

# The TATtler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

## Linda & Karen Pay A Visit To The Queen

At last the waiting was over, including the endless clothes shopping for "the right outfit". We were off to Buckingham Palace for the Queen's first garden party of the year. It didn't help that we got up to grey skies, and by the time we were due to catch the train to London the heavens had opened!

Fortunately, within half an hour of the train setting off the skies had cleared and we arrived at Kings Cross to a warm day.

As neither of us had the courage to use the underground, we caught a taxi to the Palace. What should have been a ten minute taxi ride turned into a rather long half hour journey because of all the new security measures in place, narrowing the two-lane roads down to just one lane in parts.

The taxi left us near the front gates of Buckingham Palace and we were ushered through by several police personnel, after they had confirmed our identity and searched our bags.



*Two Gorgeous Ladies.*

We were told to go through a large archway and into an inner courtyard where we walked along the red carpet and into the entrance lobby of the Palace itself. There were several people ushering all the guests across the stunning marble hallway and through the opposite doors, down the steps to the beautiful Palace gardens which unfolded in front of us. We had to wait a few seconds as the Beefeaters were marching down the steps to a jaunty tune played by one of the two orchestral bands in the gardens. To our left were tables with glasses of lemon

barley water served by young men in white jackets, and then there were the long "tea tents" with queues of smartly dressed fellow guests waiting to be served.

The food was beautifully presented. Tiny finger sandwiches, minus the crusts of course, of egg or cucumber and mint, and a wonderful array of miniature strawberry, chocolate or lemon tarts and Dundee cake.



*Linda was concerned that she and Karen might find themselves becoming a tad peckish on the train home so was very pleased she'd brought her tupperware.*

Just before 4 p.m the National Anthem was played and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh appeared at the top of the steps. The Queen was in salmon pink with a matching hat, and we could see Prince William behind her and Prince Edward. The Royal family were ushered down the steps and introduced to several groups of waiting guests.

By this time we had decided to have a look round the gardens. There were several sweet-smelling roses and the winding pathways took us past many beds of brightly coloured azaleas. There was also a large lake with waterfowl and several summer houses.

All too soon it was time for us to catch the train back to Thirsk. We had had a lovely day in London, but we both agreed that it was nice to be home again!

*Linda Carver and Karen Thomis*

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

## Asenby May Feast Success

Sixty supporters of Asenby Community Space sat down to a delicious May Feast in Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall on Saturday 13 May and helped to raise over £1100 towards the Community Space funds.

A sumptuous dinner provided by the Yorkshire Party Company included fish tarts to start, rare roast fillet of beef with horseradish crème fraiche, sides of fresh salmon, salads and sticky chocolate brownies with berries and berry coulis. A glass of fizz set the scene on arrival, wine was served with each course and a dessert wine was served with pud. To complete a perfect evening, guest speaker local vet and tv super star Peter Wright regaled the audience with tales of his life as a vet.



The small committee of Asenby Community Space had decorated the hall with bunting, fantastic table candelabra draped with ivy and wisteria, and fairy lights. They were helped with dinner service by enthusiastic and efficient members of the 1st Topcliffe Scouts who were all presented with a signed photograph by Peter Wright. A luxury raffle included prizes such as tickets for a day at the Thirsk Races, vouchers for York Theatre Royal, dinner with wine at Lockwoods in Ripon, tea for two at Aldwark Manor, a £50 voucher to spend at a West Park Inn, a wire sculpture and a day's tuition from Asenby artist Chris Moss plus many other prizes from local businesses.



This is the third event organised by the new committee of Asenby Community Space since it took over at the end of 2016. Thanks to tremendous local support for the Christmas Mulled Wine Evening, the Pie, Pea n' Pints Night and now the May Feast, the committee has been able to bank nearly £1200 which will go towards new play

equipment and a face lift for the field that the committee hopes will draw in all age groups.

"It was just a wonderful night" said Siobhan Gifford who chairs the committee for AOS. "The hall looked amazing and everyone was in really good spirits. It felt like the very best of community events. The committee worked their socks off and we'd just like to thank all those who came along, and Peter Wright too of course. We've been asked what we're going to organise next, so watch this space...."

## A Competition For Everybody

A brilliant idea to encourage a smidgin of creativity in those of us who are artistically challenged has been announced. No dressing up is involved but look through your old clothes, to see what you can find to make an unusual and visually stunning scarecrow. Yes that's right - a visually stunning scarecrow!

