

Spring 2007

# The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Volume 14 Issue 1

## Council Elections May 3rd 2007 Moving towards Quality Council Status

In May you will once again have the opportunity to elect your community representatives or choose to stand as a candidate yourself. The council consists of five elected councillors and a paid clerk. It meets once per month plus an AGM. Topcliffe council is held in high regard by District and County alike for being responsive, public spirited, scrupulously fair and having proper procedures, processes and systems in place to prosecute its business efficiently and in accordance with the law. It is also financially very sound hence year on year lower than average increases in the Parish precept. Indeed because the village has grown there may even be a marginal dip. Next year we intend to pursue "Quality Status" as in the past we have only failed on two criteria, lack of a qualified clerk and 80% of councillors to have stood for election. The clerk Angela is doing her bit by undertaking

accreditation studies for which she should be congratulated but we now need people to put their names forward for the election. As we now have to pay for elections if more than five people put their names forward for election I will happily withdraw to save costs and to encourage new blood. We could especially do with some representation from the younger community.

So on May 3rd stand for election if you can, but please all use your vote in both Parish and District elections. A high turnout increases the mandate and influence of the candidate.

If anyone would like more information on becoming a parish councillor please telephone or drop in for a chat.

Garry Key - Chairman, Topcliffe Parish Council  
Tel: 578900.

**The TAttler needs your help to survive - See page 2.**

### Topcliffe Web Site - [www.topcliffe.net](http://www.topcliffe.net) Your pictures of Topcliffe wanted!

After a while in the doldrums the village web site has been redesigned and brought up to date by Charles Collinson. The site, whilst still being developed, has many useful features including minutes of the Parish Council meetings, past issues of the TAttler and a local events section, so if you want your forthcoming event publicised contact the webmaster - there's an online form where you can submit your event details.

Do you run, or help organise, a club in the village? If you do and would like some information about the club added to the web site then this can easily be done. The site is only going to be as good as you want it to be so e-mail your thoughts and suggestions. If there is information or items you would like to see added to the site then please let us know and we will see what we can do. Just give us the information and any links and we will include it as soon as we can. Another interesting feature that Charles has added to the site are pictures, both present and past, of Topcliffe. Many of the older pictures of Topcliffe are

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

<i>Topcliffe Parish Council</i>	3 & 5
<i>Topcliffe Playgroup Sunday School</i>	4
<i>Village Hall Asenby News Carpet Bowls</i>	5
<i>Church News</i>	6
<i>Adverts and Information</i>	7 & 8

**JOB VACANCY**

Immediate start

**EDITOR**

(Part time – hours variable)

**Required for the TATtler**  
(Circulation 410 copies)

If you can spare a few hours each quarter doing something for your community, then perhaps you may like to take over as Editor of the TATtler.

No formal qualifications are required, but a 'phone & computer are essential as is a degree of enthusiasm and some basic typing skills. Duties include gathering & editing contributions; writing articles; arranging printing & distribution of copies and all associated financial matters. The composition of each issue is carried out by our in house publisher.

Ability to work without supervision and use your initiative is essential.

Regrettably, no remuneration, other than the possible feel good factor! This could be a great opportunity for a young person to get some media experience and would look good on a CV if they contemplated a career in journalism. Full assistance can be given to get the new Editor up and running.

**For further information please call David Pilgrim on 01845 578669 or e-mail: [tattleditor@aol.com](mailto:tattleditor@aol.com)**

*Topcliffe Web Site (Continued from page 1)*

fascinating to look at and have been kindly lent by Anne-Marie Barningham. Charles is looking for more pictures to add to the site so if you have any, or perhaps know someone else who has, and would be willing to let them be included on the site please contact Charles.

**The Millennium Book of Topcliffe**

If having seen the pictures on the village web site of 'Olde' Topcliffe you are interested in finding out more about the village in bygone years then I recommend you read the Millennium Book of Topcliffe, written by John Graham. This gives a fascinating insight into Topcliffe village, from its early years right up to the present day. Still in print the book can be purchased by either contacting John on 577188 or any member of the Parish Council (See back page).

**Are You ... Looking after Someone?****The Carers Centre provides specialist Support and Information for all Carers.**

A Carer is someone who is looking after a relative or friend who is ill, disabled, elderly or in need of emotional support.

