

**Produce Show 2023**

Despite worries about the erratic weather during this year's growing season, the range and quality of produce



*Horticultural winner, Peter Lowe with judge Grahame Marsden*

on show at the Topcliffe & Asenby Produce Show at the Village Hall last week (2 September), was amazing. There was a stunning array of produce across all categories. A large crowd visited the show and mingled among the many horticultural and other exhibits, had a cup of tea and chatted with competitors, friends and neighbours.

Well done to Peter Lowe who was the overall winner in the horticultural section, and also the winner of the most 'firsts', with 15 category wins.



*Judith Lowe & Karen Hargreaves, winner in the floral section*

Other trophy winners were: Hobbies - Julie Hunt; Floral - Karen Hargreaves and Baking - Fiorella Shepherd. There were very few entries from children, but well done to those that did enter.

A big thank you to Show Secretary Judith Show and all the other volunteers who make



*Judith Lowe and Fiorella Shepherd, winner in the baking section*



*Judith Lowe & Julie Hunt, winner in the hobbies section*

**Big Race Night in Topcliffe**

The Topcliffe Big Race Night is on course at the Village Hall on Saturday 14 October. The first race is off at 7.30pm.



Those who have been to previous Race Nights know what great fun it is with eight video races and the added excitement of betting on the horse of your choice. If you haven't been before, get yourself along and join in the entertainment. You'll also enjoy a lovely supper whilst raising much-needed funds for our Village Hall.

Tickets priced £7 (includes the two-course supper) are on sale now from Doug Allan (07785 223707) or Topcliffe Post Office. Each ticket is numbered and there'll be a draw on the night with top-class prize of a luxurious over night for two at Crab Manor followed by a delicious breakfast.

Events like this take a lot of planning and organisation and they rely heavily on local sponsors - both businesses and individuals. So, a big thank you is offered to those who sponsored the bar, races and prizes: to the helpers who'll work very hard on the night to make it a success (especially Karen and Malc Morley, Linda Carver and Linda Robinson who'll be cooking and serving a tasty supper), and most of all to those who attend and make the whole night so enjoyable.

**Public meeting about Asenby play park**

Following a village consultation about the play park, Asenby parish councillors have collated all replies from the questionnaire and are holding a public meeting for Asenby residents where the results will be revealed and there'll be discussions about the play area's future. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 September at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall.

See Asenby Demographics and Asenby Parish Update on page 2.

## Asenby Parish Council Update

Here's an update of recent activities in the village.

**Riverside Path:** The two wooden bridges along the River Swale path have now been restored. The repairs should give many years of useful life. Many thanks to Dean Pallister and his team for the good work.



**Play Park Public Meeting:** A public meeting is being held on Wednesday 13 September at 7:30pm, in Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall to share the key findings of the recent survey.

**Grass cutting:** We have secured a new contractor to maintain the grass verges, including the park. The grass maintenance should be back to a level of normality before the autumn.

**Village Green Parking:** Eric Moss has re-seeded the grass around the village green and horse chestnut tree.



He has also sectioned off the area and placed a no parking sign. We're very grateful for Eric in taking the time to do this and would ask residents to observe the sign so that the grass has a good chance of recovering. Residents are reminded that it is unlawful to park on the green, village verges or footpaths.

### Asenby Planning Applications (Harrogate Planning Portal):

ZC23/02935/FULMAJ Asenby Business Park, YO7 3PF. To provide 15 business units.

ZC23/03067/FUL Hay Loft House, YO7 3QR. Addition of front porch.

**Parish Council meeting:** The next meeting is to be confirmed following the public meeting.

Asenby Parish Council - [asenbypc@gmail.com](mailto:asenbypc@gmail.com)

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## Asenby Demographics

As part of the consultation process about the future of the play park in Asenby, parish councillors have looked at the population and age demographics within the village. This will be useful background to inform the discussion at the public meeting. The population of the village is 320 (to the nearest 10).

