

The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Magna Carta - Topcliffe - Asenby 2015



Bows 'n' Arrows



Ye Olde Barbie



Big Sword, Little Boy



Sad Falcon



Sir Garry



*Amanda and Anne Marie
having a natter*



Swords, shields and wimples

Photos by courtesy of Malcolm Morley and Roy Beckwith

Magna Carta

The Parish Council (PC) is pleased to report that all the effort put into the organisation, correspondence and arrangements over a period of two years has paid off, handsomely. The event brought together many individuals and parts of the parish to produce a truly inclusive community event.

As detailed in the previous Tattler, the event held on Sunday 14 June 2015 was held to celebrate the 800th anniversary of King John placing his seal on the Magna Carta (Great Charter). This act can be seen as the beginning of the process to bring about parliamentary democracy as we know it today (for all its faults), and is enshrined in the United States Constitution. However, history shows that this seal of approval was not given willingly and that rebellious barons extorted it from him; one of whom was Richard de Percy of Topcliffe.

The day came together because of the enthusiasm of individuals and groups who grasped the opportunity to have a great day, raise awareness and leave an ongoing legacy. The PC is very grateful for the assistance of these individuals and groups without whom, the event would not have been such a success.

First and foremost, our thanks go to the Magna Carta 800th Committee for the funding to enable the event and its legacy. We next turn to the Magna Carta Barons Association which co-ordinated the national activity and provided us with the parchment facsimile, supporting information and wares. We were also able to invite Steve Halliday to expertly craft the mounting easel and, as a bonus, produced a new notice board.

The school was given funding and were able to draft in Rural Arts who spent two days with the children and they had great fun producing five beautiful banners and numerous shields for display in the church - dramatically adding to the atmosphere.

Will Lowe produced the magnificent commemorative shield that now has pride of place on the Toll Booth, illuminated by a light installed by Dave Young. The residents at Swaleside Caravan Park produced a glorious banner which will remain on display in the church. Sincere thanks to the owners Tim and Phil Briley, and site managers Leslie and Dennis. The village hall members produced a superb, and very large, Magna Carta banner, guidons, accommodation for some of the re-enactors and some weird and wonderful characters that appeared in the Toll Booth! Thank you Linda Nuttall and the village hall team.

The church service and ceremony were uplifting. The building looked magnificent, bedecked with banners, as did the Magna Carta display in the newly restored Percy Chapel, amongst a plethora of Norman knights. The choir treated the congregation to some medieval music and, as always, sounded marvellous. Bishop Clive Handford, who presided over the service and gave the address, was mesmerising, informative and inspirational. Thanks must also go to Reverend Suzanne Jukes and the team, who consisted of Reader Richard Byas, church wardens, Chris Hewlett and John Phillips, side persons, Linda Carver and Steve Yates and local farmer, John Blair, for their effort to present the church and grounds to stunning effect.

The Magna Carta Rose was ceremoniously planted by former PC Chairman and author of the village Millennium Book, John Graham whose speech was indomitably delivered in typical English June weather - RAIN.

Turning to the playing field, we were grateful for the attendance of 63 members of Historia Normanis who provided an awesome display of Norman tented encampment, tourneys and battles, weapons effects, archery, cooking and coin striking. They also provided an honour guard for the day at and in the church and around the village. Brilliant!

At the rear of The Angel, JP of Whizoo and his birds of prey delivered a definitive, informative and up-close display throughout the afternoon, that attracted great interest and comments. Some said it was the best birds of prey display they had seen.

As evening approached, the Thirsk Royal British Legion Band, arranged by Judith Lowe, graced The Angel garden with sumptuous sounds, whilst the team produced the wonderful FREE Libertas Hog Roast.

The PC provided two £10 book vouchers to the best costumed children as awarded by the Historia Normanis. Thanks also to the Barningham's for the use of their fields for parking and display; Louise Bumby and the Bowls Club for the use of the facilities; and finally, all recorded by two intrepid stalwart photographers ' of the village, Malcom Morley and Roy Beckwith, and the members of Topcliffe Parish Council for a sterling effort.

So after a full day's event of ceremony and celebration; what is the legacy?

We have a fabulous Magna Carta display and adorned church which has already attracted visitors from far a field, including Switzerland. A commemorative shield, a new notice board, a raised village profile and most importantly, the event will be lodged forever in the minds of our school children who were an intrinsic part of the day.

What next?

Moving the village speed signs further out on Station Road, additions to the play park for younger visitors and Magna Carta road signage and the refurb of the village hall - so buy a brick! We live in hope!

Have a great and safe summer.

