

**The Second Annual Produce show  
(In fact, the best yet)**

Never had the village hall looked as colourful as it did at this year's Produce Show. The flower arrangements at the top of the hall, the paintings and art work, along one wall, fruit and vegetables down the other, and lots of produce, and arts and crafts in between, provided a wonderful display. And everyone agreed that it was all very impressive – highly competitive but in a friendly way!

No greengrocer or supermarket sells such blemish-free, perfectly formed, shiny vegetables like such as those displayed . How long must it take to give beetroot and potatoes such a sparkle? And has there always been such a variety of tomatoes? And what makes a leek grow to about 3 feet? Would anyone eat a pumpkin that was as big as the average family saloon, and if not, what would you do with it? To be fair, it could probably feed the whole of Topcliffe and Asenby for a week.

The flower arrangements were also varied. The brief was to use an unusual container and so we had funky orchids in a coffee jug and cup and saucer (the editor's favourite), containers made from a hollowed out melon, a coffee grinder, a potty and a lamp.

The artwork revealed that Topcliffe and Asenby harbour some very talented artists who beaver

away, creating some beautiful paintings in their spare time. There were also some very good photographs of the area.

Cakes, bread, pots of jam and lemon curd.....I could go on.....

Judith Lowe, instigator and organiser of the event, presented Grahame Marsden, the overall winner, with an award and a signed copy of "The Flower Expert" by Dr DG Hessayon.

The Tattler editors, Ange and Vicki to you, would specially like to thank All Our Readers for being so generous, contributing so many raffle prizes and then kindly having the good grace to buy tickets so they could receive them all back again. We made £74! I know, amazing!! Well done everyone.



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**Note from a Tattler advertiser**

I would just like to congratulate all the team at Tattler for putting together such a professional publication. My advert has been in it for several years now and consistently proves to be exceptional value, producing great responses and leads. Keep up the good work!

Andrew Turner (A Turner Electrical)



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## THANK YOU

I would like to thank the residents of Topcliffe Ward for again voting for me at the recent Hambleton District Council election. As always, I am available to help with any problem concerning not just Hambleton District Council but also North Yorkshire County Council. Please email

[Cllr.neville.huxtable@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.neville.huxtable@hambleton.gov.uk)

This address covers both Councils, or phone me  
01845 501068

Yours sincerely

Neville

## Topcliffe Parish Council News

We have planted four ornamental trees on Long Street and the Sheepwash has been excavated by Jimmy Binks.

### Millennium Book

Doug Allan has taken over the administration of Topcliffe's Millennium book, of which none remain. The Parish Council will order another reprint only if there is sufficient demand. If you wish for a copy, please let Doug or the clerk know.

### Winter Maintenance Parish Scheme

Following two harsh winters and tightened budgets, NYCC is running a new voluntary winter maintenance scheme to enhance the level of winter maintenance already provided. NYCC is unable to clear all footpaths in the county but is able to offer training to a team of volunteers from each parish in order to keep priority footpaths clear. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the clerk on 578663 or at [topcliffepc@gmail.com](mailto:topcliffepc@gmail.com)

### Thank you

The parish council would like to thank the army at Alanbrooke barracks for allowing Topcliffe football team to train on their astroturf. The parish council would also like to thank Anne Marie and Josh Barningham for clearing weeds along Long Street.

*Garry Key (Topcliffe Parish Council Chairman)*

## Shooting the Past

Here is a photograph of Topcliffe United, Winners of Thirsk District League, 1912-1913. It's unlikely that any of Our Readers was an actual team member, but perhaps someone recognises a parent or grandparent. The print of this lovely picture was given by Richard Chapman, once a resident of Topcliffe, but now living in York. He was here for a small reunion although has plans for a larger reunion of Topcliffe football players from times past, next year.



He was born and lived in Dean's Square and reminisced about the water supply for all the houses in the square being supplied by one tap. Interestingly, he said he was born prematurely and the milk lady at the time gave his mother a pint of milk a day to feed her very small baby. It sounds as if there's always been an Anne-Marie in Topcliffe!

Further images from Topcliffe (both historic and current) can be found on the Topcliffe website: [www.Topcliffe.net](http://www.Topcliffe.net).