You can display your entries outside your front door during early September and voting will take place on the day of the Produce Show. So those of us who can't grow gorgeous fruit and veg or bake a cake or make chutney might actually have a chance of winning something!

## A Well-Kept Village

Several villagers have generously put a lot of effort into smartening up Topcliffe in the last few weeks. Doug Allan, Heather Holt, Karen Thomis, Malcolm Morley, Kim Hughes, Mr and Mrs Peter Wright, and of course Anne-Marie Barningham. If I've left anyone off the list I truly apologise. All have done a great job of adding colour and carrying out backbreaking work weeding and planting. This is apart from all the work done by several others on the village hall wall, and down by the Sheepwash.

Also, the Community Payback Team has been working very hard in the Churchyard for a number of years to reclaim and renovate areas that were, in places, heavily overgrown, in particular the lower terraces, and also for their ongoing maintenance of the whole of the Churchyard which now looks so much better and well-tended.

## Donations For Thirsk Food Bank

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe, supports the work of Thirsk Clock. Thirsk Food Bank, which is run by the charity THIRSK CLOCK, is struggling to meet the demand for its services. Please can you help by donating:

- Dried pasta
- Dried noodles
- Packets of rice
- Tins of baked beans, spaghetti, etc
- Tins of stew or other complete meals
- Tins or packets of soup
- Tins of rice pudding, custard, fruit, etc
- Toiletries
- Toilet rolls

These are only suggested items - any non-perishable food in tins or packets will be accepted.

Please leave your donations in the box at the back of Topcliffe Church (open every day: 9.00am-5.00pm) and the contents will be taken to the food bank regularly. Thank you - your help is really appreciated!

## Message From The New Chair Of Topcliffe Parish Council

I would like to thank the members of Topcliffe Parish Council for selecting me to be chairman for the next twelve months. It is a great honour and I hope to be able to serve the community well over this period. I hope that you will give me the support that will be needed for my term to be successful and I would welcome comments and suggestions from any member of the community at any time.

May I take this opportunity to thank the previous parish chairman, Garry Key, who has given this village excellent service over the last 19 years, 17 of which he was chairman. Garry has done so many things to improve the village and help individuals over the years and I am sure you will all join me in giving him a big thank you. I am pleased to say that Garry will remain a parish councillor until 2019 and I am sure he will continue to support me and the other parish councillors during this time.

I would also like to thank Dave Bowman who has resigned as a parish member after serving for, he thinks, twelve years. David was always a reliable member and would do anything necessary to help the village and its residents.

Another change is the arrival of Debbie Roberts as a newly co-opted member. I am very grateful that Debbie was prepared to put herself forward to serve the village. Because of Dave's resignation, there will be an opportunity for a further co-option in the near future. The council will be advertising the vacancy on the village hall notice board soon and I would encourage anyone who is interested to put their name forward.

For the future I hope that the Parish Council will continue to look after the interests of our village and ensure it continues to be a great place to live. Having pride in our surroundings is critically important and I will do my best to ensure that the council does everything it can to keep the village looking spic and span. I know that locals are particularly interested in our grass cutting arrangements and I intend to review the existing schedule of cuts to ensure that the playing field, new cemetery, Jubilee Gardens and main verges always look neat and tidy.

But please remember that everyone has some responsibility for the way the village looks. I have seen some residents weeding and tidying up areas of land and kerbsides and I thank them for their efforts. If everyone was prepared to do something - particularly outside their own property - things could be so much better.

As you maybe know, I am personally interested in community care and looking after the elderly in our midst. There are lots of older folk living by themselves and they would welcome a little help and support from neighbours, even if just a brief chat over a cup of tea. Small things can make such a difference.

A new Parish Councillor is required for Topcliffe. With one meeting every month, the position isn't onerous but is interesting. If you would like to chat to Anne-Marie about the vacancy please call her on 07740 175311.

Thanks again. Feel free to talk to me at any time.

*Anne-Marie Barningham  
Parish Chairman*



*Just in case there's a single person in Topcliffe who doesn't recognise our new Parish Council Chairperson - this is Anne-Marie Barningham.*

### The Best Easter Present

The children of Alanbrooke Nursery near Topcliffe had a great party at the end of term and wore their lovely Easter bonnets to celebrate. Even better, they were given some splendid outdoor play equipment so they could practise their adventuring skills.



The apparatus was paid for by the nursery and the commanding officer of the 4th Regiment, Lt Colonel Rob Alston, officially cut the red ribbon in a short opening ceremony, inviting the excited children to have lots of fun. They obviously didn't need asking twice!

