

My Horse, My horse, My Kingdom for a Horse

Excitement was mounting on Boxing Day as the crowds gathered at the back of The Angel. Some of us, who knew no better, were expecting to see handsome horses, restless to be charging after the hounds and their hapless prey. As it happened, there were no horses although there was port and jodhpurs and authentic looking 4x4s, and dogs who seemed to think they were meerkats.

Overall it was a bit of a non-event but the weather was sunny and it was probably healthier to be standing in the car park waiting for the non-existent horses than standing at the bar drinking yet more festive alcohol. And beagles - they do make a good photo with or without a shredded fox or two.



Mince Pie and Mulled Wine

Once again the annual Mince Pie and Mulled Wine evening at the Crab and Lobster was a huge success. £260 was raised and all that happened was that everyone had a good chat with friends and neighbours. Easy money, lots of pies.



Topcliffe School's classes 1 and 2 performed a charming Nativity play this week, with songs, shepherds, and a very precious sleeping baby. Everyone was a star.

Parish Council News

The past year was fairly routine with the council achieving a zero comment accounts audit again. The parish finances are strong and in good order, requiring no increase in the precept again for this year.

The outsourced grass cutting contract for the playing field and is running well and cost effectively and the council has procured a mobile goal for the field which is hoped will not be subject to vandalism.

The Magna Carta Barons Association, of which we are a member, has applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a £700k grant to fund the development and implementation of the celebrations in 2015. We should know of success or not in March.

We are looking at possibly restoring the market cross, the procurement of a memorial charter for public display and possibly new village signs portraying our Magna Carta Heritage. I will keep you informed of developments.

I wish to thank the Councillors and clerk for their diligence and commitment to our community.

I would like, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you all a Happy New Year.

District Council

I am now the new District Councillor. In the last Tattler it was announced that our former District Councillor stood down for personal reasons. I was asked to stand in his stead and was adopted unopposed on the 12 December, taking up my duties in the New Year. This is for 18 months only as elections are due in 2015.

I will represent your views at council openly and with integrity.

Please feel free to contact me on any council matters.

Garry Key
garrykey@aol.com

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Proprietor: Andrew Turner B.Eng (Eng) Hons

Baldersby St James CE Primary

January is the start of our Islam topic in school and we will be visiting a traditional mosque in Bradford to look at the differences in Islamic rituals and our Christian traditions.

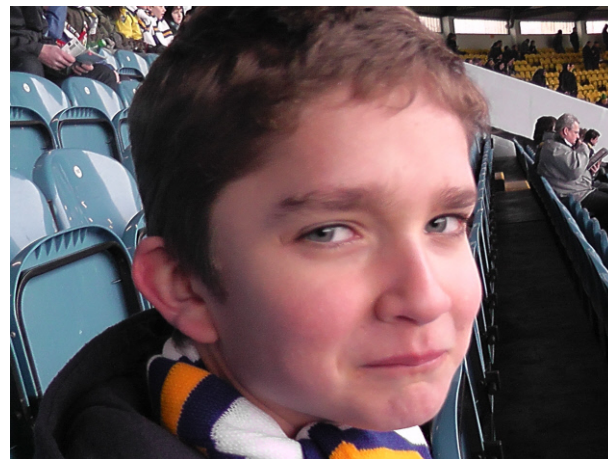
I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in bringing in vouchers from the various supermarket promotions - they really do make a big difference to the children. I would also like to remind people that we are continuing to collect Nestle Cereal Box Tops, which are used to buy new books for the classrooms and library.

I would like to wish all Cross Talk readers a Happy and Healthy 2014.

Mark Lawn
Headteacher
Baldersby St James CE Primary
01765 640277
admin@baldersby-st-james.n-yorks.sch.uk

Patrick Hooker - A Very Special Boy

Most people who live in Asenby and Topcliffe will have known Patrick, or at least known of him. He tragically died of cancer at the age of 13 and, in his too short life, touched and inspired friends, family and neighbours. Wendy Shepherd, the headteacher of Topcliffe Primary School described him as "an extraordinary pupil. His strength and bravery will never be forgotten."