Caring can begin suddenly following an illness or it may develop slowly as someone becomes more frail or ill.

Carers often see themselves as a parent, daughter or son, husband or wife or a friend and not a 'Carer'.

Some people care for only a few hours a week. Others are on hand all day and night and many Carers get little or no support or help.

Caring brings practical and financial problems. Many Carers feel isolated and all Carers share a need for information.

**For further information contact**

**Hambleton and Richmond Carers Centre**  
32 High Street, Northallerton, DL7 8EE  
Tel: 01609 780872  
E-Mail: [hrcarersoffice@hrcarers.fs2.com](mailto:hrcarersoffice@hrcarers.fs2.com)

**Last Copy  
Date for  
Summer  
issue is 15th  
May 2007**

**Topcliffe Pre - School Playgroup**  
will be holding a

**JUMBLE SALE**

in

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall  
on Saturday 3rd March 2—4 pm.  
Refreshments and Bargains available!

## **Parish Council News** - Garry Key Chairman Topcliffe Parish Council

### **Unitary or Bust.**

Some of you may have read the article on NYCC's vision of a single council on Page 3 of the latest edition of the NY Times. (Far reaching implications, but apparently not headline news as far as the CC is concerned.) The County Council has responded to a Government invitation to submit proposals for more efficient way of running services across the county. It envisages the creation of a new, single-tier council to replace the existing seven districts and one county council. Fine, in theory, but how many government or council initiatives have you come across which actually end up saving money?

NYCC have already decided they want another 5% council tax from you all next year – which will be yet another blow for pensioners and other people on fixed incomes who see their standard of living reduced year after year with above inflation rises in unavoidable charges. Regrettably, there will be no referendum on the proposed council changes, and our political masters will once again, decide what is best for us whether we can afford it or not!

### **Garry Key, Chairman of Topcliffe Parish Council has some views which you need to consider.**

*"You should all be aware that NYCC has voted to pursue unitary council status. Their premise being that they believe they can save an on going £14m pa across the county for a one off change cost of £13.5 million amortised over three years. In financial terms this means savings of between £9 and £60 pa for residents of other districts and an 80% district surcharge over five years for Hambleton residents. The bid went in as a 'fait accompli' in January much to the despair of the districts. So what does it mean for us? The bid is with the Government for scrutiny. If passed, then all six Districts will begin handover with shadow councils for 2008 and closure in 2009. Of course, if it fails then the likely outcome could either be the status quo with encouragement for increased partnership working on such issues as waste management, or other proposals for smaller unitary authorities.*

*The case is not whether unitary is good or bad; it is the way this process has been undertaken; in secrecy and without proper public consultation. Indeed, the last evidence of public preference, taken during consultation for regional government, was for three unitary councils. There are two real issues. The first is the cost of change. NYCC estimate £13.5m to implement change. The Districts estimate £40m+, and East Riding has allowed £9m for its proposal to takeover Selby District alone. If we half the Districts view, this gives us £20m. If we half East Ridings view and multiply by six, we get £27m. Of course these are rough figures, but they do show a significant disparity with potential for huge increases in tax or massive cuts in services if the figures are wrong. I genuinely hope all works out for the best but the history of government costing is not a good one. If the figures turn out to be wrong and or the proposals are rejected as not viable where does that leave our confidence in the officers who produced them?"*

Garry

You may or may not like the sound of these proposed changes, and whilst you may not be able to influence the final outcome, you can at least let your views be known. If you have any comments on the unitary proposal, then e-mail them to: [epanel@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:epanel@northyorks.gov.uk)

## **OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!**

All true English Men and Woman (including anyone with residential qualifications) are summoned to attend at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall at 7 of the clock on the evening of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April for a celebration of St George and all things English; with beef and Yorkshire puddings, country dancing and just a bit of literature.

Tickets - still £10, from:

Pauline Millross Topcliffe House Asenby 577961	Liz Hall Orchard End Asenby 578379	Judith Lowe Green End Asenby 577911	Linda Nuttall The Mount Church Street Topcliffe 577315
---	---	--	--

**"CRY GOD FOR HARRY, ENGLAND AND ST. GEORGE"**

(Henry V Act 3 Scene 1)

**ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN & WOMAN WILL DO THEIR DUTY**

## On The Way Up

Topcliffe Playgroup is situated in the school grounds of Topcliffe Primary School and has been established for the past 25 years. We run from a Portakabin next to the school with our own garden play area and are registered to take 24 children aged 2—5 years old.



