



H. Turrall & Co. Ltd. Flies the nest

For over 50 years, the village of Dolton has been home to one of the world's leading producers of fishing flies. The business was started in 1962 by Colonel Hugh Turrall working out of an old chicken shed adjacent to Northbrook along Brook Road. He built up the workforce to 6 staff, with sales to wholesalers in Britain and Canada, but suffered a heart attack – prompting the sale of the business and cottage to Tod and Mary Marshman in 1971.

Growth followed: the old chicken shed was replaced by a purpose-built block and stone building on the same site. The business grew and staff numbers increased to sixteen together with some thirty outworkers in the area surrounding Dolton. In 1978 the Company were chosen as the “Best rural business” a competition sponsored by *The Sunday Times*. A similar award was made by *Country Living* magazine in 1991 at a time when the company won five design awards from the European Fishing Tackle Association.

Turrall flies have been sold in their millions world-wide from Alaska to Australia and from Argentina to Azerbaijan. Equally, the company imports materials and services from a dozen different countries.

In 2012, Tod Marshman retired and the business was sold to the company's major overseas suppliers, who have now decided to move to Okehampton, bringing to a close its life in Dolton. The present staff, most of whom live in Dolton, are being asked to transfer to the new location.

Mr and Mrs Marshman are hoping the premises will find new life as offices or workshops for someone wanting to bring fresh enterprise and employment to the village.