Patrick and his family were generously supported by the children's cancer charity, CLIC Sargent, and in a huge fundraising effort the landlord of The Swan, staff and customers raised somewhere in the region of £15,000 for this exceptional charity. On a sweltering hot Bank Holiday, they hiked over the Three Peaks, followed the next day by a bike ride from Scarborough to Topcliffe, and the same evening, held a raffle, karaoke, bbq and auction.

Fundraising for CLIC Sargent in Patrick's name will continue, adding to the many ways in which his memory lives on.

Farewell To Our Brave Patrick

After a two year battle with cancer, our son Patrick passed peacefully away in September, whilst at home with his loving family.

Patrick loved his home, his friends and Topcliffe, which always was a special place for him. He felt this because the community we have here is a caring and loving place which, as a family, we have felt and experienced, in particular over the last 2 years, through your quiet thoughts, kind words and generous deeds. We received countless messages, cards and acts of kindness, showing that the pain of losing Patrick so suddenly was a great burden for you too. Knowing this has been a real tower of strength for us in coping, as we never felt alone.

We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

We have often asked ourselves why? Why Patrick, an innocent 13 year old child? What has been the sense and purpose of it all? What was the reason for all his suffering? Asking these questions has been so much easier than finding any answer. No answer made any sense except that life is a journey of chances where good or bad things may happen to us. We know many others have been asking themselves these very same questions too.

We now believe that Patrick is with both his Grandads, looking down on us. We also feel that Patrick has left a lasting legacy, a legacy that we, as a family, are very proud of and which will influence us for the rest of our lives. Knowing this goes a little way towards an answer to the questions of why - why Patrick and for what reason?

What is this legacy?

Well, when we are faced in the future with problems and difficulties, we will put these into perspective by remembering the resilience Patrick showed in facing his huge problems and coping with his treatment.

When we fear doing anything or seeing anyone, we will cope by remembering Patrick's courage and bravery.

If we feel fed-up or miserable from time to time, we will remember Patrick's sense of humor and smile which shone everyday.

If sometimes, we are tempted to complain, grumble or blame others for anything in life we will always remember Patrick never complained, grumbled or blamed others for his situation.

Whenever we feel lost, without focus and not sure which way to turn in life, we will always remember Patrick had a focus and knew exactly what he wanted - to get the treatment finished.

If we find ourselves feeling angry or resentful about what happened to Patrick, we will always remember

the calmness, acceptance and dignity Patrick always showed in coping with his problems.

We hope all of you will also remember and live by Patrick's legacy and remember him as he was - a brave, happy child.

You see, if we ignore this legacy then Patrick's precious life would all be wasted. If we ignore this legacy and become angry, resentful or mournful, then cancer would have beaten us all.

We as a family hope you may all find some comfort from these words.

Patrick, it does matter

It Does Matter that you were here...

*Your courage and fight will never be forgotten,
We will always remember with pride, the bravery it
took for you to carry on
In the face of such overwhelming odds.
We will continue to be inspired by your example.
We will never forget all you have taught us.
You are an example of true courage.*

It Does Matter that you were here...

*In fighting this disease you taught your doctors and
nurses something new
And put us one step closer to the cause and cure of
this disease.
The legacy of medical research will always owe you
a part of its knowledge.*

It Does Matter that you were here...

*You touched our lives.
We are forever different for having known you.
We will always carry the memories of joy and
sorrow;
Laughter and tears; humour and pain; silliness and
sadness.
The light of those memories will forever burn in us
and light our days
And comfort us through the darkness of the nights.*

It Does Matter that you were here...

*Because of how you lived your fight,
You encourage us to fight obstacles in our lives.
Your fight inspires us to live our lives with courage
and humour, laughter and joy.
Your life inspires us to be honest with ourselves and
others
About our loss, our pain, our sorrow.*

It Does Matter that you were here...

*We will never forget you.
You are part of us forever.*

Lois, Julian, Vincent and Marcus Hooker

"UP THE GARDEN PATH"

Does your:-

Lawn need mowing?

