

Autumn 2007

The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Volume 14 Issue 3

Vic Rawlings: A Man of Commitment

Not only a man of commitment, in the 1960's Vic Rawlings showed that he was also a man with a mission. Having been a parish councillor for about forty years, Vic now says that his finest hour was instigating a demonstration for a much needed by-pass at a time when heavy traffic was streaming continuously through the village. He formed an action committee and the Parish Council put pressure on Government departments. On several occasions, protestors brought traffic to a halt, as they constantly crossed Long Street in single file, wielding placards. Television reporters filmed the traffic chaos from helicopters and eventually an enquiry was called and the by-pass was completed in 1977. There was a strong feeling of camaraderie, at the time, as a shared aim brought the village together.

Vic Rawlings was originally from Sheringham in Norfolk. He joined the RAF straight from the 6th form in 1942. He trained as a pilot in Rhodesia and flew spitfires, serving in Kuala Lumpur and India. In 1947 he married Dora and in August the couple will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They have four children, three of whom are teachers.

The family moved to Thirsk in 1957 when he became Head of PE at Thirsk Secondary School. He has served on the parish council since the 1960's and for a total of three years, was chairman. During his service the council also brought in a speed limit and the one-way system which affects Front Street and Church Street. Vic recalls that in the 1960's the Council used to meet at what is now the post office. At that time it was the school and the councillors used to sit, in some discomfort, at the children's desks. The landlord of the Black Bull was chairman and the parish clerk would produce handwritten minutes.

Vic now feels that it is time to stand down from the Parish Council after giving so much of his time and goodwill. In the past, he has been Chairman of Governors at Alanbrooke School and continues to serve as a governor at Topcliffe School. He is a keen gardener and enjoys playing golf, having previously been President of the Harrogate and District Union of Golf Clubs.

An interesting man, Vic Rawlings has contributed enormously to village life and his low-key wit and wisdom will be greatly missed at the monthly parish council meetings.

TOPCLIFFE NEEDS YOU!

Realising that many of you toss and turn in your beds at night, wondering how you can help your beloved village, Topcliffe Parish Council has come up with the perfect answer. You can satisfy your urge to help by turning out on **SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER** and joining in **Topcliffe Tidy-Up Day!**

We will be meeting up at the village cross at 2pm for a quick briefing (or natter) before getting down to the BIG tidy-up. Do wear gloves for protection and also to prevent you from getting dirt down your beautifully manicured fingernails – there's nothing worse. We are aiming at spending no more than 2-3 hours on the tidy up but of course any time you can manage will be appreciated. You don't have to stay for the whole afternoon.

And now for the best news of all. The Angel Inn is generously going to provide each helper with a hot drink or soft beverage courtesy of the Angel. Just toddle along there after you've finished helping for your **FREE** first drink. **THANK YOU ANGEL INN!**

We hope to see a great turnout on **SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER.**

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Editorial Apart from mistakes in typing, spelling, punctuation, facts – we hope you enjoyed our first attempt at The Tattler and that it doesn't put you off giving us a second chance.

As you probably all know we're very fortunate in having such a good village school with a young and enthusiastic staff and a committed head teacher. Their school production was excellent featuring every child's worst nightmare – that terrible feeling that you really are the teacher's last straw and the public shame of vomiting in class. School life in a nutshell. But then the children excel academically too with 100% of KS2 pupils achieving level 4 in their SATS. All this, as well as being committed Jamie Oliver disciples with their newly acquired healthy eating status. Two pupils have written entertaining articles for The Tattler which are featured in this copy.

So already we're into September and the beginning of a new school year. Now's the time to learn a new skill or take up a new hobby so why not see what's on at the village hall? Who knows – this could be the year you find your inner Latino at tango class or discover peace and serenity at yoga. Topcliffe Village Hall – the new Mecca.

And, on the subject of getting fit, we really do need more volunteers to distribute The TATtler. Children could gain kudos from the work experience and community service, without the chore of committing a crime, while adults would benefit from the exercise without the chore of buying a dog. Do think about it.

Feed with the Fishes

For intrepid readers who occasionally like to venture out of Topcliffe, Woodland Lakes at Carlton Miniott has added the Watermill Bar and Grill to its attractions. Already proving to be very popular, the carvery offers a delicious meal for £7.25 on Sundays and £6.50 on Wednesdays. During September, à la carte meals are two for the price of one on weekdays. The surroundings are modern and fresh and the restaurant boasts a very attractive beer garden.