We have built strong links with the school; each week the risers spend time in reception class with Nick Rathbone the reception teacher. We share special visitors, join assemblies and use the hall on Friday mornings for parachute games.

Last October we shared arts and craft activities; the children and parents enjoyed felt making with an artist from the Rural Arts in Thirsk. We were all involved in creating a wonderful piece of felt work that we now have displayed in the playgroup.



Due to the success of our group and the popular demand we have from parents seeking a place for their children, we are expanding our sessions in order to provide further places for families in the area. In March 2006 we were inspected by OFSTED and received a glowing report and so with this in mind, we felt we needed to provide a more flexible service to meet the needs of the community.

From April this year we are offering a "Lunch Club" with a choice of cooked school dinners or alternatively your child can bring a packed lunch, all of which we will have with the school children in the dining hall. The club will be available to all ages and will run from Monday to Friday 11.30 to 12.30.



On Tuesdays and Thursdays we are opening afternoon sessions from 12.30 to 3 pm. By lengthening our sessions we are helping to prepare children who will start school this September and also enable parents to go back to work.

Many parents are unaware that their child is eligible for free childcare places the term after their child reaches their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Your child would be able to come for 12½ hours each week which you could use in a combination of ways to suit your needs.

If you are interested in a place for your child and would like to come and have a look around please phone **Jessica Robertson (Play Leader) on 01845 578959** for a welcome pack. Alternatively you can just pop up to see us any morning, Monday to Friday.

## Sunday School at St. Columba's

Sunday School was delighted to celebrate its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on January 14<sup>th</sup>, when, as well as playing games and eating cake, the Sunday School children (with a little help from some parents and the Rev. Christine H-R) managed, in about 15 minutes, to make nearly 50 Christingles for the service that afternoon. We wondered if this was a Topcliffe speed record?!

Sunday School continues to take place, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month at 10.30 am in the Church Halls (also the Scout Hut). All children are very welcome and we have toys for the youngest children if they want to come along with their older siblings. In March and April there will be some changes to the usual Sunday School times.

March 18<sup>th</sup> is Mothering Sunday and the children will be in Church taking part in the Family Worship service that morning. There will however be extra Sunday School on the fourth Sunday of the month.

April 1<sup>st</sup> is Palm Sunday and the children will be in Church again and taking part in the Family Worship. The following Sunday, Easter Day, will have Sunday School as normal, and this will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt!

Dates for Sunday School until the end of July are as follows:

March: 11<sup>th</sup>, (18<sup>th</sup> in Church) & 25<sup>th</sup>, April: (1<sup>st</sup> in Church), 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, May: 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, June: 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, July: 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

## More Parish Council News

### **Parking on Long Street**

Please avoid parking on the grass verges on Long Street, especially near the surgery during or after wet weather as the grass is being ruined and unsightly. Parking on the road also contributes to traffic calming.

### **Toll Booth - Official opening and display of local artworks.**

We are looking to continue activities within the Toll Booth with an official opening on Saturday 24th March at 11.30am. We will show off the artwork projects completed last year and invite sponsors and interested parties for tea, coffee and biscuits etc. all sections of the community are welcome. In the future individuals, on their responsibility will be able to sign out keys from the clerk, councillors and the shop (during open hours) throughout the day from 10am until 9pm. Computers are available for word processing and regulation dart board is available. All sections of the community may use the building in future for coffee mornings, meetings etc .. and if you would like to use it for such an occasion then please contact a member of the PC.

---

## Village Hall

There's a lot going on at the village hall these days and finding space for bookings is getting trickier. On Mondays you can Tango Argentinean style or from time to time attend the Parish Council and Village Hall meetings. Tuesday afternoons have Senior Citizens and Craft Clubs on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month respectively. Wednesday morning is for pre-school age children at Daisy Chain and in the evening you can improve your flexibility and relax your mind at Yoga. Thursday has Brownies followed later by Indoor Carpet Bowls. On Friday mornings Toddlers take over. On the last Sunday of the winter months the Dairy Goat Society meets – no, the goats don't come.