Garry Key

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Move Over George, The Uketopians have Taken Over

There were indeed a few detractors, back in April, when someone mentioned that Topcliffe's latest venture into popular entertainment would involve a ukelele band. However, by three songs in, the audience was foot-tapping, clapping when urged, and generally having as grand a time as George Formby would have wished. In fact, no-one in the band bore any resemblance to the cheeky chappie of memory but were a group of very laid-back, lackadaisical and skilled musicians whose versatility was astonishing. Jazz, blues, blue grass, obscure songs, suggesting that someone had been doing some extensive research, then, as an encore, "I'm leaning on the lamppost" played in an exotically Russian style, which would have baffled the man himself. Panto comedy effect was provided by an enthusiastic rendering of Delilah (what else?); pathos by a sensitive touch of Radiohead.



The band members ranged in age from early teens to late 60s, and their flamboyant panache and pure enjoyment were infectious yet, despite their relaxed personalities, their timing was impeccable. When the piano accordion, cajun, fiddle and bodran were added to the mix, the music gained an attractive depth and variety. With more than a touch of eccentricity, the characterful performance left the audience happy while silencing the grumblers. The band and their music can be viewed on www.uketopians.co.uk.

www.Topcliffe.net & www.Asenby.net

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.

An Eye for Design Required

In order to make the Village Hall look its very best, a person with flair and imagination would be welcome to advise on colour schemes and design. It won't be too onerous but, once the kitchen is installed, probably by the end of the first week in August, the Village Hall Committee would welcome suggestions from a Creative Volunteer. Please ring Andrew Eckersley, Chairman, on 577648.

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The New-Look Village Hall won't just be a pretty face, it's also hoped that the innovation of some new activities will mean that it will be used even more.

One really inspired idea is a Film Club. The thought is that a film can be shown once a month and the audience will be encouraged to bring wine (Alcohol isn't actually compulsory. Soft drinks are allowed too, especially for children) and enjoy a nice cosy atmosphere. But snogging on the back seat won't be an option because we don't have a hanky panky licence for one thing. You need to apply to County Hall for that and it's way too much trouble.

Anyway, this leads to a Job Opportunity. A grant will be required for the Audio Visual equipment and a techno-proficient person to actually work it on the film evening. Obviously money won't change hands but it would suggest good community spirit and perhaps provide valuable experience for a student. We will also need someone to collect tickets etc but no need for an usher or anyone to bring round ice-cream in the interval. Anyone who can't enjoy a film without a 99 will have to bring their own.

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Have you bought a Brick in the Hall yet?

There's still an opportunity for local residents to show their support for the major improvements planned for Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall.

The Committee has launched a Brick in the Hall scheme to help raise much-needed cash towards the project...and it's probably the most ambitious fund raiser that the neighbouring villages have ever launched.

So far, generous residents of Topcliffe and Asenby, and a few kind individuals from further afield, have supported the initiative by buying 46 foundation stones, 49 full bricks and 6 half bricks, collectively contributing a grand total of £1,440 to the improvement fund.

Andrew Eckersley, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, said "Selling foundation stones and bricks is a simple but effective idea to raise money towards the improvements, which are going to cost around £120,000 overall.

"We've created special "brick" wall at the back of the hall and when someone buys a stone or a brick we write their name on it. When the improvements are completed, we plan to put up a commemorative plaque featuring the names of everyone who has supported us."

"So anyone who hasn't yet bought a stone or brick who wishes to see their name on that plaque, should get in touch."

The cost of a foundation stone is £25; a full brick is £10 and a half brick just £5.

Prize winners

We promised to hold a prize draw when the first and subsequent £1,000 was raised. The first draw was held in May and the winners were: Florence Bumby - £50, Wendy Jeffries - £25 and Jamie Moores - £25.

Everyone who contributes to the raising of the second £1,000 will have their name entered in further draw and have a chance to win one of three prizes with a total value of £100

Project Progress

The planned improvements to the 1960s building will include an extension to accommodate new toilet facilities, extra space for community activities, new storage areas, massively improved access for people with disabilities, improved entrance lobby and much-needed enhancements to the external appearance of the building. This part of the project will cost nearly £100,000 and the committee is working hard to find the funds to get this underway early next year. Applications have been made to a wide range of Charitable Trusts and Foundations hoping they will offer us some support. We'll know the results towards the back end of this year.

The really good news is that the work on totally refurbishing the kitchen will start on 20 July. The cost of

around £15,000 will be covered by grants received from The Big Lottery, Hambleton Council and The Jack Brunton Charitable Trust.

