go in at the top and out at the bottom

instead of trying to turn round halfway causing traffic jams.

The footpath down Chapel Walk to Penny Lane is all overgrown and also some bags of rubbish been dumped there by someone in that area. Down the steep path there is no fence or hand rail which is dangerous now it is getting slippery on the wet path.

The footpath on Baslow Road from the war memorial up to the cottages is cracking again and the lamp posts leaning towards the allotments, this was reported earlier in the year and nothing has been done. The council have promised to send out an engineer to look at it but no work is due to take place on Baslow Road in the near future unless of course the footpath or road vanish before then.

The road is carrying a lot more weight at the moment whilst the Hathersage road is closed. That is due to re-open about the 4th December.



DIGET  
"HE'S QUITE DISCHUFFED WITH TOTLEY, HE SAYS NO ONE HAS OFFERED EVEN A SNIFF OF HIS FAVOURITE TIPPLE 'STAGS BREATH' WHISKY!"

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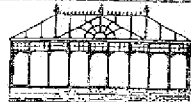
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## ORIGIN OF SURNAMES

The previous and first article on the subject of Surnames mentioned SMITH, and the fact that in many cases it had been abbreviated at some time after an original fuller version.

In my opinion, this is very regrettable because it changed a true fact into one of speculation for the subsequent owner. Many names have suffered similar amputations, but for the time being let us look at just two other popular names and pick up the associated names of the ones who survived the chop.

The first is SHAW which originates from the Danish SCHAU, or the Flemish SCHAUG, meaning a Wood. Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire were the principal places where a wood was referred to as a Shaw. Like people SHAWs also have a name for identification, according to some of the following reasons.

The owner such as the Church KIRKSHAW.  
The shape or size LONGSHAW, BROADSHAW now BRADSHAW, BOWSHAW (Curved) CRENSHAW, CRANKSHAW a circular wood around a hill giving a crowning effect, also possibly of royal ownership, OPENSHAW (with spaces).

The Type of Growth. ASPENSHAW, OLLERENSHAW, AUDENSHAW, ALDENSHAW (Alder), BIRKENSHAW (Birch), WITTHENSHAW (Willow), NUTSHAW, HARDSHAW (Hardwoods), RENSHAW and RAVENSHAW (Used by Ravens), CRAWSHAW (Used by Crows), EARNSHAW (Eagle), HENSHAW (Used for Poultry). Others. DENSHAW (In a valley, GRIMSHAW (Pierce, heavily overgrown). KERSHAW (Wet and overgrown).

The list above is not complete but the majority of names are still in use today and have survived the shortening.

The second name with a connection to the first, is of course WOOD, COMING FROM THE Anglo Saxon WUDA, Old English WUDU or Middle English WODE. Just like a SHAW a WOOD also had a name for identification, but with a slight difference, here are a few examples:-

Shape LONGWOOD, BOWOOD and BOWDENWOOD (Curved).

Size LITTLEWOOD, SMALLWOOD.

Name of owner. SPOTTSWOOD, SPOTTISWOOD.

Colour. GREENWOOD, BLACKWOOD (Dark), SHERWOOD (Bright, SHINING).

Type of growth AIZLEWOOD, HAZELWOOD, HAZELWOOD, HESELWOOD, HESSLEWOOD (Hazel), OAKWOOD, CALDERWOOD,

CAULDERWOOD (Alder), LINDWOOD (Lime), ROUNDWOOD (Rowan), BEECHWOOD, ASHWOOD, COPPICEWOOD (Young growth cut for baskets, wattle).

Animals. HOGWOOD (Pigs), SELWOOD (Shelter for animals), FOXWOOD, HAREWOOD.

Others. GOODWOOD, CARRWOOD (Marshy), CASTLEWOOD (Near a castle or belonging to a castle), MARWOOD (Believed to be evil), COLLINGWOOD (of disputed ownership).

Position of Wood in relationship to the settlement.

NORTHWOOD (Norwood), EASTWOOD, SOUTHWOOD, WESTWOOD, MIDDLEWOOD, NETHERWOOD (Lower).

Again the majority of the above names are still in use having avoided a cut. That is the first half of the WOOD story, the other half is when the name commences with WOOD and the latter part has been deleted, again a few examples:-

WOODBERRY, WOODBRIDGE, WOODBURN, WOODCOCK, WOODCROFT, WOODFORD, WOODGATE, WOODHALL, WOODHEAD, WOODHILL, WOODHOUSE, WOODLAKE, WOODLAND, WOODLEIGH, WOODMAN, WOODROW, WOODSIDE, WOODSTOCK, WOODWARD, WOODTHORPE.