Education		
At school/Student	44	13.60%
Not at school	276	86.40%

Age Distribution		
0-4 years	12	3.70%
5-9 years	13	4.00%
10-14 years	16	5.00%
15-19 years	13	4.00%
20-29 years	21	6.50%
30-39 years	31	9.90%
40-49 years	32	10%
50-59 years	53	16.50%
60-64 years	31	9.60%
65-69 years	20	6.20%
70-79 years	53	16.80%
80+ years	25	7.80%

44 (13.6%) are of school age, and a little over a quarter of these (12, 3.7% of total) can be considered as toddlers. This compares with 98 (30.8%) residents who are over 65 and it's assumed the majority are retired from full-time work.

Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS) Census 2021.

### Flu season approaches

With the move into the autumn we also get closer to the flu season and it's time for those who are eligible to make sure they get a flu jab.

Topcliffe Surgery is now offering flu vaccinations to the following patients -those aged 65 years and over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2024); under 65 years and in an at-risk group (e.g. asthma, diabetes, heart disease etc); pregnant women; those in long-stay residential care homes; carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person and frontline health or social care workers.

Patients aged 50-64 years not in an at-risk group are not eligible for a flu jab through the NHS this year.

Topcliffe Surgery patients entitled to a jab will be contacted and invited to call in for their vaccination during October and November as and when vaccinations are availability. Please be patient and wait for the surgery to contact you.

Editorial & Advertising Sales: Doug Allan ([doug@dougallan.co.uk](mailto:doug@dougallan.co.uk) or 07785 223707)

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## Lifebuoys installed

Two lifebuoys have been installed at riverside sites in Topcliffe - one at The Mill and the other at The Sheepwash. Nine-year-old Amelia Pearson put them up with a little help from her dad, John, and Rob Roberts. Josh Barningham installed the posts to which the lifebuoys are attached. They were paid for by Topcliffe Parish Council. Thanks to all concerned. The riverbank is all the safer for your efforts.

John and his family have been busy on a few other village jobs lately, including:

- Sweeping the turning circle at the school, removing all debris and clearing out the drains that were blocked.
- Cutting the two hedges at Topcliffe surgery.
- Removing bags of rubbish from the cemetery on Whin Lane.



## Soup & Sweet Lunches

Soup & Sweet lunches will be served on Wednesdays 13 and 27 September in the Village Hall from 11.30am to 12.45pm. There'll be a selection of tasty soups followed by delicious cakes and bakes and tea or coffee. All welcome. No set charge, but donations welcome.

Warm Hub lunches will return this autumn but fortnightly not weekly. Start date yet to be determined as it largely depends on how bad the weather is. If it's relatively mild there may be a few more Soup & Sweet sessions until weather gets colder.

## Fence painting completed

It was intended that the roadside fence from The Swan to the school would be painted on the last village Tidy Up day held in July, but the weather was so bad it was impossible to tackle. But last Saturday parish councillor Ben Collard and several volunteers completed the job... and the fence is looking much better. Thanks to all involved.

## The Sunday Email

Next week's Sunday Email will be the 176th edition. It originated during the first days of the Covid pandemic and continues to be a popular read over Sunday morning breakfast. Anyone who wants to be added to the circulation can register by going to [www.dougallan.co.uk](http://www.dougallan.co.uk)

## Snooker Club fees held

At the annual meeting of the Snooker Club held a couple of weeks ago it was agreed that the membership subscriptions for the year starting 1 September will be held at £30. Those wishing to remain in membership or join the club, should contact Treasurer Dave Bowman to make payment.

If you do not intend to remain in membership, please return your door key as soon as possible. David can be contacted on 01845 577843.



## Cheers from Jane and George

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## Quiz night at the Village Hall

The weekly Sunday quiz at the Village Hall has certainly proved to be a huge success.

Every week around 30-35 gather to take part and have the chance to win a kitty that matches pound for pound the number of people taking part. Naturally everyone taking part enjoys having their general knowledge tested, but the event has also become a really good social evening, with participants staying on to enjoy a drink and chat with friends and neighbours.

