

# TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED BY TOTLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION SINCE JULY 1977  
FEBRUARY 1992 No.150 15p

## 150<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE



MILL LAKE TOTLEY RISE WITH  
THE ROCHAS MILL COTTAGES  
NOV. 1991 BRIAN EDWARDS.

An apt illustration for the 150th issue of the Totley Independent for this is the beginning of Totley; about 100 yards behind the cottages is the confluence of two boundary streams; the Old Hay Brook forming the boundary with Dore and the Totley Brook which separates Totley from Holmesfield and Bradway. The cottages were originally built to house workers at the nearby, long demolished Totley Rolling Mill. The names of inhabitants appear as long ago as the 1841 census. One hundred yards in the other direction, at 6 Milldale Road is the latest editorial office of the Totley Independent and home of the sixth editor, Les Firth.

(continued page 2 )

A former chairman of TRA, Les follows in the footsteps of Geoff Nixon, Brian Edwards, Mike Williamson, John Butterwick and Maurice Snowdon over these fifteen years. In the early days, it seemed too much to hope that the 'Indy' would last for all this time. It had been born on Thursday, 8th March, 1972 at the meeting of a Residents' Association Steering Group chaired by the late Rev. Alan Jockel. Several people would claim to have had the idea of a newsletter but probably Geoff Nixon could claim to be the originator aided by Jeremy Watson, (who went on to greater things in journalism), and Brian Edwards. Over the years The Independent has had help from many sources but probably not quite as consistent as John Perkington who, together with helpers, has delivered and collected over a hundred thousand copies. And we should not forget the indefatigable Harry Woofinden.

The actual launch day was chosen as 4th July (easy to remember as American Independence Day) and a revival of the Totley Sports Day celebrated the occasion. After a break of 50 years or more the sports were revived and continue to this day.

Memories of early meetings at Chapel House on Hillfoot Road are still vivid and amidst all the hard work there was always time to enjoy a good laugh. We were amazed to find that we had a resident aged 104, but even more so when he suggested we met an even older friend. One reader told us off for publishing a letter from his father who had claimed the title of last surviving male member of the family. The Independent staff even generously entered a team in the Blackmoor Chase - the offer was not repeated!

These were the days before word processors and high technology; it was a laborious job to prepare The Independent for the printer. Most months some of the promised copy arrived just before midnight on the day before publication; one contributor could always be relied on - our nature correspondent Bob Warburton who has written and illustrated many fine articles.

Contributors and helpers have been many over the years; the readers have kept constant faith but perhaps we should also mention the advertisers who have helped to make The Independent 'independent'.

Early discussions about the inclusion of advertising were slightly controversial but at times there simply was not room to include all the interested parties. There was

a time when we wondered whether the early sombre advert of John Heath, the undertakers, was an omen for the longevity of The Independent.

All the happy memories are perhaps tinged with some sadness with the loss of good friends to The Independent: Alan Jockel, Brian Wood, Frank Taylor, Bill Carter-Wigg. However, all those involved over these 150 issues have one thing in common; the enjoyment derived from communicating with present and former Totley Residents spread throughout the world. Long may it continue.

Brian Edwards.

#### TOTLEY INDEPENDENT

In August 1979 I took over the editorship of this magazine from Brian Edwards, a task I was to carry out for six years.

My strongest memories are of constantly burning the midnight oil on Saturday nights (deadline date) through 'til the early hours of Sunday morning, sometimes watching day break, in order to complete the magazine for the printers on Monday morning. Also of the planning of holidays throughout the coming year, so they didn't clash with copy dates.

Then there was the take-over bid! (All is revealed, but why no headline at the time?) Needless to say we declined. A correct decision, as the newspaper making the bid was eventually to cease circulation.

We were also fortunate to see a procession of student journalists contribute to our pages, all of whom went on to become full time journalists and were grateful to the opportunities given to them by the magazine.

I have continued to enjoy and support the magazine under its very capable and dedicated editors.

During my period of office both I and my family made many friends through the Independent and I know the Independent continues to make new friends, and by the people of Totley, is considered a friend.

Long may it continue.

Mike Williamson

## A LABOUR OF LOVE

We'd only lived in Totley for three weeks when we bought our very first Independent - No. 88 - the number reminded us of the Fulwood bus we used to use. The headline read, 'THE LAST ISSUE'. Perhaps you remember it. We knew nothing about editing community magazines, but it seemed to us that this chronicle of local life couldn't be left to die. Brian and Mike had worked on it for 8 years and as we were to learn, it's a big commitment. In our two years of producing it, it was our only hobby, (apart from the children). We told Mike we'd do it. We loved it so much we still get it!

We had to leave because the other job took us to Nettleham near Lincoln. They had a good magazine there already. The TI left a void, but before we'd found something to fill it, Charlotte got meningitis. We put our efforts into setting up a support group for the Meningitis Trust. We're now in Tadcaster and Charlotte goes to the excellent school for the deaf at Boston Spa. She's 5 now and doing well with speech and language. Oliver's 7 and doing well too.