You will now notice that when the Wood portion of the name is deleted we are left with a list of names currently in use, the owners of which would now be bearing a more definitive name, had such a deletion not taken place.

BERRY, BRIDGE, BURN, COCK, CROFT, FORD, GATE, HALL, HEAD, HILL, HOUSE, LAKE, LAND, LEIGH, MAN, ROW, SIDE, STOCK, THORPE, WARD.

Conversely, the owners of the above names could have at some time lost the WOOD start to their name or alternatively had an original name such as the following:-

ASHBERRY, BAINBRIDGE, BLACKBURN, JEFFCOCK, MOORCROFT, REDFORD, WINGATE, BRAMHALL, BROOMHEAD, BROWNHILL, MOORHOUSE, WESTLAKE, ROWLAND, FAIRLEIGH, NEWMAN, TOWNROW, GARSIDE, WAINSTOCK, GOLDTHORPE, MILLWARD.

Most of this shortening happened in the past when the majority of people could not read or write, and on the few occasions that a written record was made, the cleric possibly through idleness, entered the minimum necessary, and the person to whom it referred was not really in a position to make any corrections.

The cleric also entered what the words sounded like, thereby giving a variation to the numbers of ways a name could be spelt.

It is a fair bet that about 3350 years ago in Egypt, the scribes and stone masons got really fed up with knocking out the name TUTANKHAMEN and settled for a quick TUT TUT.

And so it goes on today, where the numbers of letters allowed in a computer program for Christian and Surname is insufficient to accept the intended entry, and subsequently prints out omitting part of the end, resulting in something like ARMITAG (Armitage), MIDDLETO (Middleton), DUCKWORT (Duckworth) appearing on circulars and junk mail.

Many of us are also guilty of corrupting names by giving nicknames to our friends at school, and although the correct name does not legally change, the nickname can, in many cases, remain with the recipients to the end of their lives.

If you do not pick up a nickname at school, then one may be received in the work place, such as IBBO for Ibbotson, SANDY for Sanderson, or BUNNY for Burrows.

Even newspapers are educating us to believe that a certain footballer's name is GAZZER or GAZZA, not forgetting FERGIE and DI.

TERRY PECKETT FFA.



## GARDEN BIRDS IN WINTER

BY Alan Faulkner Taylor.

Winter is the most interesting time for bird watchers, but then - most people are interested in birds. The search for food in winter brings species that are new to you into your garden. So take advantage of the cold, have a pair of binoculars handy by your kitchen window, and if you see a bird that looks quite like the usual visitors, lift up the binoculars and - well maybe not identify immediately, but quickly memorise certain features until you can consult a book.

Don't think colour only, because this is not the only means of identification. Very quickly try and take in the number of criteria;

- (a) size by comparison with a bird you know, such as sparrow or blackbird;
- (b) shape of beak;
- (c) is there a wing stripe, if so what colour?
- (d) distribution of colour. For instance coal tit is the same size as blue tit and has a distribution of colour very similar to the larger great tit; but coal tit has a rectangular white patch on the back of its head.

So - what visitors can we hope to see in our gardens during winter? If you live within 200 yards of woodland, such as Akley Bank or Gillfield Wood, then hope to see great spotted woodpecker and nuthatch on your nut container. You don't need to look through binos. To identify the latter because it invariably perches head down. Also if you have a tree, then if you see a bird walking down the trunk - you have a nuthatch. Incidentally, if you spot a small bird walking up a tree trunk, looking like a mouse, then you've seen a tree creeper; it has a very thin, downwards curving beak which it uses to winkle our insects from crevices in the bark.

Two members of the thrush family winter in Britain - fieldfare and redwing. When they first arrive in Britain in flocks, they roam the fields in search of insects and worms. When the snow or frost comes they fly to

hawthorns for the berries. When all these have been devoured, they fly into our gardens to take berries and windfall fruits.

Several members of the finch family are likely to pay visits; incidentally, the house sparrow is a finch. Greenfinch will be a resident in many gardens, but visitors may include chaffinch and goldfinch. Another member is siskin; these - as a small flock, regularly visit nut dispensers at the tail end of winter; at first sight you may think them greenfinches because of the bright yellow wing bar, but they're much smaller - only half an inch longer than a blue tit.