There's always room for a few more quizzers, so if you fancy giving it a try, please pop along. It's a great way to make new friends. It's Sundays at 8pm. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Glasses are available, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

## Clerk to Asenby Parish Council - Vacancy

The Parish Council is seeking a Clerk to support them with administrative duties. The council meets a number of times each year dependent upon needs within the village. This is a paid post and would particularly suit someone who has held a similar post in the past, although this is not essential. For further information please email: [asenbypc@gmail.com](mailto:asenbypc@gmail.com)

## Baldersby Park After-School Club

The popular After-School Club will be returning on Thursday 14 September and running every Thursday until October half-term. Sessions are 3.30 to 4.45pm and the cost is £5 per child. For more information go to [www.basecamplearning.co.uk](http://www.basecamplearning.co.uk)

## Services at St Columba's Church

Sunday 17 September at 10.45am - Sung Matins  
Sunday 24 September at 10.45am - Holy Communion

Sunday 1 October at 6.30pm - Choral Evensong  
Sunday 8 October at 10.45 - Holy Communion  
Sunday 15 October at 10.45am - Sung Matins  
Sunday 22 October at 10.45am - Holy Communion and at 6.30pm a Harvest Festival service followed by a 'Bring and Share Harvest Supper.'  
Sunday 29 October - No service (5th Sunday)

Thursday 2 November at 7pm - Feast of All Souls - Choral Requiem Mass. All will be warmly welcomed to this special service which will be an opportunity to quietly reflect on and give thanks for the lives of departed friends and relatives.

Sunday 5 November, 6.30pm - Choral Evensong  
Sunday 12 November at 10.45am - Remembrance Service  
Sunday 19 November at 10.45am - Sung Matins  
Sunday 26 November at 10.45am - Holy Communion

Sunday 3 December at 6.30pm - Advent Sunday - Choral Evensong

Sunday 10 December at 10.45am - Holy Communion  
Sunday 17 December at 10.45am Matins  
Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm - traditional Service of Nine Lessons and carols.



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## Old drawings of Topcliffe

Residents of Topcliffe might be interested in four old drawings of buildings in the village by renowned artist George Harrison, which are going on sale.

They belong to John Slater, who lives in Asenby, and he retrieved them from his attic during a recent clear out. They were originally bought on Ebay by his now deceased brother and passed to John as he lived local to the places depicted.

John said: "We are hoping to sell these old drawings but thought it would be nice to show them to local residents before that happens. The subject of three of the drawings is clear but the fourth adjacent is a bit of a mystery and it would be great if someone can identify exactly which buildings are included."

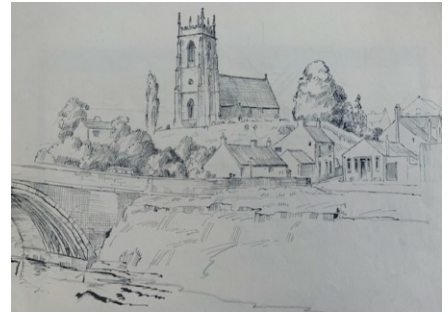


### The drawings

Two depict views of Topcliffe bridge with the church and village beyond and another is a view of Topcliffe Mill prior to refurbishment. The fourth drawing is of house elevations, probably in Topcliffe, though the actual

location has not yet been identified.

These original drawings, which are believed to be a small part of a much larger collection, are likely to have been produced for later use as illustrations in either the Dalesman or the Ripon Wakeman magazines, both of which George Jackson edited.



### George Jackson 1898-1974

George Jackson was born on 14th October 1898 in in Ripon. During the First World War, as a messenger in the army, he was captured and held as a prisoner of war for a long time in Germany. He had very bad experiences and in later life he used to complain that he still



suffered from the after-effects of his ill treatment. He taught art at St Olave's School, Ripon (now called Ripon Cathedral Choir School) and loved the work and often said "Working there was like being in heaven, after being in hell".

He also taught art classes at the prison in Northallerton. Jackson was a man of many talents - especially painting watercolour landscapes of the Dales and Ripon area, though he also painted flowers and still-lives in both watercolour and in oils. He became known as one of the Dales Artists and was friendly with other Dales artists including Jacob Kramer (1892-1962), George Graham (1882-1949), Fred Lawson (1888-1968) and Lawson's wife Muriel Metcalfe. Jackson had a cottage in Castle Bolton (now called Jackson Cottage) where he would meet Lawson and Metcalfe to go off on many painting excursions together.