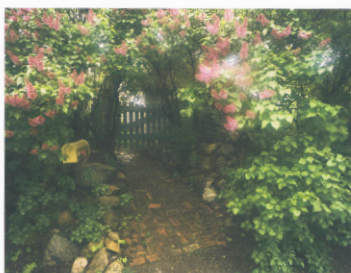
Dog need walking/ sitting?

House need a bit of a tidy or sort out?

Shed need clearing?

Shopping need doing? Or

Any other little jobs "Up your garden path" that I can help you with.



Then contact me, Heather, on 01845 578796 or 07752653034 and I will pop round and see if I can help you.

A Warm Welcome

At last a new vicar of St Columba's is due to take up the mantle on February 22 at a special service which will be conducted by the Archbishop of York. The Reverend Suzanne Jukes, the new vicar, is the widow of Keith Jukes, who was the popular Dean of Ripon Cathedral until his sudden death last year.

Everyone is very welcome to attend this service and more details will be made available soon.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

| 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 |
| Lynn Heidstrom 32 East Lea 577437 | 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 07594 225254 | Jacqueline Naylor Hayloft House 577059 |

Isobel Peters (Clerk)

Tel: 578900 isobelpeters@googlemail.com

Counting the birds that are counting on you

It will be all eyes to the skies on Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th January 2014, as the nation takes part in the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.



The activity is the biggest garden wildlife survey in the world and last year almost 600,000 people counted the birds in their garden.

Big Garden Birdwatch, which has been running for 35 years, provides the RSPB with masses of information about changes in numbers of garden birds in winter, and helps to alert conservationists to significant declines in UK garden species such as house sparrows and starlings.

And this year, for the first time, we need you to log some of the other wildlife you see in your garden too. We want to know whether you ever see deer, squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs, frogs and toads in your gardens, to help build an overall picture of how important our gardens are for giving all types of wildlife a home.

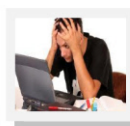
Doing the Big Garden Birdwatch is fun and easy, and you don't even need to leave the comfort of your own home. To take part, spend just one hour at any time over the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend noting the highest number of each species seen in your garden or local outside space at any one time. You then simply submit your results to the RSPB, either online at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or in the post.

Deborah Brown

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Charles Dickens would have Loved This

Members of the Topcliffe Tuesday Club, formerly known as Senior Citizens, have enjoyed some interesting and enjoyable trips over the last twelve months, but none has been more thought-provoking than the recent visit to Ripon Town Hall, followed by an hour or two spent in the Workhouse Museum. The splendour of the silver and mayoral robes contrasted strongly with the austerity of the workhouse.



The autumnal chill was as nothing compared to the cold conditions that the unfortunate souls, forced to choose between homelessness or the workhouse, endured. The cruelty of separating children from their parents, the harsh rules and hard labour confirmed the visitors' perception of Victorian England, although the workhouse continued to function well into the 20th century. Surprisingly, the last resident only left in the 1970s, by which time the arrival of the Welfare State had ensured that there was little similarity between the poorhouse of old and the more comfortable hostel for the homeless.

The building has been meticulously reconstructed, with heart-wrenching photographs, spartan cells and an inhospitable schoolroom, but also a restored garden full of vegetables and a meadow area. While porridge and four slices of bread and dripping might not conform to Jamie Oliver's idea of a healthy breakfast, it was clearly a menu intended to prepare a workforce for a day's hard labour.

The November outing to Strikes' Garden Centre gave members an opportunity to be among the first to admire and purchase some of the lavish Christmas decorations. There was some shopping then some tea drinking and cake eating in the cafe. As usual, a very satisfactory day out.

The Christmas lunch at The Bay Horse was also a great success. Say what you like, but the Tuesday

Club members certainly enjoy getting ready for Christmas with their decoration creating in September as well as the more recent events. The Bay Horse provides a very good value meal and is a proper pub in the old-fashioned sense of the word. And so, just in case anyone was still not feeling thoroughly festive, Topcliffe Playgroup performed a concert at the village hall, exclusively for the Tuesday Club. Who doesn't love seeing small children, all dressed up and singing their little hearts out. Everyone was predictably enchanted.