Amongst the regular bookings, we fit in other meetings, parties, fundraisers, social events and a surprising range of other one-off events. So if you want to hire the hall for something special, then act sooner rather than later and make your booking by ringing Linda Nuttall on 01845 577315

### **Forthcoming Event**

We have some advance notice for you on a Rural Arts concert to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May. This will have a folk flavour with the return of Maire Ni Chathasaigh and Chris Newman who entertained us all so well back in October 2004 – yes that long ago!

### **Get Crafty Club**

This new club is now well established and meets in the village hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month between 1.30 pm and 3 pm for a sociable exchange of ideas with a focus demonstration and a chance to “have a go”. So far we have covered some aspects of paper toile, embroidery, card making, cross stitch & tatting and hope to go on to china painting, crochet, rug making, patchwork and many other things. On 15<sup>th</sup> May we hope to be involved with the EngAGE Project with a workshop. Anyone interested is very welcome. We would also be pleased to receive any tatting, crochet, embroidery or rug work - wool, threads or other craft materials & tools for which you have no further use. If you think you have something that may be useful, please give Linda a call on 577315.

---

## Carpet Bowls

The club is in good health and good heart following the addition of some new blood during the last quarter. Members are enjoying relaxed and jolly Thursday evenings while trying to improve their already considerable skills! We have also been able to put a team into the league competition and currently they are about mid table; half way up or half way down depending on your temperament! We are always happy to welcome new members and if you would like to join us then just drop in to the Village Hall around 7.30 pm on Thursday evening and sample what happens. If you would like more information, then please do give me, Fred Tye, a call on 01845 577022

---

## **Asenby Recreation Ground News - Emma McCormick**

After a busy end to 2006, things seem a little quieter .....

- Thanks to the hospitality of the Lowes' and the support of the village, the Christmas mulled wine & mince pie event raised almost £210.
- The wheels are beginning to be set in motion for the improvement to the play area, so watch this space for further details.
- An early date for your diary..... the Annual Barbeque will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June!
- As always, we are on the lookout for new committee members. We have the interests of EVERYONE in the village at heart, so whatever your wishes or concerns, please do get in touch.

## St Columba's Church Services

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

**Churchwardens: Linda Carver 578014 & Margaret Gimblett 577882**

	Sunday	4th	Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	11th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
<b>March</b>	Sunday	18th	Family Worship with Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday	10.30 am
	Wednesday	21st	Compline with Address	8.00 pm
	Sunday	25th	Matins	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sunday	1st	Family Worship for Palm Sunday	10.30 am
	Wednesday	4th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Friday	6th	Joint Good Friday Family Worship at Topcliffe Chapel	10.30 am
			Stations of the Cross at Baldersby St. James	2.00 pm
<b>April</b>	Sunday	8th	Holy Communion for Easter Day	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	15th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	22nd	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sunday	29th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sunday	6th	Family Worship with Baptisms	10.30 am
	Sunday	13th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
<b>May</b>			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	20th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	27th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

### **Special Lent & Easter Services at St. Columba's and in the wider Benefice**

**Mothering Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**, will be celebrated at St. Columba's with a special Family Service with children taking part. There will be posies for children to present to their mothers. Also, by the lighting of candles, there is an opportunity to remember mothers who have died. Holy Communion will be in a shorter modern form in keeping with the service.

On **Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 8.00 pm** there will be an evening service of **Compline** accompanied by a short contemplative address. This quiet service provides an oasis of calm in a busy week and is greatly appreciated by its regular following. Why not give it a try?

On **1<sup>st</sup> April at 10.30 am, Palm Sunday** will be another occasion for families to worship together, with the children of the Sunday School taking a special part. On **Maundy Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 pm in Dalton Church**, there will be an informal service of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar furnishings and hangings, leaving the church bare in readiness for **Good Friday** – when Anglicans join with Methodists at **Topcliffe Chapel at 10.30 am** for a Family Service focussing on the events of Good Friday. It is followed by coffee and hot cross buns. Then, **from 2.00 to 3.00 pm** at the church of **Baldersby St. James**, you have the opportunity to reflect on the **Stations of the Cross**. Each station depicts a stage of Christ's journey to the cross and as we gradually proceed around the church we pause for prayers, readings and silence.

**Easter Day** is time to celebrate. Christ is risen! **Holy Communion will be at 10.30 am** and the children will be able to take part in an Easter egg hunt after Sunday School.