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## More than a Name on a Memorial

This year marks 100 years since Harrogate's war memorial was unveiled by Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood on 1st September 1923.

The projected cost of the memorial and site was £10,000, but had risen to £12,000 by its completion. The foundation stone was laid on 2nd June 1922, by Major The Hon. Edward Wood MP for Ripon (later Viceroy of India and the Earl of Halifax), in a ceremony apparently witnessed by 10,000 spectators.



Like all war memorials, Harrogate's is of huge historical importance to the town, proudly recording the names of 1163 local brave men and women who died in two world wars. To mark this milestone anniversary, their names are being matched with their personal stories in an immersive free exhibition More than a Name on a Memorial, which is on at the West Park United Reformed Church, Harrogate from 1 September to 12 November (Fridays and Saturdays, 10am - 4pm, Sundays 1 - 5pm).

The commemoration plans also include a comprehensive programme of 15 illustrated talks (all free to attend), two special film screenings, three musical performances and two plays. You can check out the event website at <https://thecenotaphcentenary.info>

The photograph of the front of West Park United Reformed Church shows how the exhibition venue is being promoted. The soldier, which regularly features in Topcliffe's Remembrance Day commemorations, is on loan from Malcolm Morley.

## How did The Elm Gallery get its name?

That's a question Liz and Dave Marsh have been asked many times. Customers seem to be curious about the name, especially as there's no elm tree in sight of the property.

Liz explains: "Our gallery in Topcliffe is actually the second we have owned: the first was in a very rural setting in Addingham Moorside, on the edge of Ilkley Moor. It was a barn conversion which was made from a pig sty and once it became a house, it was called The Elm. A long time before there had been an old elm tree near the barn, so the house was named after it. The Elm was where Dave lived with his first wife until her death."

She added: "Dave and I met at an Art Show in 2004 and began taking our paintings and prints to craft fairs and exhibitions. Our work was selling well so we decided to convert Dave's former home to a gallery in 2005. As the building was already called The Elm, we decided to simply call it The Elm Gallery. It became our brand name and everyone knew us as The Elm Gallery, so when we came to Topcliffe, we kept the name. Neither of us ever saw the original elm tree, but we hope to continue to honour its memory for many years to come."

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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07709 223920

[lizanddave@the-elm-gallery.co.uk](mailto:lizanddave@the-elm-gallery.co.uk)



## Park living in Topcliffe

The Swaleside Holiday Park has been a prominent feature in Topcliffe for many years, with its many caravans and lodges sitting neatly by the River Swale...and many residents from the site joining in village life and making lasting friendships with local people.

It's possible that many villagers have little or no knowledge of another 'park' located at the other end of the village, next to Dalton Bridge. Dalton Bridge Park is different to Swaleside in that it's a residential park where pitches and lodges are bought, pretty much like one might buy a property to live in as a principal primary residence.

Dalton Bridge Park is owned and operated by Avril and Mark Cowell who live in the 160-year-old house on the site. They and their two children Charlie and Emily moved in twenty-one years ago and have transformed the site and created a thriving community akin to a small village.

The park is one of only a few fully residential sites in the Hambleton area and is proving extremely popular with buyers who want lodge-style living in an attractive, well-located and friendly place..

Mark is keen to state that he and Avril have endeavoured to create something special and different - something that they can be proud of and with which residents can be equally proud and content. "We were successful in receiving permission for a wholly residential site in 2021 and we now have twenty-six homes and over forty residents living here in our little community. Most pitches have wooden residential lodges - mainly two-bedroomed with bathroom, lounge, kitchen, decking area, car parking spaces and enclosed private gardens.

"The change to residential has proved extremely popular and as the park matures it is clear that owners can see the many benefits of living on a park that has been arranged this way."

Avril, who is a keen gardener and takes responsibility for landscaping across the park, added: "When we moved here there were seven caravans - a mixture of residential and holiday homes. We have invested a huge amount on site infrastructure, particularly flood protection, landscaping, an underground gas supply to each pitch and are currently having a major sewage treatment facility installed to replace old systems. We have always wanted to provide the highest quality facilities to make the site as attractive and homely as we can. It's a wonderful place to live."