Another bird that tends to visit gardens nearing the end of winter is blackcap, often as a pair or even two pairs. It is the only member of the warbler family to stay in Britain for our winter.

Wren is a bird you may have all the year round without realising so. It spends most of its time in flower borders and entering gaps in rockeries in search of spiders. Its loud song is very distinctive, but then most people wouldn't know, would they?

You may hear a loud dreadfully raucous call - look out for one of Britain's most beautiful birds - the jay. Currently we have two regularly visiting our garden in King Egbert Road.

So - what about food? Most kitchen scraps excepting green vegetables are acceptable, but always tear up crusts into small pieces and dunk them in water before throwing them out. Wild bird food is always welcomed but most of this is seeds and will only be eaten by some species.

Birds must drink water, so several days of frost will cause distress. Replenish a bowl of water daily.

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## GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY

Alas cold earth, dost thou forget  
The scent of April's violet?  
Do wailing winds bemoan the death  
Of youth and joy and odorous breath.  
Are all these shrivelled leaves that fall  
Heaped up for beauty's burial?—  
Ah! No.No.No. the careful year  
Provides a bed, and not a bier;  
Though beauty's trance be long and deep,  
Her heart still quivers in her sleep:—  
Then leave her place of slumber bare,  
Let the loved sunlight enter there.

I thought this poem sums up the winter months when most of the garden looks a bit sad, we have the spring to look forward to, although we do have a bit of colour in the winter, the jasmine looks lovely with a sprinkling of snow on it, and I am looking forward to seeing flowers for the first time on the new witch hazel shrub. The various greens of the hellibores always help to keep down the drabness, and January sees the spring bulbs showing through the ground giving a promise of things to come.

### Flowers.

Protect tender plants with straw or bracken, cover with netting pegged down at the corners. Prune clematis jackmanii and its relations before the end of February. Remove all dead and dying leaves from plants, check over dahlias in store, remove any rotting tubers and dust with sulphur.

Dig and prepare new beds.

Place matting or insulation over cloches and frames protecting over-wintering perennials. During mild spells set out perennials such as lupins and michaelmas daisies. Early December is the last chance to plant late tulips. Plant out alpine and rock plants, choose a mild day. Firm in any plants which have been moved by frost or wind.

### Vegetables

Dig and manure ground, apply lime to acid soil especially if you are planting cabbage. Prepare runner bean trench. Sow onions (Boxing Day) exhibition varieties indoors, they will be ready to plant out in April and give a really good bulb in time for the Totley Show in September. Let's try to give Aaron a run for his money this time. Stake up sprouts and broccoli and pull off any yellowing leaves.

### Greenhouse and Indoor Plants.

Water sparingly and ensure that plants in flower are kept moist and away from hot fires and radiators. Increase the humidity around plants by placing them in trays containing pebbles or grit, which is kept damp. Support and tie bulbs and annuals, use insecticide pins in containers to control whitefly and aphids (some fuschias don't like this form of insecticide). If you are

unfortunate enough to get scale and mealy bug on your plants, paint with malathion or methylated spirits. Plant amaryllis, lillies, lily-of-the-valley and indoor gladioli. Sow cyclamens, geraniums and tuberous begonias. In December take cuttings of late chrysanthemums. Remove faded flowers and remove debris from all pot plants, keep bulbs fed and watered, after flowering move to a cool spot. Watch the weather and be prepared to give a little heat to protect the over-wintering plants in the greenhouse, on good sunny days open vents for a little while, to give the plants a bit of fresh air. Rooted Christmas trees will keep if given the right conditions, a large pot with plenty of moisture retaining compost is a must, and a long period indoors is to be avoided.

### Fruit shrubs and trees.

As soon as Christmas is over make preparations to winter wash trees and some shrubs, this will remove most of the over-wintering pests and diseases. Apply sulphate of potash 1oz per sq.yd. around fruit trees. Plant out fruit trees if soil conditions allow. Plant new rhubarb crowns. Prune apples and pears but not during hard frosts. Firm in any newly planted fruit bushes/trees lifted by frost. Keep an eye on tree ties. Check over apples in store, remove and use any suspect ones.