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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<b>Garry Key (Chairman)</b> Cliff House, Long St. 578900	<b>Peter Palmer (Chairman)</b> Hilltop Farm 578057
<b>David Bowman (Vice Chair)</b> 21 East Lea 577843	<b>Judy Lowe (Vice Chair)</b> Green End Dairy 577911
<b>Lynn Heidstrom</b> 32 East Lea 577437	<b>Mel Arkley</b> Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
<b>Mark Bowen</b> 23 Manor Close 07703 040471	<b>Grahame Marsden</b> 8 Jamesville Way 578156
<b>Amanda Jameson-Allen</b> 77 Long St 07944 236595	

**Isobel Peters (Clerk)**

Tel: 07739 258650 [isobelpeters@googlemail.com](mailto:isobelpeters@googlemail.com)

## Funky Fundraising Fair

Topcliffe Primary School held a Funky Fundraising Fair last term in aid of a charity which was formed to help people with far fewer opportunities than themselves. The Mettupalayam Charity is centred on improving the lives of people based in the area of Tamil Nadu in Southern India. Support from the charity is focused on education, nutrition, disability, credit unions, health and welfare reform, farming, and support for the elderly.

The Topcliffe children ran the Fair on a business enterprise basis. They had taken into account all their costs and balanced these against their takings which left them with a profit of £389.57. Face-painting, and a deliciously tempting cake stall, lots of games and competitions, and the once-in-lifetime opportunity to throw a wet sponge at an unfortunate teacher deservedly produced an extremely good donation.



*Tiger, tiger burning bright.... With the help of face-paint*

## Churchyard Restoration

Work has recently started on clearing over 30 years of overgrown ivy, saplings, and other accumulated waste from the graveyard at St Columba's Church. The work is being undertaken to allow the condition of retaining walls to be assessed for damage and strength. The work will also allow the graveyard to be resurveyed to ensure our records are up to date.

All the manual work is being provided by the Community Payback Team from North Yorkshire Probation Trust. The church is also providing its own project team to oversee this work and to liaise, where necessary, with the village.

During the landscaping work, various saplings will be removed, resulting in varying amounts of logs and kindling becoming available. This wood is free to all villagers. If you would like a supply, please contact Linda Carver on 578014. Donations would be welcome to fund further work in the graveyard. If anyone would like to assist the church project team in investigating the graves, photography, issuing of updates to The Tattler, landscaping

## The Topcliffe Educational Foundation

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation is a charity which makes small grants for the purchase of books, to students who have recently left school and are in their first degree course at university or the equivalent. To be eligible, the student must live in the parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area covered by the parish as now constituted together with Marton le Moor.

The Charity's income is fixed and limited, therefore the value of any single grant will depend not only on the funds available to distribute but also on the number of successful applications.

Applications are sought in September/October and the Trustees meet in December to approve grants. Students who have received grants in previous years will automatically receive an invitation to apply for 2011.

Anyone seeking further information, wishing to apply or questioning their eligibility to apply should ring Geoff Hall on 01845 578324.



design etc, please get in touch with Linda Carver. We believe that being involved with this work would be very useful information for CV development. At least one of the church team is a retired professional project manager.

Steve Yates

On another matter, St Columba's is in desperate need of a publicity person to help their newly formed "Events Committee", consisting of myself, Jenny Roberts, Joan Blair, and Charlotte and Chris Graham. We are looking to plan, in a more structured way, the various church and social events that we organise from time to time, and to develop new ideas. We would love to find an enthusiastic person who would be happy to design (and produce?) posters and other such publicity material, as well as being able to keep newspapers and other local media informed about what is going on.

John Phillips (Telephone 577034)

## A Jungle Challenge

Jaz Jameson-Allen, a 15 year old Ripon Grammar School pupil, is preparing for an expedition into the jungle as part of the Vietnam and Cambodia World Challenge. Altogether, 60 pupils from the school will be participating, and before the actual trip, they are each faced with an extra challenge of raising £5000. Fortunately, they have a year to complete this no less daunting part of the task.

The trip is divided into four parts. There will be a few days' acclimatisation in Ho Chi Min City before the group move on to a two day trek in the National Park. This will be followed by the second part, which is the main trek in the jungle, where they will have the opportunity to put their camping skills to good use and where they can learn about survival skills in the challenging environment.

The third part will call on the youngsters to carry out a project. Last year some pupils helped to improve facilities at an orphanage for children who had lost one or both parents to AIDS. There are many opportunities to work with a range of rural and urban projects.