For rockers and boppers, the Madness tribute band, Badness (what else?) will perform on September 28 from 7.30 to midnight. Tickets cost £10 which includes **free** shuttle home at the end of the evening.

The Watermill Bar and Grill
Tel 574570 or 07789 555114

**Last Copy Date for
Autumn issue is
15th November 2007**

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation is a charity which makes small grants for the purchase of books, to students who have recently left school and are in their first degree course at University or the equivalent.

To be eligible, the student must live in the parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area covered by the parish as now constituted together with Marton le Moor.

The Charity's income is fixed and limited, therefore the value of any single grant will depend not only on the funds available to distribute but also on the number of successful applications.

Applications are sought in September/October and the Trustees meet in December to approve grants. Students who have received grants in previous years will automatically receive an invitation to apply for 2007.

Anyone seeking further information, wishing to apply or questioning their eligibility to apply should ring Geoff Hall on 01845 578324.

ASENBY NEWS

SUMMER BARBEQUE

The day of the annual summer barbeque dawned... well, **wet** is a good way to describe it!! And wet was a good word to describe the committee members as we put up the marquees in the morning.

However, British weather worked in our favour for once and the afternoon provided us with a glimpse of summer, so rare in the months of June and July! The barbeque proved another great success, raising £575! Again, many thanks to everybody who helped and supported the village!

PLAYGROUND

Those of you who supported the Cream Tea event or the barbeque will have seen the photographs of the sets of play equipment that will soon be exciting additions to the play area. The older children seemed to be particularly impressed by the "Nexus" piece of equipment. We have received the go-ahead for this and the toddler swing, and construction should be underway within the next month. Hopefully this shouldn't take too long but unfortunately the play area will be out of action for safety reasons while the work is going ahead.

FUTURE EVENTS

Residents who read the recent Newsletter will be aware that there are more events planned for the next few months.

The first of these is the **PIE, PEA and QUIZ NIGHT**. This has a revised date of the evening of the **29th September** at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall. This should be a fun event. Look out for fliers and PLEASE try to support us by bringing along friends and family! Christmas will again be a busy time. We are planning an over-60's event, date to be confirmed, as well as a children's party on 21st December, more details nearer the time.

The annual Christmas Mulled Wine and Mince Pie event will be held on **Sunday 9th December** in Asenby Hall Farm Barn, look out for the fliers.

To-ings and Fro-ings at the Village Hall

by Linda Nuttall

It's been a very mixed bag of events in the hall this year, and as bookings clerk, I await with bated breath to see what the coming months bring. We have been overrun with hamsters, brownies and cyclists, not to mention our more normal activities. The tango class and yoga are aiming to restart in September, with tango on Mondays and yoga on Wednesdays. With these classes and the carpet bowls club, there will be something to help everyone keep fit without needing to travel as the evenings draw in.

This autumn's Rural Arts production will have an eastern flavour with Shiva Nova – Talking Drums on Thursday 15th November. (Thank you to the Bowls Club for swapping days!) We are promised a blend of traditional and contemporary music from India with an interactive video installation in a performance suitable for families.

Whatever event you want to hold, remember to call 577315 and book in good time. Hiring the hall costs only £5.50 an hour if you live in Asenby or Topcliffe, whether you want to organise a children's party or a badminton knockabout.

The Craft Club has had a break for the summer but is hoping to restart soon.

October 16th – Bead jewellery with Christmas gifts in mind

November 20th – Cards (a follow on from last year's Craft Club session)

December 11th (a week earlier than usual) – We will be getting Christmas crackered, i.e. making a gift cracker with the help of sherry and mince pies (not compulsory!) The Craft Club is always happy to accept new members.

An Honorary Yorkshireman – a new play about James Herriot

On August 18th an exciting new play about James Herriot came to Topcliffe. The play was performed at a packed Topcliffe Village Hall by Badapple Theatre. In this one-man play, director Alice Bartlett was able to capture some of the hilarious but often very touching events that took place in the vet's life.

Actor Neil Kent was incredible in his wonderful portrayal of several of the memorable characters who came into Herriot's life. Writer Kate Bramley certainly captured the Yorkshire spirit in her excellent production – a fact that was much appreciated by the audience.

Badapple Theatre have dedicated themselves to bringing top class entertainment in to local villages, and we hope to see them again soon.

Pet Show

by Meg Jameson-Allen

Following on from the mention of the Northern Hamster Show in the last edition of Tattler, I decided to go along to the village hall to see what was happening. There was a huge yellow banner outside announcing the show.



