

The TATtler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

A Bitter-Sweet Graduation

It was a showery day for Alanbrooke Nursery's Graduation Day but the top class were all in fine voice as they treated their audience, including the Mayor of Thirsk, Hazel Dalglish-Brown, to a selection of their favourite songs. With cardboard mortarboards on their heads, it was clear the children were ready to move on to more grown-up things.

After each child had been presented with a certificate from their nursery teachers and had each received a glowing report, Nursery Manager, Lorna Young, gave a short speech telling the parents that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to care for their children. At the end of her speech, her Deputy, Sarah Murray, announced that Lorna was retiring at the end of term and went on to praise the Nursery Manager who had worked at Alanbrooke for the last 20 years. Andrew Jackson, Welfare Officer, also gave a speech saying how much Lorna would be missed by her small charges, as well as parents and colleagues. He presented her with a gorgeous flower arrangement as did Phillip Powell on behalf of the parents.



It was a lovely and joyous occasion, but more than a few tears were shed, and not just by the children. Lorna has been a hard-working and dedicated nursery manager, who has always ensured that the children in her care have been prepared to move on to the next stage of their education. Happily, Sarah, her Deputy, has now taken on her mantle and she has worked at Alanbrooke Nursery for almost as long as Lorna. Everyone is absolutely confident that the good work will continue.

Topcliffe & Asenby Join The 21st Century On Facebook

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall has joined the modern world by creating a Facebook account. Those of you who participate in social media can check the hall out at:

www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall

We intend to add information on a regular basis to keep local people up-to-date with what's going on.

Mid-Summer Brunch

Bacon baps, sausages, fried eggs, with as much tea and coffee as you like - what better way to spend Sunday morning with your friends and neighbours, flicking through the papers, chatting and generally relaxing for a pleasant couple of hours.

Topcliffe and Asenby's first Sunday Brunch was a fine success and proved that renovating the village hall had all been well worthwhile. £176.45 was raised towards the installation of safety railings outside the front entrance, and there are plans afoot to hold another mid-morning event, with perhaps an afternoon tea thrown in for good measure.

Hartleys of Helperby supplied the meat, Clarkes of Easingwold the baps, and Barleys of Sinderby the eggs, while John Mulley donated the Sunday papers.

The date of the next Autumn Brunch is still to be decided.



Enthusiastic volunteers getting ready for the hungry hordes. Slaving over a hot oven is Heather Holt, while Emily Collard and Karen Thomis warm up for the event with a nice cup of tea.

A Fantastic Effort

At the end of last term, Topcliffe School's tennis team came 2nd in the "Your School Games" Years 3-4 Tennis Competition.

Representing Hambleton against other districts in North Yorkshire, the children did fantastically well especially considering they were a player down and were from the smallest school in the competition. Lots of congratulations to them all.



The Topcliffe and Asenby Magnificent Produce Show 2017

This year threw up a few surprises, or so Judith would have us believe when she presented the winner of this year's overall winner of the Produce Show. Pete Brown was in third position, Dave Bowman in second and (the audience held its collective breath) Doug Allan was first. Well done Doug for breaking the alternating pattern of Pete wins one year and Dave wins the next etc. Well deserved!



Also on top form was Victoria Thomis with her beautiful painting of a giraffe. She was presented with a Highly Commended certificate.



There were some lovely pieces of arts and craft, gorgeous flower arrangements and some tempting cakes. Yet not as many as usual. We all need to make more effort in the kitchen next year.



New Art Classes

For aspiring artists of all abilities, a new class has just started in the village hall every Monday from 1-4pm. Please ring Barry or Vivien on 597122 or 07909 690543 for details.

News From Elm Gallery

Autumn seems to have crept up on us this year. The lovely orange berries by the gallery door are a welcome reminder of the new season.