After all this work and exertion, the young explorers will be treated to a well-earned rest when they can visit the temples of Angkor, the palaces of the Nguyen emperors in Hue, or the beaches of Danang. Teams might also opt to explore the floating markets and unique habitat of the Mekong Delta.

Jaz is about to begin Year 11 which, of course, means GCSE's. She has taken maths a year early and says that she hopes to become a surgeon. Being slightly built, one of her main worries about the trip is carrying her heavy rucksack, and the ordeal of the necessary injections. There is every opportunity to get fit with regular trips to the gym, walking, and the imminent Three Peaks Challenge in September. Supermarket bag-packing, baby sitting and car cleaning are just some of the ideas for raising the necessary £5,000.

If visiting these amazing places wasn't enough of an incentive for the Ripon pupils, they will also be eligible to acquire extra UCAS points by carrying out the World Challenge, as well as having an impressive and attractive addition to their cv.

Jaz is hoping to attract sponsorship when she tackles the Three Peaks when any money raised will go towards the Vietnam and Cambodia World Challenge. If any Tattler readers would like to sponsor Jaz, please email her on [topcliffe@googlemail.com](mailto:topcliffe@googlemail.com). Her advert for babysitting duties is elsewhere in The Tattler.



*Intrepid explorers Jaz and her friend Flora Holmes*

**Apologies:** The editors would like to apologise profusely for making *two* mistakes in the last issue of The Tattler. In the article about Topcliffe Play School's wonderful multi-coloured play area, it was stated that Ben Lowe of Wensleydale Fencing created a revamped log cabin for the children. As many of our readers probably know, it should have read **Swaledale Fencing**.

Also, I'm afraid the non-deliberate mistake about Topcliffe's own royal wedding, referred to Isaac Lowe as playing the "typical-lad-prince" Harry, when Isaac was in fact playing the part of the dignified father of the two gorgeous Middleton girls.

Many apologies, particularly to the Lowe family, who, we hope, won't feel inclined to sue The Tattler.

## Jimjam Day

Alanbrooke Nursery held another sponsored walk in their jimjams to raise money for new play equipment. Just because they couldn't all walk yet, doesn't mean they didn't raise lots of money!



## John Graham Moves On

John Graham – a man who made a notable difference to the everyday life of Topcliffe during his time as Chairman of the Parish Council, as well as writing a comprehensive and well-illustrated history of the village, has now moved to Great Ayton.

John and his wife, Sue, moved to Topcliffe in 1989 but shortly afterwards his employer, Tioxide UK, sent him to the east coast of Malaysia to work as Project Manager charged with building a new £120 million factory that was to make Titanium Dioxide.

It was not until 1992 that the couple returned to Topcliffe and settled into village life, which naturally included visiting the local pub, The Swan, a couple of times a week.

With his previous experience of working on the Parish Council of Thornton-le-Moor, John was persuaded to stand for a vacancy on Topcliffe Parish Council. He was duly elected and, after some years, he became Chairman.

John's experience of engineering projects proved to be a coup for the village and his valuable ability to acquire the necessary grants to bring these projects to fruition will ensure that he will be remembered with admiration. As treasurer of the village hall, John obtained grants of £50,000 to modernise the building. He also collaborated in the larger and more complex project to renovate St Columba's Church tower at a cost of £365,000.

Perhaps he will mostly be remembered as being the author of The Millennium Book of Topcliffe. The inspiration for writing this fascinating history of the village came out of many discussions that John and his friends, particularly Malcolm Morley, had over a pint in The Swan. Although there had been earlier books on a similar theme, it was felt that there was more to be revealed if someone was prepared to dig a little deeper into the past.

With the approach of the Millennium, John had the perfect excuse for taking his ideas further and he started planning what he thought would be a fifty page book. After two years of digging in the archives, following up leads and conversations with anyone who knew anything about the village's past, he ended up with words and photographs covering nearly 200 A4 pages.

Sadly, Sue Graham died from a brain tumour in 2006, but John has now married Jacqueline and moved to Great Ayton. His voluntary work continues in that he does the weekly accounts for the Cancer Research UK shop in Thirsk and is on the committee, and is treasurer, for The Friends of Holistic Cancer Care Centre at the James Cook University Hospital. He is also treasurer for Northallerton U3A and volunteer Project Co-

ordinator with Wensleydale Railway on a project that will cost £millions to bring the railway from its present rail head at Leeming Bar into the main line station in Northallerton.

