



Photograph by ace lensman Tom Sharratt

CRICKET GIFT: Skilled woodworker Ian Hunter, of Hoghton, who carved a model urn, bat, ball, bails, and stumps to celebrate England's stunning victory in the Ashes three years ago, has presented his handsome work to Gregson Lane Cricket Club, which is expected to award it as an annual trophy. Mr Hunter, who used elm and pine, has won many prizes for his outstanding craftsmanship. *Gregson Lane: striving to do better, page 31*



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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 0JR (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.

The Toad is dead -- long live the Toad!

IT'S BEEN a rough twelve months for the Idle Toad. In January last year one of our four members on South Ribble Borough Council defected to the Tories. In the May elections another lost his seat and left us. And in December yet another defected, first claiming he was to be an independent and then joining the Tories. Losing three councillors just like that is not a record

By Lord Toad
 to be proud of.
 Since we no longer have at least two members on the council we can no longer by law form a group. So the latest defection marks the death of the Toad as a council group.
 But we are most encouraged by the number of readers who have voiced their continuing support --and, in some cases,

their eagerness to stand for election in our name. There will, it seems, be no shortage of Idle Toad candidates in future. The Toad lives on.
 Meanwhile, someone, we hear, is going round telling everyone that the *Idle Toad* has ceased publication, never to be seen again.
 Liar.
Quest for quality,
 page 26

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