When I arrived the people from the club explained all about it, where they go to, what they do and that it was the first time they had been to Topcliffe.

There were at least 50 hamsters taking part. There was



also to be a small animal judged contest in the afternoon for visitors. I decided to take along my guinea pig for this competition and she won! After this was hamster races and one of my friends hamsters came second. It was well organised and fun to

see the Northern Hamster Club and they said they will probably come back to Topcliffe again and I will definitely go.

Yoga

Yoga Class at Topcliffe Village Hall

- **Yoga class Wednesday evenings 7.00 to 8.30 pm at Topcliffe Village Hall near Thirsk**
- **Beginners and those with some yoga experience are all welcome**
- **Gently develop your flexibility and flowing movement**
- **Experience real relaxation
Yoga for everyone**

For further details and class enrolment contact Barry Walmsley (British Wheel of Yoga Membership No.06/NYO/16360/ST) on 01845 577976.

Topcliffe School Play

by Jaz Jameson-Allen

At the end of each school year the year 5 & 6 pupils take part in the school play, with the year 6's taking lead roles. The play usually takes place outside but due to the rubbish weather this year it had to be held in the school hall. We all had a great time practicing hard, making costumes and props for it.

The play was called 'Three Cheers for Mrs Butler' and was about a schoolteacher and her pupils. There were a lot of rhymes and songs in it as well as a lot of jokes and we all just about remembered our lines. Phew! We got a big clap at the end from all the people crammed in to the hall, then we all enjoyed the barbecue and stalls.

There was also a raffle and plenty of cold drinks from the grown ups bar as even though it was raining, it was hot. Some parents must have been very hot because they needed a lot of drinks to cool down!!!

Top Marks for Topcliffe School

Following their recent hilarious and well-received production of "Three Cheers for Mrs Butler", pupils and staff of Topcliffe CE school have shown their versatility by winning a Healthy Eating Award. Councillor Michael Knaggs presented the award to School Cook, Mrs Diane Morrow, her assistant, Mrs Taylor, and Nick Rathbone, Sports Co-ordinator, after an entertaining and



informative assembly on healthy eating.

The award isn't the only reason to celebrate, however.

Mrs Lynne Chatwin is

justifiably proud to report that 100% of pupils at KS2 have gained Level 4 in their SATS. Topcliffe children are obviously high achievers and to show that they also know how to throw a party, a teddy bears' picnic was arranged at lunchtime. And, for once, rain didn't stop play.

Small Friends Reunited

Topcliffe's Mother and Toddler Group has recently had a break in activities but are now getting together again at the village hall every Friday morning from 9.15 - 11.15. This is a



friendly gathering where babies and toddlers can enjoy playing while their parents and carers are free to chat. Refreshments are provided for everyone and there is a cover-charge of £1 for under-ones and £1.50 for

over-ones. For further information contact Lorna Wilkinson on 01845 578527.

NO UNITARY GOVERNMENT FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE

from District Councillor Neville Huxtable

For the second time in recent years the residents of North Yorkshire have been spared Unitary Government. The announcement made in July stating that the bid made by North Yorkshire County Council had failed was greeted with relief and optimism for the future, by Hambleton District Council.

After many months of debate and uncertainty we can now look forward to closer working arrangements between ourselves, the County Council and the other district authorities in the region. In fact we can now implement the agreement for partnership working that all North Yorkshire authorities signed up to some 18 months ago. Hambleton District Council already has in operation joint working partnerships with the County Council and other District Councils. This will now expand to provide a better cost effective service for all residents.

Senior Friends United

The Senior Citizens' Club would love to have some new members. This is a very informal gathering and, while dominoes and bingo are played at alternate meetings, the main object is to chat and generally socialise. Do come along if this appeals to you. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 2.30 at the village hall.

Dalton WI would also welcome new members. This is a very successful and popular branch of the WI but new faces are always welcome. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at Dalton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Come Enjoy a Yorkshire Evening in Topcliffe Village Hall

Come enjoy a Yorkshire Evening in Topcliffe Village Hall.
Pie and pea supper, raffle, brass band, and other Yorkshire entertainment.
Please bring your own beer, wine and glasses.

All proceeds to go to Herriot Hospice Homecare.