We like things that are beautiful and useful and the gallery sells many things which meet both these criteria. We now sell a range of ceramics for foodies by Rupert Blamire. They make lovely gifts and everything comes with a gift box. The hand made bags continue to sell well and keep me busy, whilst the new jewellery ranges have also attracted new customers.

After last year's successful Macmillan Coffee Morning, we are doing it again! This year it will be held on Saturday the 30th of September from 10am till 2pm. We plan to have lots of cake to sell with tea and coffee and we'll also be selling cake to take away to raise more funds for Macmillan Cancer Care. If you are able to do some baking for the Coffee Morning, please could you ring us on 577316 a few days before the event and let us know what you are bringing? As before, there will be a raffle and we will donate 10% of any gallery sales at the coffee morning. There will also be a book stall. The total raised last year was magnificent and it would be great to raise even more this year!

The first late night shopping night this year will be Wednesday the 1st of November. We'll be open till 9ish and there will be free wine and nibbles, so please pop in and see what we've got. If you're looking for something different, you may well find it.

Now for some sad news. Many of you will already know that we lost our lovely dog Rocky on the 24th of August. We only had him for 18 months, but he has left a big hole in our lives and is greatly missed not just by us, but also by friends and neighbours in the village. As one person said, the world is a better place because Rocky has been here. Thank you for all your messages and kindness, which we really appreciate. There is no barking now when the gallery alarm sounds. It's far too quiet. We hope it won't be too long before we can re-home another rescue dog and look forward to being back on the dog-walking circuit. In the meantime, does anyone know where we can get a shop alarm that sounds like a dog barking?

Liz and Dave www.the-elm-gallery.co.uk - 577316

The Topcliffe Education Foundation

Are you about to start Higher Education?

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation makes small grants for the purpose of books to students who have recently left school and who are in, or about to start, University education or the equivalent.

To be eligible, the student must live on the 'old' parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area now covered by Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth, Dalton and Skipton on Swale plus Marton le Moor.

Applicants are sought immediately and the Trustees meet in October to approve grants.

For further information, to apply or question eligibility - email Paula Gittings (Administrator) at:
paulagittings123@btinternet.com

Could you gift a couple of hours every six weeks to Open the Book?

A team of us has recently started going into our Church Schools at Topcliffe, Baldersby St James and Dishforth to deliver Open the Book. This is a scheme devised by the Bible Society for introducing children to the structure of the Bible. Often, we



tell Bible stories to fit a theme, but Open the Book starts at the beginning and works its way through to the end, in thirty stories carefully chosen to simply tell the stories of God's love and the coming of Jesus. All the words are provided, as are the ideas for very simple props. Each session needs someone to introduce it, a narrator, and 'assistants' who might be responsible for showing the props or have certain 'one-liners' in the story. It fits into the 10 minute Collective Worship (Assembly) time during the school day.

We are looking to expand the Open the Book Team. The commitment is for a preparation session of about an hour, followed by three sessions in the schools, each one for about half an hour (which includes setting up, presentation, and clearing away).

Is this something you could share in? No experience is necessary – we are all learning as we go along! All we are looking for is people who have the time ... and who want to make it possible for children to hear the Jesus story.

The dates fixed for this coming term are:

Thursday 21 st	September	3.00pm
Monday 25 th	September	9.00am
Wednesday 27 th	September	8.50am
Thursday 28 th	September	3.00pm
Monday 20 th	November	9.00am
Wednesday 22 nd	November	8.50am
Thursday 23 rd	November	3.00pm

... with one preparation meeting before each group of sessions, to suit the team members. If you're interested, and can make at least some of these dates, don't be shy – we need you!

Susanne Jukes 578513 susanne.jukes@gmail.com

The churches in Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth, Dalton and Skipton on Swale

Saturday 30th September
for a

Messy Harvest

2.00 – 4.00pm

at Baldersby St James Church
bring the whole family, for crafts, teaching, songs and prayers – and food!