### Lawns

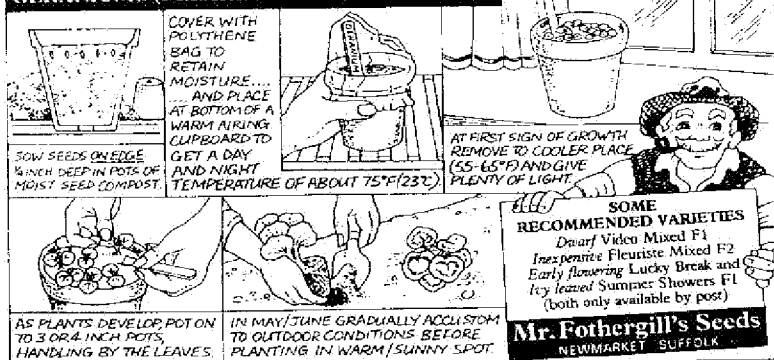
Keep clean, Keep off during frosts. Spike and top dress if you have not already done so.

I hope you all have a joyful Christmas, and a happy gardening New Year.

Tom. Busy Bee.



# GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS) FROM SEED



## MINCE PIES.

Mince Pies originated from Italy. They were oval in the shape of a crib with a small pastry baby in them to represent JESUS.

From Medieval times, in Britain, the Christmas Pie (remember little Jack Horner) had been baked. However, the Italian version had become more popular and contained shredded meat and fruit.

The Long Parliament of the Puritans, under Oliver Cromwell, made these illegal. Referring to the crib shape and baby, they were said to be 'Abominable and idolatrous'.

After 1660 the pies became popular again but became round and the name Mince Pie seems to have been adopted.

In the 19th Century, fruit, spice and alcohol were substituted, and instead of being served at the beginning of the meal, they moved to the end.

The Victorians had a novel custom with Mince Pies. They said if you eat one mince pie for each of the twelve days of Christmas, you will receive good luck for the next twelve months. But each pie must be eaten in a different house!

Mike Williamson

## POST OFFICE NEWS

**XMAS/NEW YEAR BANK HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.**  
In order to assist all our customers in the build-up to Xmas, the P.O. and shop will extend its opening hours during December - these being as follows:-  
Monday Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23rd

Open until approx. 4.00p.m.  
Saturday Dec. 7, 14, & 21st

Open until approx. 4.00p.m.  
The P.O. and shop will then be closed on the following days:-  
Wednesday Dec. 25th & Thursday Dec. 26th (Xmas Day and Boxing Day)  
Wednesday Jan. 1st (New Years Day.)

## PAYMENT OF PENSIONS & ALLOWANCES.

The dates for EARLY payment of pensions and allowances will be as follows:-

Due Date of Payment.	Payable on or after
Tues. Dec 24th	Tues. Dec. 17th
Wed. Dec 25th	Wed. Dec. 18th
Thurs. Dec 26th	Thurs. Dec. 19th
Wed. Jan 1st	Fri. Dec. 27th

## LAST AIRMAIL POSTING DATES.

To make sure your family and friends abroad receive a seasonal greeting in time for Xmas, we are listing a summary of the last airmail posting dates:-  
Rest of World Airmail.

U.S.A., Canada, India. Thurs. Dec. 5th  
Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand. Sat. Dec. 7th

European Airmail, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain Weds. Dec 11th

Other major E.U. countries Sat. Dec 14th  
For fuller details, pick up a leaflet from your Post Office.

## SEASONAL GREETINGS.

Glen, Jim and all staff at Totley Rise Post Office thank everyone for their custom during 1996, and extend their very best wishes for a Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year.

JIM WEBB. 2367223.

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# HORSES AT TOTLEY. by Brian Pescud

There're black ones, there're white ones, there're off-white ones, there're brown ones, there's a piebald one, there're brown ones with white patches (called blaisses) on their faces. There's also a donkey called April.

Alan my neighbour (he's the chap who writes articles about birds) and I, retired gentlemen of these parts, make our way most Sundays, come rain or shine, up to the rifle range area of Totley Bents to feed the horses. We carry ample supplies of carrots (kindly supplied by Martin Scriven, the greengrocer, at bulk price) supplemented on occasion by greenery such as cauliflower stalks or apple peel.

The first call is at Dave's stables. Here we are met by Paddy, a tall brown horse of docile nature, and one or two other horses also brown. These particular quadrupeds are well behaved and accept the carrots thankfully in orderly manner without recourse to squabbling. Each horse received two or three carrots and the lucky ones get a little greenery as well.