Andrew Eckersley said: "Improvements of the scale planned are a major project for the two villages, and getting things organised and funded is a massive task for the team of volunteers that make up the Village Hall Committee. This small group of totally committed residents is determined to provide a modern, spacious and accessible village hall which meets the needs of the community and of which everyone can be rightly proud.

"Cash raised locally by the 'The Brick in the Wall' scheme and other fund raising events, is an essential element of the funding package. Grant-giving bodies like to see that residents are prepared to do their bit to raise funds towards projects of this kind.

"The residents of our two villages have always been extremely supportive of any local fund raising efforts and I am sure that many will want to see the successful improvement of the hall and help secure its future. I am very grateful to those who have already dug deep in their pockets to support the project and hope many more will come forward to play their part."

Anyone wishing to reserve a brick can do so by calling Doug Allan on 578526 or by contacting any member of the Village Hall Committee, namely Andrew Eckersley, Judith Lowe, Linda Nuttall, David Bowman, Ray Parkin, David Winfield, Jane Graham or Amanda Jameson-Allen.

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Please Keep Your Trees Trimmed

Please keep your trees and bushes trimmed. Branches which overhang footpaths and roads cause both inconvenience and a danger to the public when they have to step into the road, or damage vehicles.



Snooker Club

At only £25 a 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



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The Percy Chapel

The Percy Chapel in St Columba's Church has been re-instated as part of the preparations for Magna Carta. It is a beautiful light space with easy access, ideal for smaller gatherings.

It is many years since the chapel has been used for worship and I am now proposing to hold a mid-week service every Thursday during August at 11am. This will be a short half-hour form of Holy Communion (no hymns or sermon). Everyone is warmly invited.

Hospital Visits

Being in hospital can be a time of great anxiety and vulnerability, a time when we need all the support we can get. It is one of the primary responsibilities of a parish priest to visit any who are in hospital, to offer support both to those who are ill, and their families and friends.

It may be that the support is by way of prayers or Holy Communion but equally, it may be that what is needed is simply time to talk to someone who is "outside" the situation, either as a change from hospital talk, or to discuss more significant matters. BUT clergy don't know who is in hospital unless someone tells them.

Please - if you are aware of someone in hospital, let me know.

Susanne Jukes
(578513. Mobile: 07764 375430)

Topcliffe & Asenby Produce Show

Saturday 5th September 2015



Open to all residents of Topcliffe and Asenby and all registered owners at Swaleside Caravan Park.

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The 5th Topcliffe & Asenby Produce Show

This year's Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show will be held on **Saturday 5th September** (not 29th August as stated in the last edition). Here is the complete list of categories and classes, which includes several new classes this year. The show organisers hope that you enjoy preparing your entries and look forward to seeing you on the day. Please read the Produce Show Rules carefully - they are available on the two village's websites - to ensure your entries conform to the regulations. All enquiries should be made to the Produce Show Secretary, Judith Lowe, on 577911.

Category 1: Horticulture

- Class 1 3 Red potatoes
- Class 2 3 White potatoes
- Class 3 3 White onions (flat shape) on rings
- Class 4 3 White onions (global shape) on rings
- Class 5 Heaviest single onion (in sound & clean condition - no stalk or leaves) displayed on rings
- Class 6 3 Red onions on rings
- Class 7 3 Shallots - on rings or sand
- Class 8 3 Pods of peas (one to be open)
- Class 9 3 Runner beans
- Class 10 3 French beans
- Class 11 3 Courgettes
- Class 12 2 Sweetcorn
- Class 13 1 Marrow
- Class 14 1 Pumpkin
- Class 15 1 Squash (any type)
- Class 16 3 Parsnips - with 8cm stalks
- Class 17 3 Carrots - with 8cm stalks
- Class 18 1 White cabbage
- Class 19 1 Red cabbage
- Class 20 3 Capsicum Peppers (sweet or hot)
- Class 21 3 Beetroot
- Class 22 3 Leeks
- Class 23 Any other vegetable not listed above
- Class 24 4 different veg (4 families of veg displayed on plain white dinner plate)
- Class 25 Funniest shaped vegetable
- Class 26 1 Cucumber
- Class 27 Tomatoes on the vine (must be mostly ripened)
- Class 28 3 Beef tomatoes
- Class 29 3 Regular red tomatoes
- Class 30 3 Regular yellow tomatoes
- Class 31 5 Red cherry tomatoes
- Class 32 5 Yellow cherry tomatoes
- Class 33 5 Orange cherry tomatoes
- Class 34 5 Black cherry tomatoes
- Class 35 3 Plum tomatoes
- Class 36 3 of any other type of tomato
- Class 37 3 Sticks of rhubarb (to include sheaf and 8cm of leaf only)
- Class 38 3 Eating apples
- Class 39 3 Cooking apples
- Class 40 3 pears
- Class 41 3 Plums
- Class 42 6 Blackberries
- Class 43 6 Raspberries
- Class 44 Any other fruit
- Class 45 4 different fruits (4 families of fruit displayed on plain white dinner plate)
- Class 46 Funniest shaped fruit