The nursery manager, Lorna Young, said "It's an amazing piece of play equipment which the children will enjoy so much."

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## Quite A Year For Our Village Hall

It's nearly a year since the major improvement works on the village hall were completed and unbelievably it's ten months since local vet, Peter Wright, came along and performed the official re-opening ceremony. Doesn't time fly?

The refurbishment works to the front of the village hall exterior, the entrance hall and the new build toilet block were completed slightly behind schedule due to some unforeseen problems with the hall foundations and existing roof structure that needed additional work completed prior to new works being able to go ahead. These additional works resulted in an overspend of the budget allowed from grants obtained, and the extra costs are currently being met from village hall funds. It is hoped that all bills will be paid by the end of this year. I am very grateful that the main contractor, Paul Thompson Builders of Northallerton, has been exceptionally generous by both limiting the additional costs for the unscheduled works and by extending an interest-free loan to the village hall committee, for which we are very grateful.

The hall also benefited from a total re-decoration which updated and improved the look of the interior of the main hall as well as the two function rooms. The addition of a storage room has helped with the tidy storage of hall chairs and tables.

The final stage of the refurbishment project will be to fix railings around the steps, ramp and flower beds and may possibly include the construction of a wooden canopy over the entry door to allow a place for shelter from the weather and a covered area to park prams/invalid scooters etc. The committee are hoping to obtain grants to fund this final stage of refurbishment.

Since the official re-opening, the number of organisations and individuals - both local and from further afield - using the hall has increased considerably and there's every reason to believe its popularity as a venue for all sorts of events and activities will continue to grow. I'm particularly pleased that bookings for private weekend functions has risen as this obviously means that the much-improved hall and facilities are considered to be of high enough quality to attract events such as wedding receptions and anniversary parties, as well as the regular children's parties.

The installation of a hearing loop and an audio-visual suit has proved useful for several functions and it is hoped that more use of the video projection facility will be forthcoming, with a plan for regular "Film Nights" now the new blackout curtains have been fitted.

The Village Hall Committee has a strong membership which has seen a number of new members join this year. I would like to thank all committee members for their continued support and hard work in making the village hall such a success and benefit to the villages of Topcliffe & Asenby.

*Andrew Eckersley*

[www.Topcliffe.net](http://www.Topcliffe.net) & [www.Asenby.net](http://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, as well as the online version of the Millennium Book of Topcliffe.



The TATtler

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## Produce Show Fast Approaches Saturday, 26 August 2017

The 2017 Topcliffe & Asenby Produce Show will have 47 horticultural classes, so there's lots of opportunity to grow some winners! There's also 16 baking/preserves classes, 3 floral classes, 10 hobbies classes and 5 specific classes for entries from children. See the full list of categories and classes both village websites.

Please read the Produce Show Rules carefully to ensure your entries conform to the regulations. They are available on our village websites - [www.topcliffe.net](http://www.topcliffe.net) and [www.asenby.net](http://www.asenby.net)

Good luck to all of you who enter...and we hope everyone who attends has a great day out.

## "Having A Clear Out - Spring Cleaning?"

Hazardous waste such as old creosote and cans of paint cannot be taken to the Waste Management Centre at Thirsk. However, you can have it collected by NYCC Waste and Countryside Services. For further details ring County Hall (01609 780780).

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 <sup>st</sup> 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

[www.Asenby.net](http://www.Asenby.net)

## An Apple A Day For Everyone

On a very wet and blustery day, Mrs Abi Clay, Topcliffe School's Headteacher, with six of her pupils, set about planting apple trees which had kindly been donated by Cargills of Dalton. There are four on the playing field and three in Jubilee Gardens with varieties specifically chosen to produce fruit in rotation. Children will observe the trees growing and bearing fruit, teaching them how it eventually arrives in their fruit bowl.



Jamie Swingler, Georgie Croxford and Lottie Farrow of Cargills with Mrs Clay and Topcliffe School pupils.

Cargill has a factory on Dalton Industrial Estate, and provides food, agriculture, financial and industrial products. They have 150,000 employees in 70 countries who are committed to feeding the world in a responsible way. Every year, employees round the world give more than 1000,000 hours to volunteer activities and charitable-giving efforts.

The partnership with Topcliffe Cof E School is an example of the company's ethical approach towards involving the local community. The children have been involved at all stages throughout the process and should be able to literally enjoy the fruits of their labour very soon.

## 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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## Topcliffe & Asenby Join The 21<sup>ST</sup> 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](http://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.