What a pleasure it is to be writing for the TI again! What a privilege it was to run it from 1985 - 1987. It was certainly a good way of getting to meet new people in a new area! We met such a lot of wonderful people - none more so than dear Bill Carter-Wigg, or Pseudotrachos, as he sometimes liked to be known! (Remember the Totleymericks?) You must miss Bill and his remarkable talent. We are proud to have two of his originals hanging in the hall. Remember Ken and Mary Gee too? They ran Totley Post Office for a couple of years until April 1986. And Stewart Rayner, who became Vicar a little before that? And Chris Emsley - the bobby with his own column in the TI?

Our spell also covered the revival of Totley Show and the revival of Totley Sports Day. But Monnybrook Kennels closed down. (1 Pratt Mews always seemed a funny address for a dog charity!) We even saw the launch of the Independent on a national basis. I bet it still sells fewer copies in Totley than the TI!

We tried some new ideas for the TI. Remember the coloured covers to help people notice when a new issue was out? Remember the leaflet drop to promote issue 100 in advance (which just happened to clear John P's garage of

back numbers at the same time!) Have you still got your 100th issue? And your commemorative pen? They'll be valuable one day.

It all comes flooding back --- those long planning meetings in the Cricket (whether or not there was anything to plan) --- the theatre nights at the United Reformed and Saint John's Halls --- the lounge floor covered in paste-ups and the smell of 3M spray adhesive through the house for days (no wonder it took so long to sell it) ---- sweeping out Edwin's barn for the Barn Dance after the sheep had over-wintered there --- 'skip in college car park' (for months we thought that was a keep fit class ---)

Totley is special. We never ceased to marvel at how much goes on. There's something for everyone. And for those who think there's nothing for them, because they can't get out ---- well --- there's always the TI. The lifeline. The window on the local world. Happy 150th Birthday. May there always be a Totley Independent.

Jackie and John Butterwick

## 150TH ISSUE

I share with all readers of the Totley Independent a sense of joy and satisfaction that it has been possible to keep going for so long. Now, as a reader I eagerly look to see what is happening in our community and always find something of interest.

But, having been Editor for 3 1/2 years, I am also grateful for the opportunity of getting to know so many people who are behind these events. As 'comers-in' to Totley it is difficult to imagine how we could have got to know so many people, with so many different interests, so quickly, in any other way. This is not just a comment for the next aspiring editor but a reflection of an aspect of community life which we think is important and which the Independent does so much to encourage.

No editor, of course, can do a job without the contributors and no review would be complete without that acknowledgement. Above all, however, we need to express our deep thanks to John Perkington who has not only encouraged successive editors but also coped very effectively with the advertising and distribution side for most, if not all, of the life of the Independent. Keep it up, everybody!

Maurice Snowden

## ROLL OF HONOUR

by C.N.Railton Holden

All praise to Helen Sharman, astronaut extraordinary. Greenhill is proud of her. A brave girl indeed. There is very little evidence that a celebrated space traveller ever originated in Totley, though I do concede that one or two locals look as if they have arrived from other planets. But we in Totley must not be dispirited, for records from the past prove that we do possess a gallery of passably illustrious and moderately notorious forebears.

For example; Joe and Albert Slater. In 1835 these two young men, convicted of stealing a sheep from the moors above Calver, were ultimately transported to Botany Bay. They had both been born on a Totley farm into a family of twelve children and, out of consideration for that family, some of whose ancestors may still be living in our district, I am persuaded not to mention the farm in question. But if you learn of neighbours who have booked a holiday in Australia, they may very well be travelling there simply to place flowers on timeworn graves in Wagga Wagga or Sollibingbang.

A more recent totley notable was Edgar Rawlings who died only last year. He served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment during the retreat from Mons, took part in the Gallipoli landings, returned to a dole queue in Britain and very soon afterwards transferred himself to America. Here, he graduated to road haulage in the employ of a Mr. Capone. Despite the fierce gang warfare and police militancy of those times, Edgar's only setback was a five dollar fine for parking his truckload of high octane whiskey on a double yellow line outside the White House.

He lived to the ripe old age of 95 and we should honour him, I think.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a Mrs. Amelia Cullins whose address is Box 173, Bowmanville, Paranganau, New Zealand. To assist her progress in the preparation of a family tree she wishes to have information about Joshua Stubbs from any Totley resident whose family records may include this gentleman. Joshua was born in the year 1840 in the old Greenoak Inn which once stood near the site of the present Busy Bee. He was the third son of the landlord, was not interested in tavern work, tried his hand as a farm labourer but eventually went to sea. The last letter received by his family came from New York where

Joshua, in the capacity of assistant cook, signed on for a voyage in a 282 ton brig bound for Genoa with a cargo of crude alcohol. If you have useful information about Joshua, please do write to Mrs. Collins. The name of the brig was, "Marie Something-or-other".