And like the holiday owners at Swaleside, the owners at Dalton Bridge Park enjoy being residents of Topcliffe and Dalton, giving their support to local facilities like the Post Office, our two pubs, and events at the village hall.

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## Endeavour award for Fin

Fin Sturdy a former year 6 pupil at Topcliffe Academy was presented with a very special award at the school's end of year ceremony at St Columba's Church late July.

All year 6 pupils were gathered for the term-end event which celebrates the last day at Topcliffe Academy before moving on to secondary school. Each pupil received a certificate to mark their time at the school.

The Thirsk Rotary's Endeavour Award, which goes to the pupil who has been the most helpful to staff and to other pupils, and has always tried hard, was presented to Fin. Thirsk Rotary member Malcolm Sollitt, who attended the ceremony to present the award said: "Fin was selected as the pupil who best met the criteria and I wish him all the best for his next stage of his school life."

Similar awards are made at the eleven primary schools in the Thirsk area each year. The awards have been in existence since 1987.



Fin, with his family and Malcolm Sollitt (right)

## Textile recycling

The next Bags2School textile recycling event will be held on Friday 6 October. If you are having a clear out of cupboards and wardrobes please save your discarded clothing and other unwanted items. You'll be able to drop off your bags of textiles at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall between 8.30am and 12 noon.

If you have trouble storing the bags, contact Donna Fleming (07591 438766) or Doug Allan (07785 223707) and they will try to make arrangements for storage until the collection day. The proceeds of the event will be shared between the Village Hall and 1st Topcliffe Scouts.

Just as a reminder, the following items are welcomed: men's, ladies and children's clothing - paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around) - handbags - hats - bags - scarves and ties - jewellery - lingerie - socks - belts - soft toys - household linen - household curtains - household towels - household bedding (bed sheets, pillow-cases and duvet covers). We are unable to accept duvets and blankets, pillows and cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats), soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms, corporate clothing and workwear or textile off cuts or yarns.

## Baby Bubble in Topcliffe

There's a brand-new range of weekly classes for mothers and babies being held at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall. Baby Bubble is provided by Rosie Hopps. For more details check out:

<https://bookthatin.com/link/thebabybubblecouk>



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## Half Moon House

Since moving into Half Moon House, on the left as you travel down towards Topcliffe Bridge, Lee and Alison Wainwright have often wondered about the history and background of their family home. The desire to learn more about where you live can be extremely strong...but finding out the details can be tricky.

So, the couple are hoping that local residents who know about the house - formerly known as the Black Bull public house - may be able to shed some extra light on what is currently known.

In the 1797 Manorial Survey, the property is listed as The Half Moon public house and it and surrounding fields belonged to Colonel George Wyndham, who was Lord of the Manor of Topcliffe and a significant landowner in the village. Thomas Kitson is then shown as the tenant, paying a rent of £13. 15s. 0d (that's £13.75 in today's money). According to manorial records held at Petworth House where the Wyndham family still live, the property was an old brick, timber and thatched house with a stable, cowhouse and pigsty.

The 1838 Tithe Map shows the name as The Black Bull public house and the tenant at that time was William Leadley. According to trade directories published over the

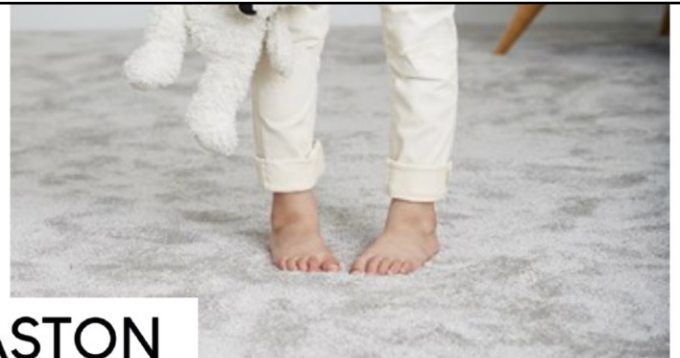
years, the following people were in The Black Bull on the date shown: Thomas Johnson (1823), Mary Cooper (1857), John Allen (1870), Frank Cooper (1879), Henry Penty (1909 and 1921) and Lillian Wright (1937). We know that Allan Reeder took over the property in December 1951 running it as a pub until 1982 and as a private club principally for the use of caravanners at Swaleside until it finally closed altogether in 2000. Jonathon Fletcher purchased the property in 2000 and planned to run the public house, but his plans failed and the pub never opened again.