The Tuesday Club is open to all, with meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. Excursions take place regularly, but also Topcliffe Village Hall accommodates various activities ranging from handicrafts to gentle exercise, as well as performances from male voice choirs or bell-ringers. New members will be made to feel very welcome. Call Judith Lowe on 577911.

Pilates at the Village Hall

Monday 9-9.30am

KETTLE BELL PILATES

An energetic class, combining cardiovascular & toning exercises.

Monday 9.30-10.30am

MAT PILATES

Classic Pilates. Core strength work & stretching.

Tuesday 9-9.30am

KETTLE BELL PILATES

Classic Pilates. Core strength work & stretching.

Tuesday 9.30-10.30am

BALL PILATES CLASS

Gym balls & toning exercises. Help strengthen the core, improve balance and co-ordination.

Thursday 10.15-11.15am

MIXED EQUIPMENT PILATES CLASS

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Email: chris.moores@hotmail.co.uk

A Tremendous Effort

Five staff members of Topcliffe Playgroup assembled one Sunday morning recently, ready to embark on a gruelling triathlon. There had been some serious training, and a lot of requests for sponsorship in their quest to raise £1000 for the playgroup and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. They were worried at times that they'd set their target unrealistically high, but with donations from family, friends and a particularly generous contribution from North Yorkshire Timber, they soon realised that they could expect to raise in excess of £1700.



From left to right: WonnaHeng'Joy', Jessica Robertson, Teresa Scholes, Emma Driffield, and Jo Gulliver.

Jessica, Teresa, Jo, Emma and Joy completed a 2.9 mile run, a 9.7 mile bike ride, and a half mile swim. They admitted that there was an occasional hint of competition and a few hair-raising moments but everyone finished the challenge with nothing more serious than the inevitable aching limbs.

However, Jessica Robertson said proudly "All the aches and pains don't come anywhere close to the elation we all felt having completed the triathlon - and the question now is "What's next?"

Learning is for Life

That's the motto of The University of the Third Age (U3A), a unique and exciting self-help organisation which provides life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities for retired and semi-retired people.

The wide-ranging activities of local U3A groups reflect the principal aims of the world-wide organisation, which is to encourage the sharing and exchange of skills, knowledge and interests amongst its members. The idea is that individuals meet and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward and the sheer joy of discovery!

Kill for a Seat –it's really quite funny

We're not really suggesting anyone should contemplate murder to book their place at Topcliffe's monthly comedy night...but, no joke, these evenings are a hoot and are highly recommended.

Comedy Nights, compered by the very funny Silky and with guest appearances by three or four other comedians, are being promoted at The Angel on the first Tuesday of every month. So far, three have been staged and the numbers attending have increased each time. The last was close to capacity so if you fancy attending the next one, you're advised to get your ticket well in advance.

And there's more good news. Not only is the Comedy Night bringing excellent, professional and extremely funny talent to Topcliffe, but the cost of entry is ridiculously cheap! Normally this brilliant night's entertainment is yours for £8, if you purchase a ticket in advance, or £10 at the door.

Just a word of warning: these evenings present adult humour and are not for the under-18s or the faint-hearted.

Doug Allan

The three nearest U3As are based at Thirsk, Northallerton and Ripon, though there are others at Bedale and Harrogate. They all provide similar programmes of educational, creative and leisure opportunities, such as art, languages, music, history, life sciences, philosophy, computing, crafts, photography and walking. Each U3A group is a charity in its own right and is run entirely by volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about how to get involved, here are contact details:

Thirsk - (No website yet)
Membership Secretary: 01845 527851

Northallerton - www.northallertonu3a.org
Membership Secretary: 01609 770534

Ripon - www.riponu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary: 01765 606458

Doug Allan



A swinging 60's themed dance is to take place in the village hall on



Proceeds to go to CLIC Sergent in memory of Patrick Hooker (more details soon)

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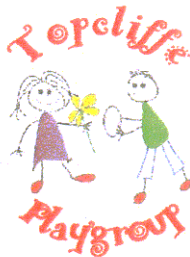
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FAKE THACKRAY

For those of a certain age, a pleasant evening listening to Jake Thackray's gentle satirical songs brought about a recognition that his brilliant and well-crafted lyrics must have provided the inspiration for many humorous singer/songwriters since the late 1960s.