Don't worry if this isn't your cup of tea, as there's still details circulated via email, the newsletter and The Tattler, on a quarterly basis.

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## Spending Time In The Sun

People who spend a lot of time in the sun, whether it's for work or play, are at increased risk of skin cancer if they don't take the right precautions. If you have lots of moles or freckles, your risk of getting skin cancer is higher than average, so take extra care.



Sunburn increases your risk of skin cancer. Sunburn doesn't just happen on holiday - you can burn in the UK, even when it's cloudy. There's no safe or healthy way to get a tan. A tan doesn't protect your skin from the sun's harmful effects. Aim to strike a balance between protecting yourself from the sun and getting enough vitamin D from sunlight.

### Sun safety tips

- Spend time in the shade when the sun is strongest. In the UK, this is between 11am and 3pm from March to October.
- Don't rely on sunscreen alone to protect yourself from the sun. Wear suitable clothing and spend time in the shade when the sun's at its hottest.
- Sunscreen should be applied to all exposed skin, including the face, neck and ears - and head if you have thinning or no hair - but a wide-brimmed hat is better.
- Sunscreen needs to be reapplied liberally and frequently, and according to the manufacturer's instructions. This includes applying it straight after you've been in water - even if it's "water resistant" - and after towel drying, sweating, or when it may have rubbed off.
- Make sure the sunscreen is not past its expiry date. Most sunscreens have a shelf life of two to three years. Don't spend any longer in the sun than you would without sunscreen.
- If sunscreen is applied too thinly, the amount of protection it gives is reduced. If you're worried you might not be applying enough SPF15, you could use a stronger SPF30 sunscreen.
- Take extra care to protect babies and children. Their skin is much more sensitive than adult skin, and damage caused by repeated exposure to sunlight could lead to skin cancer developing in later life. Children aged under six months should be kept out of direct strong sunlight.
- A day at the beach without proper eye protection can cause a temporary but painful burn to the surface of the eye, similar to sunburn. Reflected sunlight from snow, sand, concrete and water, and artificial light from sunbeds, is particularly dangerous.

### How to deal with sunburn:

Sponge sore skin with cool water, then apply soothing aftersun or calamine lotion. Painkillers, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, will ease the pain by helping to reduce inflammation caused by sunburn. Seek medical help if you feel unwell or the skin swells badly or blisters. Stay out of the sun until all signs of redness have gone.

## New Art Class For The Village Hall

Art Connections" run by husband and wife artists, Barry & Vivien Wilton-Middlemass, intend to start new art workshops, with sessions commencing in September every Monday between 1pm to 4pm in the village hall.

The workshops will mainly concentrate on watercolour techniques, to enable everyone from beginners to experienced artists to enhance and improve their own styles. Acrylics and oil painting could be introduced if required. Cost of the workshop will be announced later when definite dates are available for the start of the sessions.

Barry and Vivien are both SAA Professional Associates and Barry has had paintings exhibited in The Mall Galleries London, and was recently "shortlisted" in The Yorkshire Life Landscape Painter of the Year! Vivien (FRSA) brings a loose colourful style into our Workshops including the new medium of "Brusho" a delicate watercolour powder painting method.

Both Artists have exhibited locally over the last few years in Helmsley Art Centre and NYMNP Centre Danby plus other venues.

From May 25 to 29 Barry/Vivien and 4 other artists will be exhibiting at a newly opened venue inside Helmsley Parish Church.

## Do You Care For A Friend Or Relative?

There are 6.8 million people in the UK caring for a friend or relative and the number of carers is increasing year on year. It has been estimated that the number of carers in North Yorkshire has increased by 21% to 68,000 in the 4 years from 2011 to 2015 (NYCC).

One of the best opportunities to raise awareness, not only of the needs of carers, but also of the support available to them, presents itself during CARERS WEEK (12th-18th June).

Hambleton & Richmondshire Carers Centre is a local charitable organisation providing FREE information and advice to people caring for a friend or relative.

Carers week 12th to 18th June 2017 - Free Information Events:

**Northallerton Forum Tuesday 13th June 10am-2pm**  
**The Garden Rooms at Tennants Thursday 15th June 10am-2pm**

Refreshments and Tombola and much more... All provided free of charge. Please come and see!

