



A Toft Lampoon

Toby Morling of Toft (pictured above), wrote this satirical poem around 1970, in protest about a local farmer's ploughing encroaching onto the Mill Lane Drift and posted it on the Drift for all to read. Many thanks to Gill and Koran Collett for recording it at the time and preserving it.

The field was tilled from end to end,

Beside, the lane made a bend.

The people, long, short, few and lot

said, "Till this lane you shall not!"

"Put up the posts," the people cried,

"Make the farmer keep his side.

"Put up posts not quite straight,

"Put them like a figure 8.

"Then let the farmer sow,

"And reap more corn from a crooked row."

The tradition of lampooning dates back to at least the mid-17th century and it was a powerful means of satire and protest against individuals. Its modern-day version is probably seen in pseudonymous and anonymous tweets, blogs and other types of internet postings.