On occasions in the past I have warned the human race that Godfrey Shorthouse has a first-class honours degree in sheer, unmitigated boredom. Just after Christmas, while I was in the Co-op, searching pockets for my wife's shopping list and thus utterly off guard, the shorthouse came down like a wolf on the fold. I was cornered, backed against the tomato soup shelf, and blitzed for at least half an hour, mainly about the wisdom, virtue and omnipotence of Godfrey. I was almost freaked out when he suddenly changed the subject to an Aunt Mildred in Baslow who, so I heard him say, was related to the Borgia family and I became even more alert when he claimed that Lucretia had been born in Brinkburn Vale Road. This is indeed a far-fetched notion and since Aunt Mildred's nephew could offer no firm supporting evidence, I do urge readers to treat the claim with the utmost caution. The Godfrey Shorthouses of this world make a mockery of genuine research.

Now, if we are looking for an authentic Totley heroine, then Gladys Hornbuckle of Queen Victoria Road certainly deserves consideration. She had qualified in Sheffield as a nursing sister and when the Boer War commenced she immediately volunteered for service in South Africa. Although her fame is eclipsed by that of Florence Nightingale, nevertheless hundreds of wounded British soldiers owed their recoveries to the care, sympathy and long hours which Gladys devoted to her work. In one letter home to her parents there was reference to an enema administered to General Fuller. (Here I have deemed it judicious to use a pseudonym). Unfortunately, the editor of a Sheffield newspaper gained unwarranted access to the letter, whereupon he wrote, scathingly, in his column, that had General Fuller visited the fighting line once or twice he would not have required an enema. Journalists, alas, can sometimes be outrageously vitriolic and if the Press Council were functioning with integrity it would never permit reporting at this unseemly level. But - well done, Gladys!

## TALES OF THE UNBELIEVABLE

I was at the hospital a short time ago. I say that, not to try to get sympathy from my readers, because my health is that which is usually described as "rude" (just my health, that is), because I was there as a 'carer', giving such aid and comfort as possible to the real patient. As we sat there on padded benches and chairs I had time to speculate on such an appointment of many years ago. In those days, having been suitable scrutinised by almoners, matrons and other assorted dragons, we waited on long wooden forms. Forms polished to a high degree by man sit-upons shuffling ever onward, until the glorious goal was reached of 'next please'. Whatever complaint existed on arrival at hospital was supplemented by backache and boredom, and frightening stories of all the complaints of the rest of the multitude gathered there. I strongly suspect that many young urchins who were supposed to be sitting quietly would have been given a thick-ear, except that would mean another queue in the Ear Department. Things are different now-a-days. There is what is humorously called a 'Car Park', and a set of contraptions called 'Lifts' which can only be achieved by the strong and forceful, who have no business being there in the first place. But now to our appointment. One must be fair, and to remember that there must be bottle-necks at times when the patient is kept waiting. Such as the girl sitting alone in a compartment waiting for attention, when a white coated man comes in. She plucked up enough courage to enquire, 'Shall I go behind the screen and get undressed?' "you can if you like" came the answer, 'but I am only the

electrician, here to change an electric light bulb'. So much for waiting, but one has to admit that the service is ever kind, gentle and caring. This magazine is no place even to suggest that there may be political differences about hospital management, but all parties avow their attempt to improve their lot. I wonder if with all our preventative pills and potions we shall be so healthy that the doctors will be standing by their cubicles waiting for us to turn up. Moreover, I am very happy to read about a wonderful pill which we can look forward to. A pill, which will improve our memories, so that the days of our forgetfulness will be behind us. All we need now is another pill to remind us to take the pill which will do the trick.

### SPONSORED SWIM

Leanne Pugsley (aged 12) wishes to thank all those who sponsored her in the 5,000 metre Marathon swim at Concord Sports Centre in aid of Help the Aged. Leanne swam 200 lengths in 2 hrs.12 mins. and raised £109.00.

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## WEATHER ( by Vivian Filleul )

Totley weather ran true to form over the last year in being generally 2 C lower than the recordings at W.P. (Western Park), along with an average of 10 mm more rain falling on us than W.P. The longest spell of dry weather was the first fourteen days of December although there were two other spells which almost took the record.

No doubt you'll remember that December then made up for its dryness by deluging us with 1 1/4" of rain on the 21st - nearly half a months rain in the one day! The total of rain for that particular week was 4.08" which is more than the 3" per month for Totley. There were 5 months with above W.P. average rainfall, one equalled and 6 below. May was almost 2" below and August 2 1/2". Despite this, January and February were the only months when we were drier than W.P.'s recordings.

We had 59 nights below freezing as against 39 recorded at W.P., the coldest being on 9th February when -9 C was recorded (-6.3 C at W.P.) This was in the middle of a spell of 15 nights below freezing which also included four consecutive days when the temperature didn't reach 0 C. The lowest reading was - 2 1/2 C. Seven days recording 0 C and one 2 C, one 1 1/2 C and then the dizzy heights of 4 C. This occurred around 9 days of snowfall (with the last day of January being the other day it snowed).