Information on issues from:

- Benefits to Blue Badges
- Mobility Aids to Mental Health Support
- Launch of our Carer Discount Card

Tasters on:

- Mindfulness
- Debt Management
- Lasting Power of Attorney
- Gentle Exercise

For more information pick-up a leaflet at Topcliffe Surgery or visit the charity's website: [www.hrcarers.com](http://www.hrcarers.com)

**NO CARER NEEDS TO COPE ALONE**

## An Evening Of Northern Humour You Can't Beat It!

A very entertaining evening has been arranged by Amanda Jamieson-Allen. Ian McMillan and Tony Husband will perform their very popular show, "A Cartoon History of Here" at The Forum in Northallerton on Friday November 24. Reviews of the show have been absolutely glowing and enthusiastic.

Ian McMillan is an extremely witty poet and Radio 4 regular, while Tony Husband is a cartoonist and author of "Take Care my Son".... the story of his father's battle with dementia.

It's planned that the event will raise money for The Sporting Memories Foundation, a charity to help tackle dementia, depression and loneliness. It will be a great evening, do come along. Tickets will be on sale from The Forum.

## Topcliffe & District Carpet Bowls

This season Topcliffe Bowling Club finished around the middle of the Vale of Mowbray Northern Division League in which there are 14 teams. The better news is that the superb doubles team of Mel Arkley and Jean Pilkington won the trophy cup, amid much cheering and rejoicing.

If you're interested in an evening of gentle competition and exercise, and you're in possession of a keen eye and steady hand (and it helps to have a sense of humour) bowls could be the sport for you. Meetings take place every Thursday evening in the village hall at 7.30. No experience is necessary and the cost is £2.50 per session. Tea and biscuits and all equipment are provided.



The winning team of Mel Arkley and Jean Pilkington.

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe	Asenby
<b>Anne-Marie Barningham (Chairman)</b> 07740 175311	<b>Peter Palmer (Chairman)</b> Hilltop Farm 578057
<b>Lynn Wallis (Vice Chair)</b> 32 East Lea 577437	<b>Judy Lowe (Vice Chair)</b> Green End Dairy 577911
<b>Debbie Roberts</b> 577024	<b>Mel Arkley</b> Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
<b>Garry Key</b> Cliff House, Long St. 578900	<b>Peter Dale</b> 577373
<b>Alex Little (Clerk)</b> 578702	<b>Don Compton</b> 577462
	<b>Jayne Molyneux (Clerk)</b> 595053

## The Attic Auction

Once again the Attic Auction raised over £1000 which is a brilliant effort, Topcliffe and Asenby. Well done. There was a wide variety of artwork, several pieces of kitchen equipment that brought back memories to the over-60s. There were a few perfumed bath sets, pieces of pine furniture which went for a song, and a stick of rock which must surely have been a collector's item. It makes one wonder if there's anything left in the depths of our "under the stairs" for next year? Watch this space!

## Well Done - Topcliffe's Fab Tennis Team

Topcliffe School Tennis Team has qualified for the Level 3 "Your School Games" Years 3-4 Tennis Competition representing Hambleton against other districts in North Yorkshire. This important next round will be held at Queen Margaret's School in York on Sunday July 9th. Very Good Luck to all the children taking part.



Eva Harris, Oscar Knowles, Charlie Lamb & Lexi Ramshay.

## Village Hall Events

On July 23 from 11am-1.30pm, Mid-Summer Brunch will be served. How pleasant to enjoy a leisurely Sunday morning, chatting with friends and neighbours while tucking into bacon/sausage bap and tea or coffee. All for £3.50.

August 4 from 8pm will be Movie Night. "Lion" is the first film to be shown, starring Nicole Kidman and Dev Patel. Tickets are £3 each on the door.

## Apology To All Our Readers

This was the weekend of the Heritage Festival at St Columba's Church. Unfortunately it seemed we had absolutely not a smidgin of space left to report on this very special event. However, in the next issue, we really will try to include it - first priority definitely. And hopefully there will have been some accomplished photographers on-site.

## Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

**Topcliffe Surgery** 577297 **Friarage Hospital** 01609 779911  
[www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk](http://www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk) [www.southtees.nhs.uk](http://www.southtees.nhs.uk)  
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4<sup>TH</sup> JULY

1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST

5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

TICKETS £8 IN ADVANCE  
OR £10 ON THE DAY



### WEDDING OPEN DAY



SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

12 - 4PM

## DID YOU KNOW WE'RE PERFECT FOR PARTIES?



Editorial: Vicki Moores - Tel. 578076/ Doug Allan - Tel. 578526: (E-mail: [tattler@topcliffe.net](mailto:tattler@topcliffe.net))

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