

No Beating About The Bush For St. Columba's Vicar

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Columba's Church takes place on Thursday 28th April at 7.00p.m. in the church hall. All parishioners are invited to attend.

I will not beat about the bush. This year we are facing a major crisis. At last year's meeting Mrs. Margaret Gimblett gave clear notice that she intended to retire as both P.C.C. member, churchwarden and treasurer. This is after many years stalwart service to the church, and is a richly deserved retirement. At that meeting no one came forward to fill the two vacant positions of churchwarden and treasurer.



As a result of this, Margaret generously agreed to become acting treasurer for a further year and Mrs. Linda Carver agreed, equally generously, to carry on as sole churchwarden for a further year. However Margaret has made it quite clear that she will not continue as acting treasurer beyond the

The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch is an initiative launched by the Eden Project to encourage neighbourhoods to hold street parties and other social events in order to forge stronger communities. This year the Big Lunch is set to take place on Sunday 5th June in communities across the country.

If anybody is interested in arranging such an event locally more information can be found at www.thebiglunch.com

2011 APM, and Linda also has made it clear that she will not continue alone as churchwarden beyond that date. Were another person to come forward as churchwarden, she would consider serving for another term.

If St. Columba's has neither churchwardens nor a treasurer, then it will cease to function as a proper parish church and all the work which people have contributed over the years and still continue to do, will be put in grave danger.

If you care about St. Columba's and the work that it does, and are prepared to be a part of it, it is vital that you attend the meeting. I will do my best to help and support all who come forward but the chief body of the church is its people. A church is like a wheel; the vicar may be the hub but the people are the actual wheel. Without you, we will get nowhere. The church cannot continue to function properly if nothing is done.

I hope therefore that people will come forward. It is your church and only you can help it fulfil its mission.

Robin Davill - Priest in Charge
(Three quarter time)

Burns Night



Lorna, Andrew, Heather and Kim find that it's the freezing cold nights in the Highlands that make you want to snuggle up close on Burns Night. Perhaps someone should remind them that they're in Topcliffe Village Hall!



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St Columba's Topcliffe

Invite you to join us in the run up to Easter



Lent Lunches

Free lunch time soup and rolls
Every Wednesday 12-1pm
16th March – 13th April

Please come and join us for steaming hot soup, rolls and a warm drink anytime between 12-1pm in Topcliffe Village Hall. A great opportunity to meet your friends for a simple lunch without the bother of cooking! All are welcome and some high chairs will be available for little ones (please feel free to bring your own)

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLOR'S

Topcliffe	Asenby
Garry Key (Chairman) Cliff House, Long St. 578900	Peter Palmer (Chairman) Hilltop Farm 578057
David Bowman (Vice Chair) 21 East Lea 577843	Judy Lowe (Vice Chair) Green End Dairy 577911
John Heidstrom 28 Long St 07795 362335	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
Mark Bowen 23 Manor Close 07703 040471	Grahame Marsden 8 Jamesville Way 578156
Amanda Jameson-Allen 77 Long St 07944 236595	

Isobel Peters (Clerk)

Tel: 07739 258650 isobelpeters@gmail.com

A Foot-Tapping Fun Day

The clattering of dozens of pairs of clogs is rare event in schools these days and is often associated with tales of deprivation and hardship, but recently, the children of Topcliffe School proved that you can't dance while wearing clogs unless you're also sporting a huge smile. They had a great time with Stuart and Laura, two instructors from Sowerby Music, who helped them to master some basic steps as well as encouraging them to create their own variations. Stuart played a lively fiddle while Laura demonstrated games and dances with infectious enthusiasm, both ensuring that everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves. By the end of the day's session, the children were encouraging the whole audience to join in, from tiny reception children to mums and dads.



Sowerby Music's "Music for Life" programme aims to pass on a love of music to the next generation with school visits and concerts specifically aimed at young people. During 2009, nine groups of professional musicians performed concerts and ran workshops in thirty seven schools.

Last year, the children enjoyed playing percussion instruments courtesy of Music for Life. This year they had the unusual thrill of being praised for stamping and stomping and making as much noise as they possibly could.

Mrs Shepherd said, "The clog dancing was a huge success. Laura and Stuart were "bowled over" with our school, saying how brilliant the children were, how they listened, helped each other and learned with confidence. The best school they have been in! Inspiration to one and all! Now isn't that fantastic?"

Hambleton Votes 5TH MAY

Need a postal vote? No reason is required. Simply phone Hambleton District Council: **0845 1211555** and ask for a form. If you are not sure whether you are registered to vote use the same number to enquire.

Last day for returning a completed postal vote or registration to vote application form
14th April, 2011.