Doug Allan



## Champion Digger

Jimmy Binks will be digging for victory when he represents Great Britain in the European Championships in digger driving in October. He will be a member of a team of four drivers from the UK competing at the European Finals of the Case Rodeo in Paris, against German, Spanish, Italian, French, Scandanavian, Polish and Finnish operators. Jimmy made it through the north of England heats held at their digger dealership in Cramlington in early June.

If Jimmy scores another winning time he could find himself on a plane to Las Vegas to compete against drivers from across the world.

## THE TATTLER NEEDS YOU!

People are needed to help deliver the Tattler to homes in Topcliffe. If you can spare a few hours to help us every 3 months, please phone 01845 578076

## The Millennium Book

The preparation of the Millennium book was sponsored by Topcliffe Parish Council and printed with a Millennium grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Initially 300 copies were ordered and these rapidly sold out at £10 each. Subsequent reprints saw the cost per copy rise, first to £20 and then, over ten years later, to its present price of £22.50.

So far a total of 577 copies have been sold and there are known to be copies of The Millennium Book of Topcliffe in many corners of the world. In fact, as from today (September 1) there is not one copy left. The Parish Council has so far decided not to fund a further reprint...though there is a possibility that this decision may change if enquiries about the cost are favourable.

## Drenched but not Defeated

Excitement was running high at Alanbrooke Nursery on Graduation Day. It had been a week of sunshine and showers and the staff had wisely constructed a tarpaulin shelter which could be used to protect parents and children should it start to rain. Lorna Young, Nursery Supervisor, delivered a speech pointing out the colourful and flourishing garden filled with a mixture of flowers and vegetables which had come about when she had asked parents to contribute seeds and compost back in February. The children had set to, digging and planting, and the end result made a splendid backdrop to the stage as they performed a short concert for parents and friends. Lorna commented in her speech that at last the sun seemed set to continue shining through the morning. True to form, about ten minutes later there was an almighty deluge as if someone had turned on a celestial tap.



The children, who had been singing and dancing, began to look doubtful as the tarpaulins were efficiently rolled down, but became increasingly worried when it began to thunder with an occasional flash of lightning. Where only a few minutes before, mums were tearful with pride, now some of the youngsters began to cry. The staff were wonderful, if not a trifle damp, as they rushed to hand sobbing children to soothing parents. Eventually the rain eased and the concert continued; true, it was slightly soggy, but the show must go on. Those moving up to infants' school received graduation certificates and hugs from the nursery assistants, and enthusiastic applause from the audience. Overall, it was a very good day for several happy families and even better for the Nursery's thriving greenery.

## French Classes

Clare Phillips is holding a small French class on Tuesday evenings from late September and already

## Playgroup is Granted £3,000

Topcliffe Playgroup has been awarded £3,000 by North Yorkshire County Council as part of its £2.2 million Early Years and Childcare initiative. The playgroup has spent half the money on toys and sheds.

The group re-opens on September 5: Monday and Friday will be from 9am-12.30pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9am-3pm. Call Jessica Robertson on 10845 578959 for more information.

## Raft Race 2011

The weather was perfect for this year's raft race. The river was extremely low and the race took much longer than it did the first year. There were six entries, including a surprise entry from Garry Key and son, Edward. Their raft broke apart enroute to the riverbank, so everyone helped put it back together again. Only a short way along the river, two of their barrels filled with water, so they had to abandon their raft. The rest of the rafts carried on, setting off at 10.15am. The winning raft, manned by sailors John Heidstrom and Eric Bradley, arrived back at Topcliffe at 4.15pm. This was 20 minutes ahead of Danny Lawson and Ashley Chapman. Ten minutes later, James Price and Neil Saunders finished. Rowing home in 4th place was last year's winner Chris Bumby with new rowing coach Neil Brown. In last place, arriving home at 7 in the evening, with an amazingly designed raft, were brothers Russell and Phil Livingston with Guy Hodgson.

A good day was had by all. All monies raised will be given to Forever Forth at Alanbrook Barracks.

We would like to thank all involved with this event and a special thank you to the caravanners from Topcliffe site for their support in everything we do throughout the year.