Date: Friday 26th October

Time: 7.30 pm

Price: £6 per ticket

A New Parish Council

Following the elections of May and June a new Parish Council has formed. I would like to thank retirees Howard Wilson, Russell Smith and of course Vic Rawlings for their dedication and public service and to welcome the new councillors Dave Bowman, John Heidstrom and Mark Bowen. The new council looks forward to maintaining and improving the living environment in Topcliffe Parish. Council meetings are held in the Village Hall and are open to anyone to attend and listen. Contributions are welcome by invitation or after pre-notification of intent.

Topcliffe Fishing Club

In order to ensure local residents have access to fish at the river bank at the Sheepwash, it was decided at the last council meeting to form a Topcliffe Parish Fishing Club. The Club will be managed as a sub-committee of the Parish Council to ensure that it is covered by the PC insurance. The club and committee will meet in the Toll



Booth, chaired by a Parish Councillor and lead by resident Topcliffe fishing guru Graham Price, who has agreed to be Chairman of the club. In due course membership permits will be issued free to all Parish residents who would like

one and bailiffs will be appointed. River licences will be required in accordance with Environment Agency Law. If you would like to join the committee or become a club member please contact Graham on 07793 6777154.

Anti-social behaviour

There have been ongoing instances of disrespectful and anti-social behaviour. Drug taking and under-age drinking has been taking place at the Sheepwash, around the cabins on the playing field and unbelievably, in the cemetery. Rubbish including spliffs and beer cans have been found and cleared from the cemetery shelter. Fires, using paper apparently lifted from the recycling centre at the school, have been lit at the Sheepwash and in School Lane and left smouldering and unattended. Windows have been smashed in at the bowls club. The council is determined to catch the culprits and is working closely with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

Playing Field

The playing field is managed as a sub committee of the Parish council as this saved over £450 per year in insurance. Cllr John Heidstrom heads the committee, which is always seeking new members. If you have any suggestions, ideas or wish to help out, please contact John on 577437.

Planning issues

Please feel free to seek the advice of the Parish Council before submitting a planning application. All applications come before the council for comment. Much time, angst and money can be saved through proper consultation – The council is here to help in the interest of individuals and the wider community. HDC Cllr Neville Huxtable is always willing to be approached for guidance, advice and assistance.

Vic and Dora Rawlings

On behalf of the Parish Council and all residents we offer heartfelt congratulations to Vic and Dora Rawlings, who celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary on 16th August. The occasion was marked by a visit from HDC Chair Margaret Skillbeck and Cllr Neville Huxtable. Please see article in this issue of the Tattler to read more about Vic and his many years of contributing to the village.

Policing

Topcliffe has a new Police Community Support Officer - Ian McNeill. He has been patrolling the village and intends to hold an informal surgery covering local policing issues with residents, both collectively and individually in September, meeting at the Toll Booth.

St. Columba's Church

On Friday 7th of September we are very pleased to welcome the Collingham Ladies Singers, who are putting on a special Musical Evening to delight and entertain the residents of Topcliffe and Asenby. The programme will be varied and should contain something to suit most people. This is something of a departure for us but we want to broaden our activities to include lighter entertainment that we hope will appeal to a wide section of the community.

The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are Adults - £5.00 OAPS and Children - £4.00. There will be an interval when Coffee/Tea and Biscuits will be served. Tickets are available from Margaret Gimblett, Linda Carver and Jane Goddard.

In late September/ early October we will be holding a Coffee Morning – date to be announced later. Another quiz is planned for late October as this seems to be something that many people enjoy.

On November 17th we welcome back the highly talented cellist Matthew Lowe, who with some of his associates will be providing a concert of classical music in the "Classics at St. Columba's" series. These concerts have always been very popular and it is a great opportunity to hear first class musicians without

(Continued on page 6)

St Columba's Church Services

Vicar: Revd Christine Haddon-Reece. Tel: 01845 577939

Reader: David Haddon-Reece

Churchwardens: Linda Carver, 578014, and Margaret Gimblett, 577882

SEP	Sun	2nd	Family Worship	10.45 am
	Wed	5th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sun	9th	Holy Communion	10.45 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	16th	Holy Communion	10.45 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	23rd	150th Anniversary Celebration of St James the Greater, <u>at Baldersby St James.</u> Preacher: Rt Revd Robert Ladds	10.30 am
	Sun	30th	Harvest Thanksgiving	10.45 am
OCT	Sun	7th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	8.00 am
			Family Worship incorporating remembrance of RAF Neptune crew	10.45 am
	Wed	10th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sun	14th	Holy Communion	10.45 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	21st	Holy Communion	10.45 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	28th	Matins	10.45 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
NOV	Sun	4th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	8.00 am
			Family Worship	10.45 am
	Wed	7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sun	11th	Remembrance Day Service with Holy Communion. Guest preacher: Revd Elizabeth Clark	10.45 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	18th	Holy Communion	10.45 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	25th	Matins	10.45 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

Church Services 1. From September onwards, in order to allow Revd Christine more time to move from one church to another within our benefice group on Sundays, all Sunday services at Topcliffe will start at 10.45 am.