To warm up our hottest day was 30th August when the thermometer reached 28 C, while W.P. recorded 28.1 C on the 11th July as their hottest day. June and August were the only two months when the maximum months temperature was higher than W.P. For comparison with other years:

Date	Rain Totley	Rain W.P.
1989	885 mm	737.1 mm
1990	866.5 mm	763 mm
1991	782 mm	666.7 mm

Date	Hottest Day Totley	Hottest Day W.P.
1989	30.5 C	31.4 C
1990	32 C	34.3 C
1991	28 C	28.1 C

Date	Coldest Night Totley	Coldest Night W.P.
1989	- 7 C	- 2.2 C
1990	- 4 C	- 1.8 C
1991	- 9 C	- 6.4 C

Date	Sun Hours W.P. Only	Highest Wind Speed W.P. Only
1989	1724.9	54 mph
1990	1542.6	76 mph
1991	1342	64 mph

## VICTIM SUPPORT SHEFFIELD

Victim Support Sheffield is a registered charity which offers support and advice to victims of crime. Wherever possible victims are visited by a trained volunteer in their own home. A preparation course for new volunteers will be held on:

Saturday 28th March	10.00 am.- 4.00 pm.
Saturday 4th April	10.00 am.- 4.00 pm.
Saturday 16th May	10.00 am.- 4.00 pm.

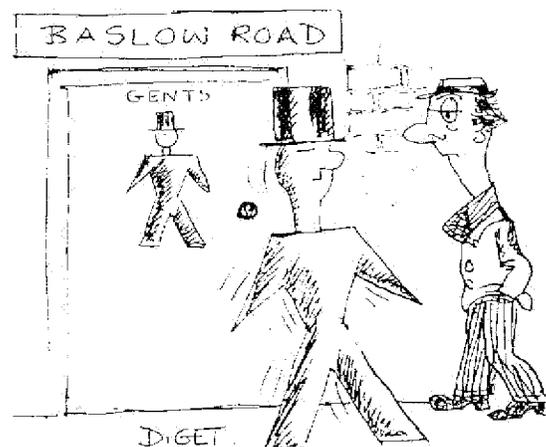
If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and can make all these dates, please phone our office on 788891 or call in at Bessemer house, 59 Carlisle Street East for further information. We are particularly keen to encourage and recruit volunteers from the black community.

## ANIMAL WELFARE APPEALS

The RSPCA Shelter on Spring Street have greatly appreciated the quantity of cat and dog foods donated during the Christmas Food Appeal, many thanks to all who contributed also to Oldales, Totley Rise, 'Valerie of Dore' and Totley Library who, once again, acted as collection points.

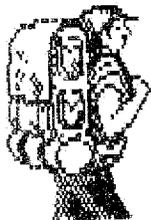
Mr. & Mrs. S. Raikescroft, Totley Pharmacy, also thank all those who contributed to their appeal. Cash donations are being sent to the Cats Protection League, and the animal foods to Millhouse Animal Sanctuary at Fulwood, who are both most grateful for this support.

Mrs. D. Styles.



## WALKS AROUND TOTLEY

- continued - number 19



Let us explore some hidden delights around the Cordwell Valley, distance 10.5 miles, allow 5 to 6 hours. O.S. Map Pathfinder S.K. 36/37 2.5 inch. to mile useful.

Start from Totley Hall Lane, field track to Gillfield Wood, cross the White Bridge and ascend path to the charming Fanshawe Gate Hall, finger post route across field area to Lidgate, (glorious views abound). Cross the B6054 road, stone stile and finger post points the route across fields to the fine manor house of Horsley Gate Hall (Historical setting) Proceed through the adjacent caravan site, path crosses a stream and we swing slightly right across 3 field lengths and descend stone steps into Cordwell Lane, walk 50 yards right to Eweford Bridge which spans the infant Millthorpe Brook. Head along Unthank Lane (signed) for another 50 yards and stile on our right takes us forward crossing 3 more fields to the magic of Unthank Hall (fasten gate), before proceeding right along Unthank lane.

For 1/2 mile we fringe the hidden delights of Burrswood (Nature Reserve Area) sharp bend along the lane and a further finger post shows a route on our left across 6 field lengths and several stone stiles to negotiate to Sycamore Farm and the Barlow Road. This area is known as Meekfields. Head left to the hamlet of Moorhall and after 100 yards enter lane behind Moorhall Farm, stone stile and markers across 2 fields and a gate takes into the realms of glorious woodland (ideal lunch spot). Keep to the right hand side track and for nearly 1 mile we thread forward through Moorhall, Meekfield and Rosewood, never a dull yard, we may see the heron in flight along the backwater paradise. Leave the wood via a gate to field path, cross a sturdy wooden bridge over the Pingle Dike and easy to follow path joins a lane and ford over the stream to the village of Millthorpe maybe we could tarry awhile for refreshments at the popular 'Royal Oak Tavern' before ascending Millthorpe Lane, where after 150 yards on our left finger post points over field areas towards Holmesfield. Keep the tiny brook on our left as we cross a small causeway to open field sections, head

straight towards Holmesfield Church and after three further stiles we join the lane at the side of the 'George & Dragon Inn'. Take care crossing the B6054 road. Linger awhile, to admire the views and the historical scene around Holmesfield Church. Head back for Totley via the lane past the 'Angel Inn' (Holmesfield seems to boast more inns than houses), descend Holmesfield Park Wood to lane at the side of Woodthorpe hall. Iron kissing gate on our left and we are soon around familiar ground of Shepherds Hill and the new wooden bridge that spans Totley Brook.