POSTAL VOTE BALLOT PAPERS WILL BE SENT TO YOU NEARER TO THE ELECTION DATE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEM OBTAINING FORMS FOR EITHER POSTAL VOTING OR VOTING REGISTRATION – LET ME KNOW. I HAVE THE FORMS AVAILABLE.

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It Happens. Deal With It

I know dog poo is a subject we've mentioned on more than one occasion but it is a disgusting experience for anyone who has the misfortune to step in it. One of our readers has complained that people have actually let their dogs make a mess in her garden and you can't get much more anti-social than that.

Picking up a steaming hot pile of your dog's excrement isn't the greatest thing about dog ownership but – tough! Just do it!



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Thirsk Children's Centre

Thirsk Children's Centre provides lots of fun and educational activities for children of all ages, as well as confidential support and guidance for parents. Sessions on offer range from baby massage and baby signing to music and movement for toddlers and older children, arty activities and Saturday Family Fun sessions for everyone. Parents can learn about healthy eating on a budget, brush up their maths and/or English and learn how to write a good cv. There is also guidance on finding work and training opportunities.

The Centre is situated in Hambleton Place, next to Thirsk Community Primary School. Many activities have to be booked and it's possible to ring on 0845 034 9592 or email thirskCC@northyorks.gov.uk or sowerbyCC@northyorks.gov.uk. Parents are also welcome to drop into the Centre.

Helen Sturdy is the Children's Centre ambassador for Asenby and Topcliffe and she will be happy to chat to anyone about the help and advice available. She has several helpful brochures detailing the activities and facilities. Helen's number is 01845 578541 or email beastlymole@btinternet.com.

Changes in Thirsk and Easingwold Safer Neighbourhood Teams

As of January 10th 2011, Sgt Frances Hannan has taken over responsibility for Thirsk and Easingwold Safer Neighbourhood Teams and will be based at Thirsk Market Place Police Station.

Sgt Hannan is keen to engage with all locally based organisations and the wider community. She has an excellent knowledge of the local area and is well aware of all the problems that Thirsk and Easingwold residents encounter. Together with her teams at both stations, she is looking forward to working with residents and visitors alike to Thirsk and Easingwold to maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment.

In addition, Inspector John Wilkinson assumed command of Hambleton South Neighbourhood in November last year. The Inspector is based at Easingwold Police Station and will be working closely with Sgt Hannan to promote positive policing throughout the area.

Sgt Hannan can be contacted on: 01609 789592 or in person at Thirsk Market Place Police Station when she is on duty.

Back to the Land Girls 2011

“Out on tour in March 2011 Badapple reprise their sell-out touring production 'Back to the Land Girls: The Land Girls of Yorkshire'.

This brand new show is the latest comedy two-hander from Badapple's resident writer, as she celebrates the highs and lows of the wonderful women who helped keep Britain fed during World War II, set against a backdrop of glorious music of the age, as well as new tunes by songwriter Jez Lowe....”

Although there are no plans for “The Yorkshire Land Girls” to re-appear in Topcliffe there are four performances in the vicinity.

There will be a preview at Green Hammerton on March 2.

Tockwith Village Hall – Saturday March 19 – ring 01423 339168 for more details.

North Stainley Village Hall – Sunday March 20.

Sutton Village Hall – Tuesday March 22.



Ring 01423 339168 for tickets or more details. Alternatively, the Bad Apple website is www.badappletheatre.com.

There are also plans to tour again with The James Herriot Story.

Asenby News

Thank you to everyone who braved the ice to come to the Mince Pie evening last December. Crab Manor provided a lovely venue and we thank them for their generosity. It certainly helped with the 'Christmassy' feeling. We raised £160. This has enabled us to pay for the repair of the see-saw and other smaller repairs.

Our next planned event is the St George's Quiz - kindly hosted again by The Lamb Inn in Rainton. This is a really fun event, so look out for information about tickets nearer the time. The date.... Saturday 23rd April. We look forward to seeing you there.

Asenby Institute



The Recreation Field Committee: Top - Emma McCormick (secretary), Lisa Harvey, Sharon Hutchinson, Gail Horabin and Nikki Fox

Bottom: Jackie Avison (chair) and Linda Mullett

Two committee members who were unable to attend were Sharon Furness and Cathy Mawson (treasurer)

Tattler open letter to residents of Topcliffe and Asenby

The Deer Shed Festival is taking place in Baldersby Park on July 22-24 this year. **In The Dock Ltd** are promoting this event and as part of our premises licence we are obliged to inform all local residents within 500 metres of the event site of a telephone number which they can call to complain about any aspect of the festival relating to noise.

That telephone number is **07523 537146** and it will be manned throughout the event.

Please be aware that noise from the site may be audible during the festival but should not be audible after 11pm on any day. The noise levels will be monitored by an independent party throughout so that they fall within the limits set by Harrogate council.