All is safely gathered in

Come and join us for our

Harvest Thanksgiving

as we give thanks to God for all his goodness
and remember the needs of the world.

St Columba's, Topcliffe
Sunday 1st October 6.30pm

Bliss Cafe - Thirsk

However drab the weather you're always assured of a very warm welcome at Bliss Cafe. It certainly was a very wet day when we entered the cafe but were immediately given a friendly greeting by the staff. There was a delicious aroma from the newly baked scones which lined the counter top and we were told that there are always at least four varieties to choose from. Meanwhile, as if the scones themselves don't provide enough temptation, the glass cabinet displays an enticing array of cakes and tray-bakes.

The cooked breakfast seemed to be a very popular option, but I chose a goats cheese and honey salad, while Malcolm tucked into a delicious cottage pie served with carrots, broccoli and cauliflower. The two meals were excellent, both in taste and portion size.

The menu had a good selection of hot dishes, including a vegan section, as well as various sandwiches, paninis, toasties and light bites. There was also a very good choice of hot and cold drinks. Happily, dogs are welcome in the tearoom and are served a dish of chopped sausages, a perfect treat for excited hounds.

Bliss is open every day except Christmas Day and is certainly highly recommended for tea and cakes or for something more substantial. Read the many positive comments on Trip Advisor if you need more persuading. And, needless to say, 10 out of 10 dogs declare that it's their favourite!

Karen Thomis (The Tattler's new Food Critic)

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The MacMillan concert is at Northallerton forum on Friday November 24. Tickets from the box office.

www.ian-mcmillan.co.uk - www.tonyhusband.co.uk

Pirates & Princesses At The Angel

On the August bank holiday The Angel at Topcliffe hosted another of its popular family fun days, with pirates & princesses attending from Topcliffe, Asenby, & further afield for this year's themed event.

The staff at The Angel had organised a wide range of activities, the highlights of which were the treasure hunt in the garden, face painting, and the ever popular bouncy castle. Special mention goes to Malcolm who correctly guessed the number of bones in The Angel's resident Pirate Skeleton to win some West Park Inns gift vouchers.



Greg, The Manager at The Angel, said "There's always such a great atmosphere at our family fun days & a real sense of community. They're a lot of work to organise but it's also such a reward to see everyone having such a good time! We've already started work planning and preparing for our next family event - on Sunday 3rd December when we'll be rolling out the red carpet for Santa himself!"

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Village Hall Events

Do you want to hear directly about interesting events coming up at the village hall? If so, get in touch with committee member, Doug Allan, who now and again circulates an email highlighting key details and dates. So far there are around 100 people on the database.

Doug promises not to send too many emails and will keep those he does circulate short and sweet.

If you would like to be added to the list, simply drop Doug an email - doug@dougallan.co.uk and he'll do the rest.

Boccia Club

The Boccia Club will be playing a match at the Galtres Centre in Easingwold on Friday September 29. If anyone would like to join the weekly sessions at the village hall, contact Judith on 577911.

Movie Night

The next film will be shown on September 29. Everyone is welcome. The film is still to be decided.

Village	Hall	Events
Monday Morning	Pilates	N. Brule Walker 07887 581364
Monday Evening	Yoga	B. Walmsley 577976
Tuesday Afternoon	Boccia/Tues club	J. Lowe 577911
Tuesday Afternoon	Book Exchange	L. Nuttall 577315
Tuesday Evening	Footloose Dance	E. Jakeman 07912 147386
Wednesday Morning	Daisychain	N. Fox 577739
Wednesday Afternoon	Hatha Yoga 2 - 3:15pm	Yvonne Lovatt 07944 436718 Sept 21 st Onwards
Wednesday Evening	Beavers & Cubs	
Thursday Morning	Pilates	
Thursday Afternoon	Brownies	K. Roberts 577177
Thursday Evening	Indoor Carpet Bowls	D. Arkley 578728
Friday Morning (monthly)	Toddlers	A. Binks 577304

MyTimeYoga

I am Yvonne Lovatt owner of MyTimeYoga and classes have been running at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall for almost one year now. The class is from 1.45-3pm on a Wednesday and all abilities can be accommodated.