In Gillfield wood head forward to Totley Hall Lane and home. Hiking boots could be desirable if this walk is attempted during the winter period. The charm of Cordwell Valley will whet our appetite for planning further walks.

J. C. BARROWS

## Cheshire Home

On 4th december the Home held its' Christmas Coffee Morning. We would like to thank all those who donated cakes, bric-a-brac, nearly new and clothes and books; also helpers and, of course, everyone who came along to make this a very successful event. A net total of £314 was raised on the day and this will be used to purchase equipment for use by the residents.

1992 is Mickley Hall's Silver Jubilee Year and there are 10 special events being organised to help celebrate. Further details of these events will be notified as and when firm arrangements have been made. The first event will take place on Saturday, 21st March which will be a Coffee Morning at Chatsworth House - tickets may be purchased from Mickley hall at a cost of £4.00 each. However, there are only a limited number available, so apply early to avoid disappointment

As this is the first issue in 1992, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

The home needs people on a voluntary basis to assist residents to eat at meal times.

The main need is at 11-45 to 12-15 or alternatively at 4-45 to 5-15.

If you feel you are able to help, please telephone the General Manager on Sheffield 369952 during office hours.

## LUNCHEON CLUBS & DAY CENTRE

In the autumn of 1973 a public meeting was held to highlight the need for some provision to be made for the increasing number of elderly and disabled housebound people in our area.

Encouragement and support was given by Family and Community Services, Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care and also Dore and Totley, Totley Rise and Bradway, Council of Churches.

In January, 1974 the first Luncheon Club/Day Centre opened on a Tuesday at the United Reformed Church offering a home-cooked meal in a caring environment together with other activities for lonely, elderly and disabled people. Volunteers were drawn from various church denominations for caring, cooking and transporting.

In June 1977 another Luncheon Club started on a Tuesday in the Dore Old School by members of a Bible Fellowship Group in Dore.

With the availability of the first Transport 17 Community Mini-bus in 1984, other Luncheon Clubs were able to open as follows:

in 1984 Totley Methodist (Friday), in 1986 St. Johns (Thursday), in 1986 Bradway (Wednesday), and in 1989 Dore Methodist (Wednesday). In 1987 the Dorcas Day Centre started at the United Reformed Church to provide specialised care for people with special needs who were unable to attend a Luncheon Club. Dorcas is open on a Monday and Friday each week.

Representatives from each of these groups, and the Social Worker for the area, meet together every two months in order to discuss any concerns and to update the list of people in the area who would benefit from attending a Luncheon Club.

The waiting list never comes to an end and in order to continue this vital work, we need more volunteers all the time. If you can spare some time (often on a monthly basis) and would like more details, please get in touch.

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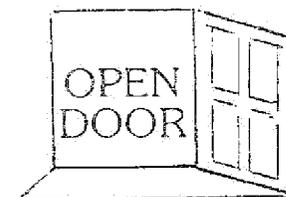
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## Scout News

### 1ST TOTLEY SCOUT GROUP

Programme for 1992 includes National 'Promise '92' Appeal for money to fund scout groups throughout the nation in under privileged areas - both inner city and rural. Look out for the National Woggle Day - 25th September, and other special events throughout the year.

We shall also be staging a district activity weekend for 12 to 13 1/2 year olds on 15th - 17th May.

We shall also restart our aluminium can recycling scheme - test your cans on a magnet - if they stick they are steel so put them in your wheeliebin for recycling. If they don't, they are aluminium and we will collect them. Just hand them to a cub, scout or beaver - or post them through the special post box at the scout hut on Aldam Lane. We can get 45p a kilo to help group funds - and subsidise our summer camps.

Thanks to all those who helped in any way with the Scout Christmas Post!

NOTE: There are vacancies in all sections of the 1st Totley Scout Group. Contact

Alan Smith (Beavers) 361287 AGE 6 -7  
Mick Stokes (Cubs) 351669 AGE 8 - 10  
John Lawry (Scouts) 368566 AGE 11 +

John Lawry  
Scout Leader

### TOTLEY SCOUTS XMAS DRAW RESULTS 215TH

1st	PERRY	1406	HAMPER
2nd	FOSTER	535	KETTLE
3rd	G. THIRSK	1366	TURKEY
4th	COLIN PRYERS	765	CHICKEN
5th	PILGRIM	804	CAKE
6th	CHRISTINE NAT.W	1477	WINE
7th	MRS. STOKES	781	WINE
8th	ASHLEY DICKENSON	414	CHOCOLATES
9th	PARSONS	129	CHOCOLATES
10th	MARPLES	1507	CHRISTMAS PUDD

### 85th ST. JOHNS ABBEYDALE SCOUTS, CUBS & BEAVERS

The new year has started with a busy programme planned for all the sections. The Cubs' highlight will be a camp at Gradbach, Nr. Buxton and for the Scouts a camp on the Gower Peninsula, South Wales.