We did not receive any complaints regarding noise or any other matter in 2010. We sincerely wish that this will also be the case in 2011 and we will continue to strive to comply with all noise control guidelines.

If you have any questions relating to this letter please feel free to call me on 01845 595911.

Yours sincerely,

OLIVER JONES
DIRECTOR, IN THE DOCK LTD

Two events for the price of one!

There are probably many other individuals in Topcliffe and Asenby who are much more qualified than me to write on this subject, but I was asked to write a couple of paragraphs about something happening in the villages, so here goes.

Last time I wrote a piece for The Tattler it was about the long-running quiz held at The Angel each Sunday evening at 9pm, which is reasonably well attended by a group of regulars, but which would benefit from an injection of new and fresh brains. My suggestion that more locals get-together to form teams of four appears to have fallen on deaf ears, as only a couple of new participants have joined in.

Anyway, there's now another Sunday night attraction at The Angel – but it's only once a month, on the third Sunday. The timing causes a clash with the quiz, but it's possible to squeeze both in, if you want to.

The new Sunday event sees a group of musicians getting together to play and sing Folk and Blues for their own pleasure...and that of any interested people who care to listen in. The performers sit in a huge circle around the bar and sing or play their acoustic instruments in turn, and often everyone joins in to create a tremendous sound that has to be heard to be believed.

And, I'm sure that those of you who play an acoustic instrument would be welcome to join in. At recent gatherings a wide range of guitars, banjos, fiddles, a double-base, a recorder, mandolins and even an English Concertina have been in evidence.

It seems to me that information about the music evening is released via similar events staged at pubs in other parts of North Yorkshire. Although there's a poster advertising this musical extravaganza on display in pub, I haven't seen any publicity anywhere else, and that is probably the reason there's always more musicians than audience at these musical evenings. That's a great shame as the talent and friendliness of the players is unquestionable.

So, two events for the price of one on the third Sunday evening of each month...and there's no need to get the car out of the garage. Can't be bad.

Doug Allan

Eclectic Irish Music at Sessay

Music Lovers may remember that a few years ago, Chris Newman and Maire Ni Chathasaigh appeared at Topcliffe Village Hall at a well-attended and very enjoyable event.

Maire Ni Chathasaigh has been called "the greatest Celtic harper of our age"



Message from Topcliffe Parish Council

It is with great regret that Topcliffe Parish Council says goodbye to Parish Councillor John Heidstrom. He has been a worthy councillor; the addition of the sportacabin to the list of Topcliffe Parish Council's assets being one of his many achievements while in office. Yours will be a hard act to follow, John. The parish council wishes to thank you for your committed service.

Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 5th May 2011 and a volunteer is sought to fill the empty place on the council. Further information will soon be posted on the village notice boards.

If you are interested, please contact Chairman Garry Key at 578900 or clerk Isobel Peters at 07739 258650.

St Columba's Topcliffe

Invite you to join us in the run up to Easter



Pancakes!

8th March

4.30 to 7pm

Topcliffe Village Hall

Have you got 15 minutes or more to spare? Please come and join us to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Drop in any time between 4.30 and 7pm and enjoy traditional pancakes (wheat-free also available). There will be a family quiz, colouring activities for children and perhaps the chance to flip a pancake or two! (It's free!)

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



and has won the Irish Traditional Musician of the year, while England's premier flatpicking guitarist, Chris Newman, has toured in twenty countries worldwide.

Their music is a wildly creative fusion of Irish dance music, soulful airs, evocative songs, hot jazz, bluegrass and baroque. These musicians are highly talented and will be appearing at Sessay Village Hall on April 23 at 7.30.

This is a Rural Arts On Tour production. For more information call 01845 526536 or visit www.ruralarts.org/on-tour.



Proof that a watched pot never boils

I have to admit for the eight years I lived in Topcliffe, I never took my eyes off that pot. Then the minute I moved out to Malton, yon previously watched pot, started to boil with momentous fervour back in Topcliffe.

Now, don't you go pretending you have no knowledge of the series of grand happenings back there. Let me remind you. Suddenly the Thirsk area, mainly Topcliffe, became, not only newsworthy but also World Famous! That's if you count interviews on Look North and the odd mention of record breaking moments as World Fame.

Well, don't go hiding your lights under bushels, you lot. I know all about some prominent residents of Topcliffe and Asenby having been interviewed by a major-ish news programme for living in the coldest place in the world - or something like that. Anne-Marie Barningham, her son Josh, Judy Lowe, Alan Nuttall and John Mulley - you know to whom I'm referring. There was even a well-known Topcliffetonian interviewed on Radio York.



Who'd be a sheep in Topcliffe?

Not content with that, you had to get a mention in the newspapers for a broken pipe in Thirsk around Christmas. Ok, this might not have been your favourite Christmas moment, but what the heck! Surely it was worth it for the moment or two of fame.