I teach traditional Hatha yoga and completed my training with The British Wheel of Yoga, I have also done further training in Gentle Years Yoga and yoga Nidra which is a deeply nourishing practice with many benefits.

My teaching is based on careful alignment in the poses and each week is usually a little different so there is always plenty of variety. Poses can be adjusted to suit a range of abilities and health issues. The class starts with a period of settling and pranayama (breath work), warm up movements working towards the main posture of the day and then a time of stretching out and ending with everyone's favourite part- savasana (relaxation).

My aim is for you to leave the class feeling refreshed and energised ready for the day ahead.

When people ask me what I do for work and I tell them, often I hear- "I can't do that" or "I am not flexible". You don't have to be fit or flexible to start yoga, what you will find after a while is that you feel and become fitter and more flexible. Students often say that their sleep has improved, stress reduces, they feel stronger and generally feel improvements in overall wellbeing as aches and pains are often diminished.

If you would like to know more then please contact me using the following methods:

classes@mytimeyoga.uk

phone or text: 07944435718

Facebook: YogaYorkshire - www.mytimeyoga.uk

Upcoming events this Autumn and Winter also include a weekend in Grasmere, yoga days and Friday night events too.

A Message From Mrs Rita Parkin

I just wanted to write this short note to thank everyone in the village for their overwhelming kindness and many, many messages of love and support since my husband Ray passed away.

Ray loved being part of this village and had 23 happy years of retirement. As most of you know, he was never happier than when he was pottering around fixing and mending things.

I would like to give special thanks to Dr Parker and the team at the surgery, also the MacMillan and Marie Curie nurses, and Herriot Hospice.

Ray had been ill for some time but the support from our community was a great source of strength to him throughout, in particular the kindness shown to him during his many walks with Bert.

Once again, thank you all.

Rita

www.Topcliffe.net & www.Asenby.net

www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, a electronic version of The TATtler and all the pictures of Topcliffe, Asenby and the surrounding area, as well as the online version of the Millennium Book of Topcliffe.



The TATtler

Ray Parkin

Ray Parkin, who sadly died recently, was a well-known figure round Topcliffe. He was regularly to be seen walking round the village with his lovely collie, Bert, a dog with a definite character of his own. They seemed inseparable, despite Bert's unique habit of walking either several feet in front or behind Ray; a style, usually more typical of teenage offspring, but one that they were both very content with.

Ray was born in Kent though later moved to a pit village in Pontefract where he did an apprenticeship as a pit electrician. He attended college and later worked in several power stations owned by the Coal Board, where he completed his apprenticeship. He eventually became a project manager in South Yorkshire, later moving to Blyth for 17 years. On retirement Ray and Rita settled in Topcliffe. He had three sons and a daughter, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

For 25 years, Ray and his wife, Rita holidayed in their mobile home in Sutherland. Despite being very happy in Topcliffe, he was in his element in these remote surroundings, fishing and messing about in boats. Rita says that he was always busy at home, and was either to be found in his garage with his collection of antique motorbikes, which he restored himself, or he would be fixing and fettling machinery and gadgets for friends and neighbours.



A cruising holiday round the Norwegian coast didn't overly impress Ray apparently and, at an uncharacteristically loose end, he was to be found taking photographs of the ship's engine which, while reflecting his interest, obviously wasn't the normal style of holiday photography.

The couple were together for 52 years and lived happily in Topcliffe for 23. It still seems strange not to see Ray and Bert ambling round Topcliffe together, but hopefully Ray was aware of how much we all thought of him.