Sadly Jake Thackray died in 2002, but John Watterson is, to quote folk singer Mike Harding, "the next best thing." He sings with appreciation of the quirky humour, the sideways view of life and the unique genius, which is familiar to Thackray's cult enthusiasts. With poetic lyrics which were written long before the often stifling effect of political correctness, as well as a few risqué songs, John clearly enjoyed performing to the welcoming audience in Topcliffe Village Hall.

His own droll stories and throwaway comments perfectly complimented Thackray's dry sense of humour, at the same time showing himself to be an accomplished guitarist.

John has performed at the Edinburgh Festival in his Fake Thackray persona, as well as touring with Fairport Convention. He travels far and wide, determined to keep the memory of Jake Thackray's individual talent alive. His greatest honour, he has said, was performing at the memorial service for his hero - "the scariest gig of my life - but such a privilege."

The Sad Loss of A Familiar Character

Almost everyone in Topcliffe and Asenby will have known Joyce Barningham who sadly died at Christmas. She leaves her husband, Wilf, daughter, Anne-Marie, and grandson, Josh at their farm in Long Street. Although Mrs Barningham had suffered with complications from diabetes for a long time, her death was sudden and a shock to everyone.

This kind lady will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

The Produce Show

Those of you who visited the third Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show last August will be very aware of the horticultural, baking and craft-making talents of people from our two villages. The standards were extremely high and the show proved a tremendous success.

For 2014, please make a note in your diary that the event will be staged on Saturday, 30 August. The Show Committee hopes that even more people will consider putting in entries and helping to make the event an even bigger success.

Doug Allen

SUPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND NOW AVAILABLE IN TOPCLIFFE AND ASENBY

High-speed fibre broadband is now available to homes and businesses in Topcliffe and Asenby. Over 280 local homes and businesses can now join the high-speed revolution and enjoy using the Internet at super-fast speeds.

As well as helping local firms boost their competitiveness, superfast broadband offers new ways of flexible working, entertainment and learning opportunities for local residents. At home, fibre broadband lets a family simultaneously download a movie, watch a TV replay service, surf the internet and play games online. A whole album can be downloaded in less than 30 seconds and a feature length HD movie in less than 10 minutes, whilst high-resolution photos can be uploaded to Facebook in seconds.

Superfast North Yorkshire is a partnership between North Yorkshire County Council and BT. It builds on BT's commercial roll-out of fibre broadband in the county so that 90 per cent of North Yorkshire's homes and businesses will have access to fibre broadband by the end of 2014. This typically means speeds of between 25mbps and 80mbps.

The network is open to all service providers so contact yours today to find out more or go to www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com

The Superfast North Yorkshire project is part financed by the European Regional Development Fund Programme 2007 to 2013. The Department for Communities and Local Government is the managing authority for the European Regional Development Fund Programme, which is one of the funds established by the European Commission to help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support local businesses and create jobs. For more information visit www.communities.gov.uk/erdf



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Snooker Club

At still only £20 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.



www.Topcliffe.net & www.Asenby.net

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

Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

Topcliffe Surgery - 577297
www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk

Friarage Hospital - 01609 779911
www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies - 0800 111 999
www.nationalgrid.com/uk

Police - 101 Textphone 18001 101
www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Hambleton DC - 01609 779977
www.hambleton.gov.uk

Harrogate BC - 01423 568954
www.harrogate.gov.uk

HDC Cllr Garry Key 01845 578900
garrykey@aol.com

HBC Cllr Bernard Bateman 01765 640362
Bernard.Bateman@harrogate.gov.uk

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