Paddy and companions, with some regret, watch us depart to the adjacent farm fields near the foot of Moss Lane. My shrill whistle brings four or five horses and a donkey to the roadside. The boss horse, name of Blackie, snorting with anticipation, now aged about 20 and a little arthritic, makes his way slowly towards us preceded by the others, names unknown, a large white horse of voracious appetite usually first in the queue. When Blackie arrives the others, having already eaten at least one carrot each, step aside respectfully while he receives his share. Blackie eats his carrots rather slowly these days. April the donkey knows her place but stubbornly passes in between the horses to ensure that she gets her share - we select the smaller carrots for her.

Further up Moss Lane at the side of the rifle range two Shetland ponies, one black name of Mawva and one brown and white called Jamie and a smooth brown thoroughbred horse are waiting. The tiny Shetlands have to give precedence to the horse but they are astute enough to get a share of the carrots thrown to them. Until recently they had for company an old grey mare called Dapple who, I recall, used to bite through the carrot with one chomp and you had to be wary that your fingers weren't bitten as well. Dapple died at the ripe old age of 34.

Higher up Moss Lane on the edge of the moors three young horses come racing towards us at the sound of my whistle. These show little deportment and push and shove each other as the carrots are handed out. Their former companion, a small reticent white horse, unfortunately also died recently.

On the return trip we call on Jimbo, Mack, Rhea and her new born foal Arun. Arun is Alan's favourite and beautiful. He is not old enough yet to take a whole carrot, even a small one, but Alan bites off small pieces which Arun accepts with relish. Arun is petite at the moment and his colour is changing from ginger brown to grey.

Mack, a young brown gelding, is one of my favourites despite his aggressive way of following us across the field, barging into us and barring our way until the last carrot is eaten. He is never convinced of this until we put the plastic bags in our pockets and hold up our empty hands to the sky. And so back home.

A couple of nut cases? - You may be right, but we enjoy it, the owners are friendly and don't mind (except one who leaves a notice on the field gate not to feed or touch the horse - which we respect) and the horses look forward to our visits - that's my opinion anyway.

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## TRANSPORT 17.

On behalf of Transport 17 I would like to thank all the Churches, Clubs, associations and individuals for their help and support during 1996. The library, Post Offices and local shops have also been very kind in displaying our posters for us. It is very much appreciated.

1996 has been a year of ups and downs but the commitment of Mike Finn and the Management Committee and our marvellous drivers and, of course, escorts has seen us through it.

We have had various fund-raising events and these will continue next year. Some the same and perhaps some new ones. We try to make raising money as pleasant as possible.

We have sadly lost some of our passengers this year. They will be missed and we send our condolences to their families. We have some new passengers and hope that "our buses" bring pleasure and enjoyment into their lives.

On behalf of all of us at Transport 17 may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Best Wishes to Doug Turner on reaching 3 score and 10 on the 12th of this month. Congratulations and thanks to him!!! Margaret Barlow.

## A DOCTOR PARSONS OR TWO OF TOTLEY

I recently had returned to me after a very long lend, a reference book entitled 'Strike True' - a history of No.80 Squadron Royal Air Force.

Tucked away at the back I found some noted, observations on Aircraft, Pilots and locations, referring to the period 1918-1920. These had been made by a Pilot of those times, a Sheffield 'lad' by the name of Tom Whittaker. One of the items reads as follows:-

Lieutenant O'Connor Parsons, son of a Totley Doctor. Became a Doctor after 10 years study, a Grand Lad.

Tom himself was a character. Born in 1900, he was flying Sopworth Camels in Flanders. It was mere chance that I met him at an ex-Service dinner. Tom was wearing a Royal Flying Corps. tie and me my Royal Air Force one. Conversation followed and we discovered that we had both served on the same Squadron, 20 years apart. Tom was still driving his Volvo Estate in his 89th year.

That's how I got to know about the Doctors. Is anyone able to fill in any details?

Harry Haigh. Tel. No. 2361305

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## FARMING SCENE.

Winter at last! Time to relax a little, now that the busy summer/autumn period is over. I can now retreat to the office in an evening and amuse myself reducing the backlog of clerical work i.e. 4 months of VAT returns and cash analysis entries, Ministry forms and other correspondence and, of course, bring you up to date on local and national farming news.

This time last year, most sectors of agriculture were enjoying very good incomes but things have changed quite drastically since then.

A record British cereal harvest of 25 million tonnes, plus higher production in the rest of the world have seen values fall by 25% from £120 to £90 per tonne. It looks likely that E.C. intervention stores, that were almost empty last year, will now start to fill again, as export markets are hard to find.