Category 2: Baking and home produce

- Class 47 Victoria Sandwich using 3 eggs, 6oz each of sugar, flour and butter
- Class 48 Decorated homemade chocolate cake
- Class 49 Own choice of home-baked cake

- Class 50 Savoury flan (maximum 21cm tin)
- Class 51 Sweet flan (maximum 21 cm tin)
- Class 52 3 Plain scones
- Class 53 3 Fruit scones
- Class 54 3 Cheese scones
- Class 55 3 Sausage rolls using short-crust pastry
- Class 56 3 Biscuits
- Class 57 1lb Loaf of bread (not using a bread-maker)
- Class 58 1lb Jar of jam - any home grown fruit
- Class 59 1lb Jar of lemon curd
- Class 60 1lb Jar of marmalade
- Class 61 Jar of chutney
- Class 62 Jar of Piccalilli

Category 3: Floral

- Class 63 Arrangement in unusual container
- Class 64 Vase of garden flowers
- Class 65 Houseplant

Category 4: Hobbies (items must have been created between Sept 2014 and August 2015)

- Class 66 An item of embroidery
- Class 67 A hand knitted or crocheted item
- Class 68 An item of textile craft
- Class 69 A scenic photograph
- Class 70 A person or people photograph
- Class 71 A watercolour painting
- Class 72 An oil painting
- Class 73 Pencil, pen, charcoal or pastel sketch
- Class 74 A handmade greetings card
- Class 75 Any other handicraft item not specified above

Category 5: Children's section

- Class 76 A painting or drawing
- Class 77 A model of a creature using vegetables and/or fruit
- Class 78 The best photograph I've taken in the past 12 months
- Class 79 3 jam tarts
- Class 80 3 biscuits

Alanbrooke Nursery

The staff and children know that Alanbrooke Nursery is a very happy and safe place. The care and encouragement is exceptional and there is a strong feeling of affection between staff and their young charges. The baby room is appropriately calm, with lots of focus on sensory play.



The nursery's recent Ofsted Report has more formally stated that Alanbrooke is Good, and Outstanding with regard to the contribution of early years provision to the well-being of children. The smiling faces more than reflect Ofsted's official judgement.

Career Opportunity

Having edited The Tattler since the end of World War II, or thereabouts, Ange and I have decided the time is right to hand over the reins to some whippersnapper (young or old) who would relish this powerful and influential position. As you all know, we've run this paper during the phone hacking scandal right through to the present day, when the Queen has been accused of being Hitler's right-hand man (at the age of 7). Yet we've managed to keep the reputation of The Tattler as pristine as ever. I know! Good people of Topcliffe and Asenby, I feel your gratitude.

If you can work to a deadline (which we never could!), enjoy taking photos of people doing interesting things, and then writing a couple of paragraphs about whatever it is they were doing, then this is obviously the job for you. Sadly it's a zero hours contract and considerably less than the minimum wage - ie you get nothing apart from job satisfaction or dissatisfaction, depending on your mood. But it would be so impressive on your CV if you were seeking a job in journalism. Ange and I wouldn't be where we are today without our newsroom experience in the Tattler office and The Sunday Times would be a lesser paper because of it.

Ring Vicki on 578076 if interested.




The famous celebrities of Topcliffe, Anne-Marie's geese, stagger home from the pub and hope that there'll be a nice supper waiting for them



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**Just a reminder that
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 on the playing fields
 in Asenby and Topcliffe!**



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www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999
Police 101 Textphone 18001 101

Hambleton DC 01609 779977 **Harrogate BC** 01423 568954
www.hambleton.gov.uk www.harrogate.gov.uk

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Events At The Angel

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Join us for a day of fun for all the family with face painting, an inflatable slide, garden games for big & small, a hog roast from 2pm and the chance to win a remote control car. Entry £2 per child.

Comedy Club: The first Tuesday of every month with great acts, get your ticket in advance for £8 (£10 on the day)

Editorial: Vicki Moores / Angela Hook - Tel. 578076: (E-mail: tattler@topcliffe.net)

Production: Charles Collinson - Tel. 578464