Many thanks from John, Carrie and Lily

**Just a reminder that  
dogs are NOT allowed  
on the playing fields  
in Asenby and Topcliffe!**



there are only a few places left. Initially for six weeks, the cost is £10 per session of 1.5 hours per week, paid in a block, in advance, to maintain continuity. A course book will be recommended and classes will include various skills, ie oral, listening, reading, grammar, some writing, accessing online videos/material. Some prior knowledge of French is necessary.

Contact Clare Phillips on 01845 577034 or [clarephillips@gmail.com](mailto:clarephillips@gmail.com).

## New Beginnings

Clare Phillips, Head of Modern Languages at Queen Mary's School, Topcliffe, retired at the end of the summer term and was presented with the perfect leaving gift. Following enquiries from her colleagues, she had requested a weathervane, and was delighted to receive a bespoke one made by William Lowe, a neighbour in Asenby.

The wrought iron weathervane is personalised with images of her family, including their Labrador, and the end result looks splendid, standing high on the rooftop of an outbuilding, overlooking their home.



After 20 happy years at Queen Mary's, Clare was sad to retire but can look forward to spending as much time as possible at the family's second home in the Limousin, France. At the end of September she is starting classes for a small group of adults in French, oral, listening and written. She is also opening her home in Asenby as a small B&B and enquiries are welcome.

The fine weathervane symbolises a change of direction as Clare takes away many happy memories from her time at the school, but equally looks forward to a full and varied retirement.

### [www.Topcliffe.net](http://www.Topcliffe.net)

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, a colour version of The TATtler and all the pictures of Topcliffe and the surrounding area.

## New Sporting Venture for Topcliffe

An increasingly popular sport has been introduced to Winn Lane, Topcliffe in the form of clay-pigeon shooting. Chris Hart is running daytime shoots every couple of weekends, as well as some evening shoots.

Chris began his working life as a joiner but eventually became interested in farming. He is currently building up a herd of beef cattle and decided that unused fields would be ideal for clay pigeon shooting. He is fully insured, the enterprise has been police checked and there are always two fully-trained marshals present during the shoot. 20 and 12 bore guns are available. At the moment he has two traps but aims to increase this to ten over the next few months.

Only groups need pre-book. Day-time sessions run from 10am-4pm and evening shoots from 6pm-9pm. It costs £6 for 25 targets.

Enquiries to Chris Hart on 01845 577356 or 07732775428.

## ASENBY NEWS

Despite the unpredictable British weather, the Asenby Barbecue was another success this year. We raised a fantastic £435 to help us continue the upkeep of the recreation area.

This would not be possible without the continued support of those villagers and their friends and families, who offer their support (come rain or shine!) The contributions towards salads, offers of cooking, great raffle prizes and entertainment, provision of cutlery, to name a few, are always greatly valued. A special thank you this year to Mark Walker who organised the portaloo, which was VERY welcome.

We look forward to our next get-together at the annual mulled wine evening. Look out for posters and fliers.

Jaz is 15 years old and experienced in babysitting. She will take care of your children to raise money for her upcoming World Challenge. Storytelling is a speciality!



Jaz also takes care of pets.

Please ring 07713 139352 or email [topcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:topcliffe@gmail.com) for information.

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## Thank you to Asenby Parish Council

The Tattler staff would like to thank Asenby Parish Council for increasing its annual donation to us from £50 to £60. Your kindness is very much appreciated in these times when advertisers are in short supply but the cost of production keeps increasing.

## Please keep your trees...

Please keep your trees and bushes trimmed. Branches which overhang footpaths cause both inconvenience and a danger to the public when they have to step into the road to get past.



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[www.yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk](http://www.yorkshireenergypartnership.org.uk)

Stephen Belfield  
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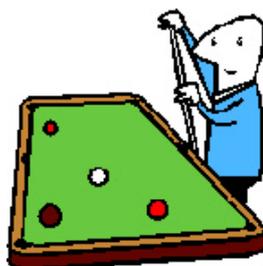


## Snooker Club

We are still looking for members, new and old.

Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Membership is due to be paid on September 1st, 2011.



## Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

**Topcliffe Surgery** - 577297

[www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk](http://www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk)

**Friarage Hospital** - 01609 779911

[www.southtees.nhs.uk](http://www.southtees.nhs.uk)

**Gas Emergencies** - 0800 111 999

[www.nationalgrid.com/uk](http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk)

**Police** - 0845 60 60 24 7

[www.northyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk)

**Hambleton DC** - 01609 779977

[www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk)

**Harrogate BC** - 01423 568954

[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

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