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News From Topcliffe Surgery

Community Defibrillator

A community defibrillator has now been installed in a secure box on the outside wall of the surgery. Should the need arise to use this outside of surgery hours, the person assisting the incident should dial 999 and the emergency services operator will take the individual through detailed instructions of how to access the defibrillator and use it until an ambulance arrives.



Whilst the surgery has been happy to offer to house the defibrillator and provide the electricity source to maintain the internal temperature, it is not the property or the responsibility of the surgery.

Should any patient need emergency assistance during normal surgery hours, they are advised to ring the surgery on 01845 577297, dial 999 or go to A&E as they would have previously done.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu occurs every year, usually in the winter, which is why it's sometimes called seasonal flu. It's a highly infectious disease with symptoms that come on very quickly. Colds are much less serious and usually start gradually with a stuffy or runny nose and a sore throat. A bad bout of flu can be much worse than a heavy cold.



The most common symptoms of flu are fever, chills, headache, aches and pains in the joints and muscles, and extreme tiredness. Healthy individuals usually recover within two to seven days, but for some the disease can lead to hospitalisation, permanent disability or even death.

Patients in the following groups are eligible for a flu vaccination:

- People aged 65 or over on 31 March 2018
- People aged from 6 months to 65 years with a serious medical condition such as:
- Chronic Respiratory Disease
- Chronic Heart Disease
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Liver Disease
- Chronic Neurological Disease
- Low Immunity
- Diabetes
- Pregnant women
- Obesity/Adults classed as morbidly obese
- Carers
- People living in long stay care facilities where flu can spread rapidly

Appointments for flu vaccinations are now available to book at Topcliffe Surgery in early October. Please speak to a member of the reception team for more information. Tel: 577297.

Report From The Village Hall

There was a range of matters discussed at the village hall meeting held 6 September. Here's a summary of the important issues:

- The committee noted the recent death of long-time former committee member Ray Parkin who over the years had been a great friend of the village hall and Topcliffe in general.
- Anne-Marie Barningham was welcomed as a new committee member representing Topcliffe Parish Council.
- David Winfield, who has represented the Indoor Bowling Club on the village hall committee for many years announced his retirement and the Chairman thanked him for his long and loyal service to the community.
- It was agreed that arrangements will be made to provide a baby-changing unit in the hall.
- Images of old Topcliffe and Asenby supplied by Malcolm Morley are to be framed and displayed around the walls of the entrance area and main hall.
- The mobility railings for the entrance paths and steps are now being fabricated and they'll be installed by a local company mid-September. Topcliffe Parish Council has kindly agreed to contribute £400 towards the cost of the railings and Asenby Parish Council is due to consider a request for support at its next meeting.
- An application for grant assistance has been made to Hambleton Council's 'Make a Difference' scheme to help fund a canopy over the front entrance of the hall. The canopy was part of the original refurbishment design but its construction had to be delayed because of additional costs which occurred during the main improvement contract.
- The idea of a Scarecrow Festival did not come to fruition this year but members agreed that one will go ahead in 2018, giving the volunteers behind the event plenty of time to get things planned and organised.
- Now that a defibrillator has been installed on the external wall of the Doctor's Surgery on Long Street, it was agreed that a training and information session should be organised so that as many local people as possible get an understanding of how it works. Watch out for more details fairly soon.

Snooker Club

To all Snooker Club members, the annual subscription is due and is still only £25 for the year. The Snooker Club situated in the Toll Booth, is excellent value. There are two tables, one full size and one three quarters; the club is heated, and you get your own key so you can play whenever you like. The club welcomes new members but under-18s must be accompanied by parents. Contact Dave Bowman on 577843



Topcliffe Church & Village Heritage Weekend and St Columba's Patronal Festival

Saturday 10th June, A Mediaeval walk from Church, through Village to Maiden Bower led by Dr Mark Douglas