2. From October, there will also be an 8 am Prayer Book Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Initially this will be for a six months trial period to see whether there is a need for this service.

(Continued from page 5)

the need to travel to a major city venue

In the run up to Christmas on November 24th we will be holding a Christmas Fair which will provide an opportunity to stock up with seasonal gifts and goodies. Money raised at this event helps us with the normal running expenses and maintenance of the Church. All the other events mentioned here will raise money needed for repairs to the fabric of the Church, most importantly at this time for repairs to the Church roof.

Margaret Gimblett and Linda Carver
Churchwardens

A Date for your Diary: **Sunday 23rd September**

On this day, the church of St James the Greater at Baldersby St James will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of its Consecration. The occasion will be marked by a special service at 10.30am when the Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Robert Ladds will preach. The service will be followed by a cold buffet. This will be the only service in our Benefice Group that day and everyone is most welcome to attend.

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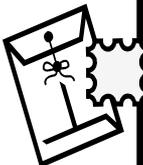
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Snooker Club

The Snooker Club is situated on the top floor of the Toll Booth, which is the building opposite the Angel Inn. Membership is £15, covering September to September. The Club has two

tables, one full-size and one $\frac{3}{4}$ size. The light meter costs only 10p for 8 minutes. Anyone interested in joining should contact David Bowman on 577843.



Football Club

The team had a very successful season, finishing high up in the 1st division. They were unlucky to be beaten on penalties in the Norby Cup final. Support for the team was SUPERB!

Why not go cheer them on this year?

The new season starts on the first Sunday in September with kick-off at 10.30am.

Neighbourhood Watch by David Bowman

Sadly, some late night damage has taken place in the village recently. On the first occasion, the sign for Swale View was smashed. Flower tubs and hanging baskets were also interfered with. Some damage was caused at the school and a windscreen wiper was broken on a car in Manor Close. On another occasion, rose trees were uprooted at a house in Long Street. The hanging baskets at the Angel Inn were also damaged. All this vandalism has occurred late at night or early morning.

Cold calling is another big problem at the moment. Cold calling is where people come to your house out of the blue and knock on the door offering a range of services from house repairs to re-surfacing drives and footpaths. In the Hambleton District a gang has been going round saying that they are working for the council. If you receive a call, please pass on any details, including vehicle registrations, to Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06 or to North Yorkshire Police on 0845 60 60 247. These con artists may also call you on the phone. Recently a man speaking broken English tried to find out bank details over the phone. Another favourite con trick is to claim to be from the Water Board, checking water pressure. Recently in Thirsk, three young men conned their way into a property, claiming to be fitting a kitchen nearby. While one of them kept the occupant talking, the others stole various items.

Please don't feel too alarmed at reading this. On the whole we are quite lucky in our village, as most people know their neighbours and find them to be well-meaning and good-natured. We look out for each other. However it's always wise to be on the alert. Keeping your back door locked when you are in the house is always a good idea. Never invite a stranger into your house unless they show you valid identification.

If you aren't sure, don't open the door.

Your PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe

Garry Key (Chairman)
Cliffe House, Long St. Tel: 578900

David Bowman (Vice Chair)
21 East Lea Tel: 577843

John Heidstrom
32 East Lea Tel: 577437

Mark Bowen
23 Manor Close Tel: 578356

Tracey Brown
Sandtoft, Church St Tel: 577623

Angela Hook (Clerk)

Tel: 577863 angeh@surf.free.co.uk

Asenby

Chris Millross (Chairman)
Topcliffe House Tel: 577961

Jackie Avison (Vice Chair)
2 Orchard Cottages Tel: 578871

Peter Dale
The Warren Tel: 577373

Steve Hall
Orchard End Tel: 578379

*****Vacant position*****

Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Contact Details

Topcliffe Surgery	577297	Friarage Hosp.	01609 779911	Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Police	0845 60 60 24 7	Hambleton DC	01609 779977	Harrogate BC	01423 568954

Hambleton District Councillor (Topcliffe Ward) - Neville Huxtable 01845 501068
(E-mail Cllr.neville.huxtable@hambleton.gov.uk)

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