In between, there will be various activity weekends, including at May Day Bank Holiday, a Dads & Lads camp at Drum Hill, Nr. Derby.

The next fund raising event is an antique faire at St. Johns Church Hall, 21st March open 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Lots of stalls of real antiques - no bric-a-brac etc.

Socially, we have a barn dance on Friday, 3rd April, contact Mike Hughes for tickets.

## *whisperer.....*

As we print our 150th edition we take a look back at some of the first articles we printed 15 years ago.

The pinfold was to be cleaned up - what an excellent job was done by Stan Bingham and his helpers. The first sports day was held in Green Oak Park, the Tug O'war was revived. New developments were to take place behind the Fleur De Lys on Totley Hall Lane, the building of a new day centre at Green Oak View at a cost of £35,000 - and many more changes have taken place over the past years.

The footpath and bankside on Totley Rise have had a clean and tidy up at last. Have they forgotten the center of the dual carriageway which still looks a mess?

Also the leaves on the footpath between Main Avenue and Totley Post Office - why do they have to be reminded of this every year?

The empty shops at green Oak look very messy and untidy and can't be good for the rest of the shops in this area. Is it not time something was done with them?

The Old Station building at Dore and Totley station is undergoing re-furbishment and is, we understand, going to be turned into a restaurant - has anyone thought about the car parking as there is no room now.

Mickley Lane has been closed recently - does anyone know the reason why?

### YORKSHIRE ART CIRCUS

The work of the Yorkshire Art Circus in publishing books with a Yorkshire flavour is becoming much better known. Their new catalogue for 1992 has recently become available and offers another 7 volumes ranging in price from £4.99 to £9.95. All are lively and local to Yorkshire.

There is also a backlist and remaindered items increasing the range. The remaindered items are offered at #1 plus post and packing.

To find out more the address is School Lane, Glass Houghton, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF 10 4QH.

## RICHARD FURNESS



Richard Furness was what the Victorians would have called a local worthy. Eyam, Chesterfield, Hathersage and Dore each have their claims to him, but as he spent his adult life in Dore, it is appropriate that the Dore Village Society are the publishers of Josie Dunsmore's fine

new biography of him.

He was born in Eyam in 1791, the eldest of the nine children of Samuel and Margaret Furness. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed for seven years to a Chesterfield currier, then he spent a year in London before returning to Eyam to work at his trade. In 1816 he fell in love with Frances Ibbotson, married her and went to live in Hathersage with his in-laws. At the age of 30 he moved to Dore with his wife and three young children to become the village schoolmaster. Here he remained for the rest of his life.

The new school and the schoolhouse, which was to be his home for the next 27 years, had just been built between the church and the Town Green. Six more children were born to Richard and Frances during their time here. He died in 1857, nine years after his retirement, and was buried in Eyam churchyard.

His varied activities were summed up in a verse he wrote about himself:

I, Richard Furness, schoolmaster, Dore,  
Keep parish books and pay the poor,  
Draw plans for buildings and indite,  
Letters for those who cannot write;  
Make wills and recommend a proctor,  
Cure wounds, let blood with any doctor;  
Draw teeth, sing psalms, the hautboy play,  
At chapel on each holy day;  
Paint sign-boards, cut names at command,  
Survey and plot estates of land,  
Collect at Easter one in ten -  
And on Sunday, say Amen.

Josie Dunsmore has looked at these claims and has concluded that they were justified. Furness must have been a handy chap to have around. His portrait shows him as a strongly-built, intelligent-looking man. On the other hand, she feels that he was not very competent at either of the tasks for which he received a salary!

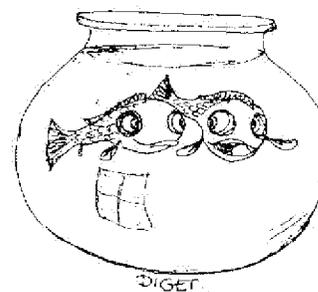
In Dore his lasting memorial is the present parish church, which he designed. But he is remembered with affection in both Dore and Eyam for his music and his poetry. His carols are still sung at Christmas time. At Dore, 'Let sorrow and darkness' and 'Awake my harp' are particular favourites, at Eyam, 'On the dew-besprinkled dawn' and 'Hail, delightful sacred morn'. Local bands still play his tunes. One was so popular in Bradwell that it became known as the 'Bradda Anthem'.

Richard Furness' wider claim to fame rests on his poetry. He was living at the time when James Montgomery and Ebenezer Elliott were writing for a local and a national audience. Almost all of Furness' poetry was written at Dore but most of it was unpublished until after his death. His best poem, 'The Rag Bag', which was written in 1832, deals with the social evils of his day, in a Derbyshire setting. Ebenezer Elliott said that he would, 'give my ears to be the author of that poem'.

Josie Dunsmore conveys the warm humanity of this local hero, who is remembered so well in Dore and Eyam. But her book is much more than a biography. There is much here on the social history of the places where Furness lived. It will delight all who are interested in local history.