Mark delighted and inspired us with his knowledge, enthusiasm, imagination and 'eye of faith' that interpreted the unnoticed and almost unseen vestigial remains of our mediaeval past! Starting in the church he painted a vivid picture of how it might have been with tall rood screen dividing the distant Latin chanting priests from the gossiping villagers mingling in the open nave, silenced from time to time by the sound of the sanctuary bell. Life revolved around the church and the Percys, who built the first stone church soon after the Norman Conquest so as to assist in establishing their dominance over the area. This was later rebuilt in the decorated style becoming lavishly embellished particularly with stained glass and the installation of the Percy Chapel, also screened but not completely, so that outsiders could look on in awe and wonder. This, the Percy's Chantry Chapel, was endowed with lands and rents, to provide funds for a daily Mass to be said to speed the passage of the Percy souls through purgatory to heaven. With the grant of a market charter by Edward III, Topcliffe gained in importance and wealth, sufficiently so that a local Guild was able to establish its own Chantry Chapel for the care of their own souls.

Moving through the village, the Green and its Market were imagined in the space enclosed by Church, Front and Long Streets. More unexpected was the interpretation of the sinuous length of Back Lane; formed as the boundary of Village and farmed land, the bends being shaped by the curved line needed to turn the oxen-drawn plough. The ridges and furrows this ploughing generates over time can still be seen in our local fields.

Once on the track from Winn Lane to Maiden Bower we stopped to learn the significance of the ditch some distance from the earthworks, running across the fields to both sides. This was the boundary of the deer park, the wooden Pale fence erected on the outside with occasional deer portals allowing one-way entry for new stock - the ditch precluding the return leap.

The earthworks at Maiden Bower remain ever impressive with protective ditches and entry ramps to reach the area

where the timber-framed Manor House eventually stood. Often this was left empty and windowless but silently awaiting the arrival of the Percys, their guests and all that was needed to lead their luxurious life, including the windows which would travel on ahead of them. The field beyond this site revealed the earthworks of the original Norman Motte and Bailey. The mound of the Motte was later cut with a spiral, gently ascending path the top of which provided an excellent look-out from whence visiting Ladies could admire the estate's gardens, ornamental lake and fishponds for the keeping of live fish for fresh consumption. Beyond, their distant hunting husbands, or perhaps just below driven deer into which they could flight their own arrows.

Nearly forty people had signed up to join Mark's Tour and so he kindly agreed to make two visits, which despite the deteriorating weather were both most enthusiastically received. In addition to Mark we would especially like to extend our thanks to Geoff & Claire Shepherd for their kindness and enthusiasm in making the site available to us on what was a very busy day for them.

Sunday 11th June

The Church Yard looked splendidly manicured thanks to the efforts of Richard Sadler and the Community Payback Team, who had put in extra shifts to ensure that all was looking at its very best. Inside all was ready, the gleaming Church set with displays and information cards to add historical interest for visitors, the choir fully rehearsed for the Patronal Festival's Choral Eucharist, the Tower swept with hand rail for the spiral stairs installed while outside the Church Hall was laid for the ensuing barbecue lunch, Malcolm Morley at the ready.

All was set for a great day of worship, history, food and fun and that was indeed how it was. The sun shone for most of the day, apart from a huge but thankfully short downpour in the afternoon, and it was good to have Steve Yates return to give his popular guided tours of the graveyard.

Our thanks to Revd Mel King who led our service and to everyone who worked so hard to make this day also so successful, but above all to those who came to join us for some or all of what we had to offer. We look forward to June 2018.....!!

John Phillips

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe	Asenby
Anne-Marie Barningham (Chairman) 07740 175311	Peter Palmer (Chairman) Hilltop Farm 578057
Lynn Wallis (Vice Chair) 32 East Lea 577437	Judy Lowe (Vice Chair) Green End Dairy 577911
Debbie Roberts 577024	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
Garry Key Cliff House, Long St. 578900	Peter Dale 577373
Alex Little (Clerk) 07977 417428	Don Compton 577462
	Jayne Molyneux (Clerk) 595053



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