Of course it also goes without saying that the strong hurricane-like winds you had recently were much stronger than our pathetic gentle breezes in Malteserland

And what about the earthquake in Kirby Malzeard? Ok, that's not exactly Topcliffe, but while you're out to turn me completely green with envy, it counts, I guess.

Well, all I can say, being stuck out here in a place where nothing remotely exciting ever happens, is that if there are any stray pots out here, I'll certainly keep my eyes well away from them.

Overseas reporter - Ange Hook

Topcliffe Parish Council News

The main event this calendar year is the triple elections to take place on 5th May. These elections cover District, full Parish and the referendum on the alternative vote system. Please please please take part and exercise your hard won right to vote. Given the austere times, it is pleasing to report that the council remains comfortable in the black and well able to weather the prudent times ahead without unnecessary and unreasonable increases in precept, although we have yet to learn of any curve balls that District and County may throw to shift cost elsewhere. Hopefully they will not.

The council has some minor projects underway, primarily aimed at improving and maintaining village amenity. These require some bureaucracy busting and concern the replacement of trees on Long Street and ensuring that the verges do not deteriorate further through people parking cars on the grass in wet weather. The latter may require by-laws and signage. There may also be moves afoot to restore the verge where it has been eroded.

It is tragic to learn of the serious accident that occurred this weekend involving three of our village youth, two suffering grievous injury. Our support goes out to those involved, and we wish them a speedy recovery. It is a harsh reminder that we all have a duty to act in a safe and responsible manner.

Garry Key (Topcliffe Parish Council Chairman)

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Proprietor: Andrew Turner B.Eng (Eng) Hons

A Yorkshire Christmas Carol

“A cracker of a production” was the unanimous opinion on the Bad Apple Theatre Company’s performance of A Yorkshire Christmas Carol. There was certainly plenty of laughter from an audience which filled Topcliffe Village Hall on a cold and dismal Sunday afternoon. Clearly, no-one knew quite what to expect but those who had previously been entertained by this most inventive and creative company, were confident that they were about to be amused by a quirky interpretation of a well-known tale.

Set in the 1950’s, the traditional Dickens’ story was transported to a Yorkshire farmhouse with a curmudgeonly tightfisted farmer, played by James McPherson, representing the notorious Ebenezer Scrooge. David Hey played the other parts, ably assisted by an eccentric bunch of glove puppets, for which the two men provided the voices. Each of the puppets had a different regional dialect and the rapid interchange between actors and dolls in their various accents was comical and mind-boggling. It was a kind of ventriloquism without any pretensions, ie. lips were visibly moving! The puppets ranged from a loopy sheep dog called Shep (what else?), Elvis – probably not a Dickens original, and a very spooky Mr Black the undertaker. The Cratchitt



family, mainly played by wooden dolls except for the more animated Bob, were suitably pitiful; Ebenezer’s girl, the one that got away, a life-sized puppet in a pink flowing dress, was tragically romantic, and the graveside scene was scarily macabre.

There was plenty of music, lots of jokes, and minimal scenery. The effects were basic; the story was unworldly and yet the production was impressively smooth. It was village hall entertainment at its best and full credit must go to the very hardworking and talented actors.

The puppets were created by Sam Edwards and the script was written by Kate Bramley. Original music and sound design by Jez Lowe, set and lighting design by John Bramley and costumes by Susan Page.

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Plots, Plants and Patches

Time to start leafing through those seed catalogues again because it's only **six months** until the next Produce Show! (Good heavens, you're all thinking, it'll be next Christmas before we know it!) The last Produce Show was of a very high standard with shiny onions and colourful flower arrangements, cakes so light they nearly floated out of the window, and some extremely impressive art work.



Last year was the first show and it was arranged at quite short notice, it being the product of a sudden burst of inspiration, but the standard was very high. It's come to light that there are a lot of green fingers in Topcliffe and

Asenby which, it must be stressed, has *nothing* to do with films about inbreds, so we're hoping to see shed loads of entries in the 26 separate horticultural categories.

And we know that lots of talented individuals in the two villages will be keen to demonstrate their baking, flower arranging, painting and sewing talents. There are 19 categories for you to consider.

Finally, we mustn't forget the youngsters. They can choose from 8 categories, including painting, growing the tallest sunflower, baking, model making and handwriting.



The date for the second Produce Show is Saturday, 3 September. A leaflet about the Show has been placed on village websites – www.topcliffe.net and www.asenby.net – and copies will be circulated to all households later in the year.

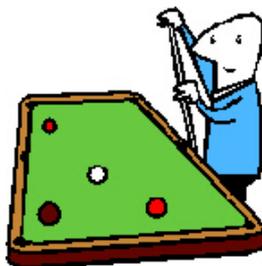
And don't forget – everyone loves a saucy vegetable!

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.



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