I, Richard Furness ... The Life and Works (1791 - 1857) is published by the Dore Village Society at £5.50 and is available from Green Home and Garden Supplies, Causeway Head Road, Dore, or from Totley Library. Alternatively, copies can be obtained by ringing Sheffield 352107 in the early evening.. It is hoped to arrange local outlets for sales in Eyam and Hathersage.

Dr. David Hey  
Division of Continuing Education  
University of Sheffield



"In all this fuss over boiling water, no one thought of ours!"

## Farming Scene

Here we are in mid January and no real winter weather has arrived yet. Livestock that would normally be housed inside now are still outside enjoying the fresh air and a bite or two of grass. This has not reduced stocks of winter fodder sufficiently to lift the prices of hay and silage which are currently very low, even if you can find someone willing to buy it!

The ending of E.E.C. subsidy on lamb sold for meat has resulted in very low numbers coming onto the market and rising prices, particularly for lambs of export quality.

Most autumn sown crops are looking well, but we have suffered severely from rook damage to our wheat crops, with 12 acres having to be replanted due to them digging up the seeds after it was planted. This is a very expensive way of 'feeding the birds'!

We are now preparing our P.Y.O. fruit for next seasons crops. The raspberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants have been pruned and 2 rows of 'Stanza' redcurrants planted. The fruit from this variety makes very good redcurrant jelly. The existing strawberry fields have had the alleyways between the rows cleared of weeds and surplus runners, ready to apply a residual herbicide this month which will stop the annual weeds growing till after harvest. We shall be planting another 3 acres of Strawberries in March, 2 acres of which are a new and much better late variety called Rhapsody which is particularly suited to northern climates.

### FARMING FACTS

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT??

Since 1974 food prices in the shops have risen by 60% while the prices farmers receive have only risen by 35%, with inflation being over 80% during this period.

The average farmer earns less than £11,000 per year, with income now falling by 10% per year. He takes 10 days holiday a year while working in excess of 60 hours per week.

In 1962 the family on average income spent 30% of this on food. Today this figure is down to 12% only just higher than the % spent on alcohol!!

If British agriculture went completely 'ORGANIC' production would drop by over 40%, prices would rise sharply, and we would become dependent on food imports from other countries.

70% of farmland receives no chemical sprays, and the tonnage of chemical used has dropped by 40% over the last 10 years, due to the introduction of safer, lower volume treatments.

In a recent Ministry of Agriculture test using a machine that could find 1 part of chemical in 1 trillion parts of food, in 3,500 food samples, only 1% were found to contain chemical residues, none of which were at or near harmful levels.

Edwin Pocock

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## HEIFER (UK) PROJECT

### HEIFER IS COMING TO TOTLEY!

Our local United Reformed Church is adopting the 'Heifer' (U.K.) Project for about a year.

'Heifer' is a registered charity which gives aid with self respect to third world villages and farmers.

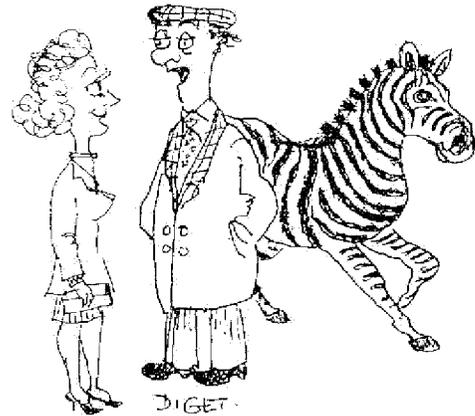
In simple terms the message is, 'Don't give powdered milk - give a cow!'

'Heifer' send livestock to over 130 countries. The livestock list includes: cows, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, rabbits and even bees!

The farmer or village is shown how to feed & rear the livestock before the gift is made, with the farmer promising to give the first-born to another local farmer (most livestock is already pregnant before being donated).

We hope you will help us to support this 'end product' charity. If you or your local group would like more information, please ring Alan Muxlow on 368482, or see Jim in Martins' shop. On Sunday,

March 15th, John Fenner, the Director of Heifer (U.K.) is speaking during the 10.30 a.m. service at Dore and Totley united Reformed Church, when you are welcome to join us.



"What's so unusual about a zebra crossing on Baslow Road?"

### Puzzle Corner

The answer to December's issue was as 5p

A new puzzle for you in the March edition of the Independent.

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# Gardening Tips

150 issues of Totley Independent - that's quite an achievement for a voluntary publication. Well done to the editorial staff past & present.

This column has only been on the go for 49 issues, so I'm quite a newcomer. I hope you enjoy my little corner of your magazine and find it helpful, I certainly enjoy compiling it, if you have any comment, queries or criticisms, please write to me I will answer every letter sent. Must crack on with issue 49.

Cheerio for now,

Tom Busy Bee.

## FLOWERS

Trim back winter flowering heathers as blooms fade.

Keep an eye on those dahlia tubers, discard the ones which have rotted or cut out small rotten areas & dust with sulphur.

Fill in any gaps in wallflower beds before the plants begin to grow actively.

Replanting of herbaceous perennials can be done now, prepare soil well with well rotted compost or manure.

