

Watch out: help to trap Toadhaters!

SOMEONE there is that doesn't like the *Toad*. Piles of everyone's favourite newspaper are being confiscated from local pubs and thrown in the bin. For some reason, there are people round here who don't want you to read the *Toad*. We can't imagine why.

The first *Toad*-grabbing attack came at the Swan in Higher Walton at the end of September. We had been asked to supply the *Toad* to the pub, so we left a pile on the bar.

But within a couple of hours someone marched in and grabbed the whole pile, shouting: "No-one in here is going to read this ****!" And he dumped all the *Toads* in a bin.

Boozers were appalled. One said: "We like the *Toad*. He had no right to do that." Another said: "The whole village is horrified. He has committed political suicide." A

By our Chief Crime Correspondent

gentleman from Bamber Bridge said: "He will get a lot of grief over that."

The identity of the culprit is hotly debated. Some eye-witnesses claim that he bore a close resemblance to the mayor of South Ribble, but they are clearly mistaken since no mayor would ever engage in such violent, spiteful, undignified, and unscrupulous behaviour. Nor would any mayor expose himself to a charge of theft or an allegation of gross misconduct to the Standards Board.

So the culprit must have been an impostor, cunningly disguised as the mayor. We can be sure that the culprit was not the mayor himself because he is not described as wearing expensive robes, a golden chain, and a crown.

Apart from declaring that

nobody is allowed to read the *Toad* the only remark he was heard to say was: "It's your round." Well, we know a lot of people like that.

Where can we find the person who wants to stop people reading the *Toad*? There may be a clue in what happened the very next night at another local pub -- the Old Oak in Hoghton Lane.

The Old Oak has long provided piles of *Toads* in its bars so that people have ready access to the best of writing and thinking round here. But some people, clearly, don't like that.

They could, if they wished, write, publish, and deliver their own newspapers. But they will not. Or they cannot.

Despite its enormous popularity with council staff as well as the public, the *Idle Toad* has been banned from all South Ribble Borough Council premises since 2005. There is no ban on anything published by the Labour Party, the Conservatives, or the Liberal Democrats.

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Cartoon by Ensie Andrew

AUTUMN 2008

No. 343

Price: One Eurogroat

The Idle Toad

was founded in 1981 as *Labour News*. First banned in 1996, it took its present title in 1997.

TOM SHARRATT, 14 Coupe Green, Hoghton PR5 6JR (01254-852978), is a member of Lancashire County Council and South Ribble Borough Council.

Many councillors and MPs support us, though they may not be free to say so. We are grateful, nevertheless, for their goodwill.

We are also grateful to all our delivery volunteers for their enormous help. If you would like to deliver, give Tom a ring.

NOT A REAL TORY?

A YOUNGLADY in Gregson Lane gave one of the defecators some real ear-ache when she bumped into him the other day. "Please,

please," he whined, trying to excuse himself, "I am not a real Tory." What is he, then? Another impostor? Do tell.

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