Similarly, the higher yield of potatoes has resulted in a 65% drop in values from £160 to £50 per tonne wholesale ex. farm. Again bigger continental crops have precluded substantial exports.

The B.S.E. crisis and confusion has distorted the milk and beef markets, with milk prices down by 1p. per litre and beef cattle prices by 15-20%. Pig producers have had a very good year, but prices are now falling rapidly as production expands.

The sheep sector has enjoyed much increased income this year, with lamb prices well up on last years, probably as a result of consumers switching from beef to lamb. Old ewe prices are at record levels as meat processors who used to use cull cows in their products are now having to use sheep meat instead.

The cool spring and dry summer weather combined to produce outstanding soft fruit crops this year. Again, this resulted in surplus production and reduced wholesale/retail prices, with the large strawberry growers who supply the retail trade being particularly badly affected. We achieved a 15% increase in our sales, due to a combination of factors including an extended picking season, the favourable weather during that period and increased yields of Tayberries, blackberries and raspberries as the plants grow and mature.

We are currently trialing another popular P.Y.O. crop, this time one that has an all-winter season! Have you tried our Field Fresh Brussels Sprouts sold still on the stem? When the majority of the sprouts on the plant are ready for picking, the stem is cut off at ground level, the surplus leaves are removed and it is then ready for sale. The beauty of this system for the consumer is that the sprouts continue to draw water etc. from the stem, particularly if they are left outside, thereby allowing the 'cook' to pick really fresh sprouts from the stem for days after it is purchased.

We finished potato harvest on November 1st this year, quite early for us, and hoped to have replanted this area with winter wheat by now (14th) but the continuing wet weather has prevented this. We are currently spraying our autumn sown crops with a residual

herbicide to kill both the weeds that have already emerged plus any that germinate over the winter period. This allows the crop to make use of all the nutrients in the soil, rather than having to compete for them.

Rosie our Highland cow, has been served by a Charollais bull hired especially for the 'job' and is due to calve in mid July next year. Angela (or is it Iona?) her calf, is now 11 months old and nearly as big as her mum!

Our practice of buying relatively expensive performance tested tups and selecting the faster growing, best shaped ewe lambs from our flock for retention as breeding ewes, seems to be paying dividends now, as our lambs were all ready very early this year, and sold at well above the weekly average prices. Our ewes have all been running with the tups for 3 weeks and only 3 appear not to be in-lamb now. These are probably barren, as approx. 3% go barren every year. Lambing is due to start on February 20th.

Our turkeys are all hen birds this year. They have the best meat to bone ratio, developing very large rounded breasts on a small frame. They are usually easier to pluck as well, giving a really clean looking finished article. Stag (male) birds can tend to be very stubbly when plucked, due to the continually increasing number of display feathers. I must admit, a fully mature stag displaying his white plumage against a blue/red head is a pretty sight.

Edwin Pocock

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## NEW BOOKS FOR LIBRARY.

Totley Residents Association has purchased and donated the following books for Totley Library.

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Jeffrey Archer   | 4th Estate      |
| 2. Bernard Cornwell | Enemy of God.   |
| 3. Maeve Binchy     | Silver Wedding. |
| 4. Ann Edward       | Road to Tara    |
| 5. Adrian Havill    | Man of Steel.   |

The story of Christopher Reeve.

We were able to purchase these books through donations given by the public of £25, and £25 from the Totley Residents Association. On behalf of Totley Library staff and the Residents Association I would like to thank the public. We are still collecting donations and when we reach the next £25 given by the public an additional £25 will be donated by the Residents Association towards the purchase of more books. This will then make a total of £100 donated by the residents of Totley to the library.

Margaret Coldwell. Chairwoman

## SLIMMER FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is nearly upon us again and the slimmers at the Dore and Bradway classes of Slimming World are feeling lighter and brighter ready for the festive season. The classes have shed an amazing 118 stone 8lb between them in the last few months.

The thing that constantly surprises the members is the amount of food you can eat, for instance as much meat, poultry and fish or potatoes, rice, pasta and pulses as well as fresh fruit plus so many 'sins' each day...and the pounds keep dropping off.

Consultant Alison Murphy would like to congratulate all the members for their wonderful achievement.

If you are interested in joining us please phone Alison on (01246) 410145 for more details.

## TOTLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Once again the year is drawing to a close. We've had a busy year, five library talks on many various subjects. Sports Day at the Cricket Inn and the Produce Show in September. This year we are having a Christmas Concert in All Saints Church Hall on Saturday 7th December 1996, 2pm - 5pm. (Details on the posters and in the magazine). I would like to thank the local Churches, Totley Library staff and our many speakers for their support during the year. Totley Residents Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Margaret Coldwell. Chairwoman.

## The Cats Protection League.

We are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning at Heatherfield Conservative Club, Baslow Road, Totley on Thursday 5th December. 10.00a.m. - 12 noon. Admission is 50p and includes coffee and biscuits. There will be a Tombola, cake and preserve stall and craft items. All the money raised goes towards the cost of cat food and veterinary treatment. Please come and support us.

## JOHN WADE SINGERS

On Friday and Saturday the 6th. and 7th. of December the "John Wade Singers" present a

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St. Johns' Church, Abbeydale 7-30 pm.

For further details tel. 01246 415778

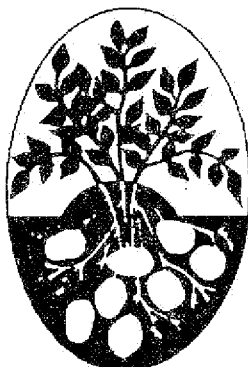
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## A FOOTBALLER'S HERO

The media always seems to be reporting about sporting stars especially footballers misbehaving on and off the field, possibly they are overpaid and pampered too much. The foot-balling heroes of yesteryear must feel rather puzzled at the state of the game.

Everyone has their own image of a true sporting hero. Mine is the late Ted Croker, the Ex-General Secretary of the Football League from 1973. His playing career was with Charlton Athletic and Headington United (now Oxford United) during the mid 1950's.

His real special courage was challenged on the fateful day of Friday 28th December, 1945. He had joined the Royal Air Force and trained as a pilot in South Africa, on single engined aircraft. Posted back to Blighty he started his flying training on twin engined planes. So along with Flying Officer John Dowthwaite, Flying Officer Ted Croker was given map reading tests by the Navigation Pilot Instructor, Warrant Officer (Robbie) Robinson. They boarded their aircraft, an Oxford from Advance Flying Unit R.A.F. Seighford, near Stafford, at approx 1.30 p.m. for a short round trip of some 140 miles over the Peak District area. The flight would be at low level, so they wore only Battle Dress Uniform instead of heavy winter clothing, a decision later to regret. As they flew over the plateau of Kinderscout, Ted Croker remarked 'we seem to be losing too much height.' Warrant Officer Robinson replied 'Do not worry, I know these hills like the back of my hand,' for he lived in the Handsworth area of Sheffield. Suddenly they hit a cloud blanket and the old Oxford trainer was really struggling and ice was building up along the wings. The airspeed rev. counters were not responding and they failed to maintain a steady climb. At around 100 miles an hour they skimmed clear of the area of Edale rocks and the Oxford struck the top of Brown Knoll, bouncing across the moor and coming to rest some 150 feet from point of impact. The time was now around 2.30 p.m. all the 3 crew were knocked unconscious for a short period. Ted Croker was the first to recover, and realised his friends were more seriously injured, for Robinson's jaw was broken

and he had leg and internal wounds. A few feet away Dowthwaite had a badly smashed left leg. Croker managed to find the parachutes amongst the twisted metal and wood, and wrapped his companions up to keep out the cold. He thought it was all a bad dream but now realised he had to get help or they would all perish. He was badly bruised, both his ankles hurt (later found to be fractured) but he had to get off that moor. Which way should he go, as they all discussed a route. He finally set off in a northerly direction as the swirling mist and darkness approached. Fate played a kind hand as he scrambled across the peat bogs and snow, for he chose the steep line down towards Jacob's Ladder, and the hamlet of Upper Booth. He was soon soaking wet and could not bear the pain in his ankles. Crawling on hands and knees, he came to the crest of the moor. The valley loomed ahead and he slithered along a stream on his backside, when he noticed smoke from two buildings. He inched his aching body out of the stream bed, and up the final bank. He finally collapsed at the front door of Lee House, where he noticed a Youth Hostel sign, he hammered away with frozen hands, where Mrs. Shirt gasped in amazement to find a bedraggled figure on her doorstep. Ted Croker asked for simply a bowl of hot water for his poor feet. He finally passed out in the warm kitchen. As Mrs. Shirt had to go down to the village of Edale to get help, the two injured crew members suffered a night of pain and terror as they still lay back on the icy moor. In the middle of the night the R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Team from Harpur Hill near Buxton, finally were alerted. Ted Croker recovered consciousness and was able to tell the rescuers the whereabouts of the crashed Oxford aircraft. For nine hours search parties scoured the hillside dragging stretchers and were unable to locate the site. They even walked within 400 yards of the plane in the darkness and still could not find the aircraft. They decided to resume the search at first light, and called for planes to fly across the area, where the wreckage was finally spotted at approx. 10.30 a.m. After 20 hours Robbie Robinson and John Dowthwaite were stretchered for one and a half miles across the moor and taken to R.A.F. hospital at Wilmslow, Cheshire, where because of frost-bite and loss of blood, Robinson had to have a leg amputated.