"We moved to Topcliffe in 2021 and have become intrigued about the history of our family home," says Lee. "It has a long history as a public house operating under two different names. But besides what is listed above, there isn't much information nor photographs of the property itself - inside or out! Yet it is obviously steeped in history.

"Lots of people in the village used to work and drink in The Black Bull so we are hoping they might share any history and stories that they recall. And we'd love to see any pictures from which we could take copies."

Anybody able to help can contact Lee at [lwainwri75@gmail.com](mailto:lwainwri75@gmail.com) or 07803 714094.

**Photographs:** In the 1950s the pub had a café attached. The other shows the pub entrance in the 1940s.



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## Topcliffe Parish Council report

The following report of recent activities in the village has been prepared by the parish Council.

Village playing field: Work to completely renovate the children's play area has now been completed. There's now several additional new features - including zip wire, roundabout and swings - for the enjoyment of children living in and visiting our village. The improvement has also seen the establishment of fifteen allotments for which twelve applications for use have been received. Specific allocation of plots will be made once some finishing touches have been made, including installation of a communal hut and connection to the water supply. Anyone wishing to take one of the remaining plots should contact the council clerk, Alex Robson, at [topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com)

There will be some further landscaping over the coming months, including planting of trees, kindly sourced by John Pearson.

The Parish Council has been able to undertake this significant project as it received an extremely generous grant of £95,000 from the old Hambleton District Council, latterly confirmed by the new North Yorkshire Council.



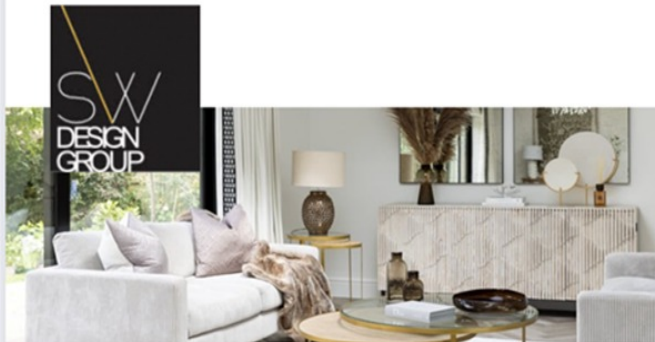
*Sisters Olivia and Emily Till and mum, Laura, of Manor Close enjoy the new roundabout.*

Heavy goods vehicle traffic: The Parish Council is still doing battle in two areas in an effort to reduce the ongoing problem of noise, pollution and vibration damage to property caused by HGVs passing through the narrow street of our village.

1. Weight restriction zone - we continue to be thwarted by the Highways Department in our attempts to have the boundary moved from Busby Stoop to the edge of the village. It is believed that this action alone would preclude 70% of current HGV traffic from entering the village. It is quite clear that the Highways Department simply does not want to make this change to protect our village and our quality of life, preferring instead to support the big businesses along the road between the village and Busby Stoop.
2. Enforcement of the existing restriction zone - Topcliffe Parish Council, along with Asenby Parish Council and

*Continued on page 11...*

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



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Continued from page 10...

members of the public from both villages, has carried out a number of 'tracking' days on which HGVs were recorded entering and leaving the existing weight restriction zone. The aim has been to identify those HGVs that are clearly illegally passing through - simply using our villages as a shortcut!. To date, nine sessions of two hours each have been carried out involving four/six volunteers each time. In this way we have identified twelve offenders and submitted their details, along with photographic evidence and legally signed documentation, to North Yorkshire Council Trading Standards for prosecution. We await the outcome of these efforts.