My little book says sow sweet peas under glass, but I have found that waiting a month or two is better unless you are showing early, (if you are you won't need me to tell you what to do).

Clean up all the pots and seed trays if you haven't done so already, you will be needing them soon.

Sow in warmth bedding geraniums & tuberous begonias.

Mulch around the flower beds to discourage weed growth & protect roots.

## VEGETABLES

As soon as sprouts have been gathered the storks should be cleared from the ground.

Herbs such as sage and thyme can be replanted, large clumps can be pulled apart and rooted pieces planted.

Dig over any plots not already dug and lime or manure (not both) to condition soil.

Top dress spring cabbage with nitro chalk.

Sow parsley pots indoors for summer use

If you haven't sown your onion seed do it now they will be ready in time for the Totley show.

## FRUIT

Newly planted blackcurrants & raspberries should be pruned severely - blackcurrants to within 2 - 3 inches of the ground. Raspberries about 6 - inches.

If you haven't pruned your gooseberry, do so now. A moderate thinning out is all that is necessary.

Early in the month is the last opportunity to tar oil winter wash fruit trees - choose a calm, dry day.

## TREES & SHRUBS

Cuttings from rhododendrons and azaleas are not easy for the amateur to root, but plants can be readily increased by layers pegged down in a mixture of sand and peat at this time of year.

Winter flowering shrubs should be pruned as soon as flowers fade.

To encourage strong growth, prune hydrangea paniculata hard back, in a similar way to buddlia.

Check tree ties for chafing or over tightness.

## GREENHOUSE & INDOOR PLANTS

Bring into greenhouse outdoor chrysanthemums to let the warmth bring on the cuttings.

Spray fuchsias on warm sunny days to encourage young shoots.

Watch your ventilation - the temperature can rise quite rapidly.

As schizanthus become established in their final pots, they should be fed once a fortnight with a weak liquid fertilizer. All feeding of pot plants should be done sparingly.

Cuttings of young fuchsias put in now will root quickly and make good plants.

Lobelia cardinalis can be potted now, pull away single sheets with roots attached and pot up separately in a 3 1/2 inch pot.

Cyclamen prefer a cool spot in the house and well watered - remove flowers when they fall over.

Remove faded leaves and flowers from plants and keep floors and benches tidy.

## LAWNS

Keep off the grass if it's frosty.

**SOWING TINY SEEDS OF BEGONIA, BUSY LIZZIE, ETC.**

A GOOD WAY OF SOWING TINY SEEDS IS TO MIX THEM WITH A LITTLE FINE DRY SAND SCATTER THINLY OVER THE SURFACE OF MOIST SEED COMPOST.

AND COVER WITH A SHEET OF PAPER OR GLASS TO RETAIN MOISTURE

KEEP IN A LIGHT PLACE AND A TEMP. OF 65-70°F

WHEN SEVERAL SEEDLINGS APPEAR REMOVE COVER BUT SPRAY FREQUENTLY

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SEE HOW TO SOW AND PLANTING OUT ARE COVERED IN LATER COLUMNS

# February Diary

- WED. FEB. 5th. (and each Wednesday in Feb.) FAT BURNING CLASS, ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL, 8-00 pm. - 9-00 pm. Price £1.50
- THURS. FEB. 6th. (and every Thursday) COFFEE MORNING, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, TOTLEY BROOK ROAD, 10-00 am.- Noon
- THURS. FEB. 6th. (and every Thursday until Easter) LADIES KEEP FIT, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, 7-30 pm. - 9-00 pm.
- THURS. FEB. 6th. QUIZ NIGHT, SHEPLEY SPITFIRE, MICKLEY LANE, 9-00 pm.
- TUES. FEB. 18th. TOTLEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD, METHODIST CHURCH HALL, 10-00 am.
- THURS. FEB. 20th. QUIZ NIGHT, SHEPLEY SPITFIRE, MICKLEY LANE, 9-00 pm.

## THE INDEPENDENT FOR MARCH

The NEXT issue of the Totley Independant will be available from the usual distribution points on Monday 2nd March. Copy date for this issue will be Tuesday 18th. February 1992.

### EDITOR

Les Firth, 6, Milldale Rd., 364190

### DISTRIBUTION AND ADVERTISING

John Perkinson, 2, Main Avenue, 361601

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Mike Williamson, Colin Wells, Dorothy Firth,

Items for publication may be sent to or left at 6, Milldale Rd. 2, Main Avenue. V. Martin's ( Abbeydale Rd. ) or Totley Library.

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## CHILDREN IN NEED

Holly and Richard Measures with Anna and Steven Wilkinson dressed respectively as The Snow Queen, Clown, Bugs Bunny and Coster Monger, together with Thistle the Dog wish to thank everyone who supported their Children in Need Appeal Collection on Saturday, 23rd November.

They collected along the Baslow Road between the Main Avenue area and Bushey Wood Road raising a fantastic £71.59.

Thank you, everyone, for your generosity.

We welcome letters about local affairs and will publish as many as possible. However the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Editorial Staff or Totley Residents Association and must not be imputed to them.

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