Ted Croker was the real hero in that epic adventure, for if he had headed in any other direction the time lapse would have been disastrous.

Ted Croker finished his R.A.F. service as a pilot instructor and left in 1953. He was awarded the King's Commendation for Brave Conduct in the 1947 New Year's Honours List. He later made his career as a Professional Footballer, and set a standard to be proud of the game. JOHN C. BARROWS.

P.S. The second engine has just been recovered from the peat bog only this year, and is now housed in a Museum at Macclesfield. Very little wreckage is still left on Brown Knoll.

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## TOTLEY & DISTRICT DIARY

**MONDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, All Saints' Church Hall, 10-00am. - noon  
**TUESDAYS** COFFEE MORNING, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 10-00am. - noon  
             CRAFT GROUP Totley Library.  
**WEDNESDAYS** COFFEE in the LIBRARY 10-00 am. to 11-30.  
**THURSDAYS** OPEN DOOR, United Reformed Church, 10-00a.m. - noon  
**THURSDAYS** PUSHCHAIR CLUB, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 1-30 to 3-00 Telephone  
             2363157 for further information

### DECEMBER

**TUS** 3rd. COFFEE & CAROL EVENING Totley Scout's H.Q. 7pm. full details last issue.  
**WED.** 4th. CHESHIRE HOME CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING 10-00am. to 12 noon.  
**THUR** 5th. CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING. Heatherfield Conservative Club, 10 am. to noon  
             Admission 50p. In aid of Cats Protection League. Details inside.  
**SAT.** 7th. TOTLEY RESIDENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY, All Saints' Church Hall, 2-00 pm.  
**SAT.** 7th. LADIES BARBERSHOP CHORUS, Dore & Totley United Reformed Church, 7-30pm.  
**SAT.** 7th. COFFEE MORNING & MARKET, Dore Methodist Church Hall, 10 am to 12,  
             Arranged by the U.N.A. for Chernobyl Children's Project  
**FRI./SAT.** 6th./7th. GRAND CONCERT PERFORMANCE, John Wade Singers, St. Johns' Church.  
             7-30pm. Details inside.  
**WED.** 11th. CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 8-00 pm. Mince pies  
             Tea & Coffee, Collection for "Childline"  
**FRI.** 13th. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD, Christmas Party, 7-30pm. Abbeydale Hall  
**FRI./SAT** 13th./14TH. CHRISTMAS CONCERT, Dore Church, Dore Male Voice Choir. For  
             further details ring 235 0431  
**TUES.** 17th. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Methodist Church Hall, 10-00 am.  
**SUN.** 29th. FAMILY SERVICE, Dore & Totley U.R.C., 10-30 am. Conducted by Mr. Hedley  
             Siddall. No evening service.

### FULL LIST OF CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES INSIDE

### JANUARY

**FRI.** 10th. TOTLEY EVENING GUILD, "My Garden Through the Seasons" by Tom Steele 7-30pm.  
             Abbeydale Hall.  
**SUN.** 19th. BREAD & CHEESE LUNCH, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall, 12noon. To raise  
             money for the Corrymeela Community, working for reconciliation in Northern  
             Ireland.  
**TUES.** 21st. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, Methodist Church Hall, 10-00 am.  
**TUES.** 21st. COFFEE MORNING, 4, Grove Road, 11am. Totley & Dore Support Group for the  
             Visually Impaired.  
**WED.** 22nd. A VISIT TO INDIA & A CHILDRENS VILLAGE a talk with slides by Ted & Trish  
             Lamb, Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall 8-00 pm.

### THE INDEPENDENT FOR FEBRUARY 1997

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independent will be  
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