APNR cameras: The Parish Council continues to pursue the Highways Department about the installation of APNR cameras capable of providing 24-hour monitoring and recording, without the need for anyone to have to actually operate them. Again, we are meeting resistance from the authorities who seem unwilling to help us with what seems to be the logical way forward for enforcement. To put the problem in perspective, two of our own simple cameras have been installed to record HGV traffic volumes over the last month. The result is that a low of 50 and a high of 90 HGV passages per day - an average of 70 per day - has been recorded, and this excludes agricultural vehicles such as tractors, which are quite legal.

Planning application: A new concern is a recently submitted planning application to expand the small business estate on the Rainton road not far from the Crab

and Lobster. In its current form it would see another significant industrial area being built within the weight restriction zone, meaning all HGV traffic to and from it would have a legal right to travel through the centre of Topcliffe and past Asenby. The Parish Council will be opposing this application in its current form and we'll suggest the location of the zone signs be moved so that the extra traffic cannot come through Topcliffe or Asenby. Hopefully residents of both villages will feel equally strongly about this application and will lodge objections/comments via:

<https://uniformonline.harrogate.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RYVGOYHYGIT00>

Safety by the river - safety lifebelts have been acquired and installed at the Sheepwash and The Mill for the safety of those who frequently enjoy the tranquil surroundings along the riverside.

### Weekly art classes

The next block of six weekly art classes at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall started on Monday 11 September. These classes, which run for two hours from 10am, are led by talented teacher/artist Rebecca Jayne. She'll guide you with helpful tips and techniques and support you with creating your own artwork.

The dates remaining are Mondays 18 and 25 September, and 2, 9 and 16 October. Book online at - [www.rebeccajayneartist.co.uk](http://www.rebeccajayneartist.co.uk)

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# THE ANGEL HAS WINGS

It might be taking almost a year of blood, sweat and tears but the massive refurbishment of The Angel Inn at Topcliffe is coming along nicely and will create a fantastic all-round hotel and wedding facility to compare with the very best in North Yorkshire. It's fully expected that the restaurant and bar area will reopen mid to late November, meaning it will be in full swing for the festive party season.



The Angel is a very old building and so it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that, as work got underway, lots of problems were found all of which had to be fully investigated and resolved. But major structural issues were identified which diverted resources and inevitably led to slippage in the schedule. However, all of these things have been dealt with and Topcliffe can be sure that The Angel will stand safely for hundreds of years more.

The cellars have been totally revamped and new pumps and sumps installed to ensure there won't be any odour issues in the future. The bar and restaurant area – which will be totally different in shape and feel to what once existed – is progressing well with electrics currently

being installed and walls due to be plastered later this month. A new bar, which is being crafted by Dalton-based cabinetmaker Ian Watkinson, will be installed fairly soon and fabricators, Rage Ltd of Dalton Bridge are making a new reception desk and replica fire range for the bar area, to replace the original range removed many years ago.

Planning approval has now been granted to replace the extremely heavy stone slate roof with a more appropriate, lighter material. Scaffolding is now in place so that this work can go ahead and this will also provide an opportunity to rebuild the many chimney stacks, re-render the walls and see another local tradesman, Simon Parker, install new oak window frames that he has manufactured. Those who have an interest in chiropterology – the study of bats – can rest assured that every test to identify if bats are roosting in the roof or under the eaves has proved negative.

The Plaza Suite is looking bright and attractive having had a full redecoration. It and the linked conservatory and garden area have proved extremely popular each weekend for private parties and public openings for food and drink services during renovation work. The summer weather has often been an issue, but more often than not, the garden has been very popular regardless. The new soft lighting strung across the trees gives the garden added atmosphere as the evening light fades.



The pond – a popular feature with most children – has had a major overhaul and been restocked by local experts at Aqua Finatics.

Dave and Maggie wish to thank everyone who has been patient and continued to visit The Angel whilst the refurbishment has proceeded and they look forward to seeing old and new customers alike when the revamped Angel opens later in the year.

## WE'LL BE FLYING AGAIN IN NOVEMBER



**THE ANGEL INN**  
TOPCLIFFE