

THE TATTLER

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Wot! - no buses?

Some of you may be aware that bus services through Topcliffe and Asenby are under threat and a month ago it was not inconceivable that we could end up with no bus services at all for the two villages.

At the end of last year, Parish Councils were asked by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) for their views on the forthcoming review of local bus services subsidies. The County Council currently spends more than £4million each year supporting the bus network throughout North Yorkshire, representing about 15% of the total number of bus services operating in the County.

Topcliffe and Asenby Councils' response was that the reduction or withdrawal of bus services would have a significant impact on the villages, especially Topcliffe which was designated as a "Service Village" in the Local Development Framework. The councils recognised the need for cost effectiveness and did not oppose change provided that adequate provision was made for public transport to Thirsk, Ripon & Northallerton.

NYCC are currently reviewing the subsidies on

the Smith's services Nos.147, 148 & 149, which serve several villages in the Thirsk area including Topcliffe and Asenby. A decision on future funding for these routes is expected very soon, but there may be changes to these services.

Unfortunately, from March 4th, the Arriva 70 service which runs from Ripon to Northallerton via Asenby & Topcliffe will cease to operate. This is not a subsidised service and Arriva's decision to withdraw it was for logistical reasons due to the closure of their Richmond garage. The Arriva decision to terminate the service could not have come at a worse time.

However, the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit (IPTU) at NYCC has been working hard to ensure that Topcliffe & Asenby will remain on the bus route and bus operators have been invited to take over the Ripon – Northallerton service. Several companies have shown interest in the route and the IPTU are very hopeful that the service can continue to operate after 4th March.

Final decisions on all these changes are expected in the next few days and hopefully those of you who rely on public transport will soon hear what the new arrangements will be.

STOP PRESS

NYCC have advised today, Friday 24th February that the Ripon – Northallerton bus service will continue after 4th March with a new operator. The service will run at the same times as the Arriva buses but these may be subject to review after about a month

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Editorial

Another winter will soon be over and we're already starting to think of Spring and some warmer weather. With that in mind, in this issue we've included a suggestion for a walk in the North York Moors—see page 5.

There are also a number of events being planned over the next few months, some of which may well be of interest to you. These events do not organise themselves and the thanks of the

people of Topcliffe and Asenby should go to the small band of volunteers who work hard to arrange the various entertainments through the year.

If you are interested in helping then please contact some of the people named in this issue or the TATtler team.

At the very least please make an effort to attend at least one, if not more, of the events. You never know you may enjoy it so much you may feel inclined to help organise a future village event!

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 22nd 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 (£10) from:

Pauline Milross	Liz Hall	Judith Lowe	Linda Nutall
Topcliffe House	Orchard End	Green End	The Mount
Asenby	Asenby	Asenby	Church St, Topcliffe
577961	578379	577911	577315

“CRY GOD FOR HARRY, ENGLAND AND ST. GEORGE”
(Henry V Act 3 Scene 1)

“ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY”

Topcliffe Parish Council News

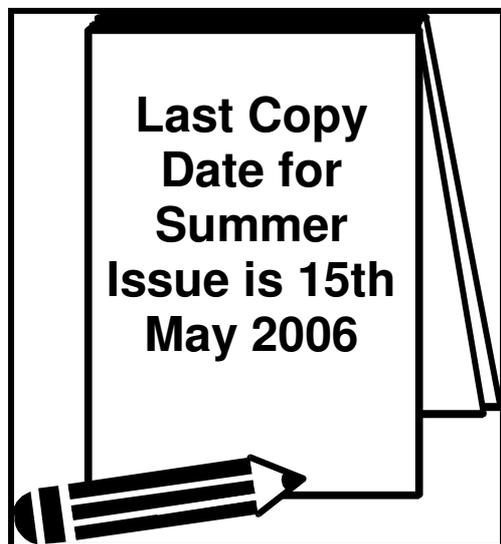
by Garry Key, Chairman Topcliffe Parish Council

Topcliffe PC's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Village Hall some time in May, Friday 5th at 7 pm or Saturday 6th at 3 pm are two of the

dates being considered. Keep an eye on the notice boards and then come along and have your say about village affairs and the way things are run!

There are some thoughts about holding a village BBQ in the summer. Probably at the Sheepwash and the date (late July/Early August) yet to be decided, but are there any volunteers out there who relish in a good 'Barbie' and could bring their cooking or organisational skills along to help? If you have the inclination and the time then please let Garry Key know on 01845 578900

We would also like to bid farewell to Padre Roy Burley of Alanbrooke Barracks who has been posted to Marne Barracks at Catterick. Padre Burley has been a key figure in developing strong links between the village and the community at Alanbrooke and is noted both for his diligence and humour. We wish him well with his new appointment.



Village Hall

Committee News

Hall affairs are running smoothly thanks to a strong & well organised committee, with members contributing their various talents and efforts. Meetings are usually held in alternate months (the next is Monday April 3rd) and the AGM is held in the spring, this year on Monday 8th May. Meetings last little more than an hour and so far have not driven anyone either to apoplexy or sleep!

Members of the public from Topcliffe and Asenby are welcome to come along and find out what's happening. We would be particularly pleased to see and hear from anyone who has used the hall, either for a club or private event, so that we may receive some feedback which could contribute to

the hall's continuing success. Your views are important and we can always do with new committee members with some fresh ideas!

For information about the regular activities at the hall telephone: 578707 for Keep Fit, 577930 for Carpet Bowls, 578527 for Mothers & Toddlers Group, 578871 for Childminders Support Group (Daisy Chain) and 577309 for Senior Citizens.

For the future, it is hoped to run a ballroom dance workshop possibly to be followed by regular classes, so all you Strictly Come Dancing fans had better start sewing on the sequins.

For details of hall charges and bookings, please contact Linda Nuttall on 01845 577315.

Family Learning - Emergency First Aid Course

The Community Education Service will be running a short 2 part First Aid Course in Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall on Saturday 4th and Saturday 11th March between 9.30 am and noon on each day. As the TATtler went to press, spaces were still available and if you are reading this before the 4th March, you may still be able to take part.

The course, run by tutor Gill Davis, offers an opportunity for parents/carers/grandparents to come along with their children (8 -14 years) and learn basic emergency first aid techniques. There is no fee for the course and you will gain valuable knowledge to equip you to deal with the emergency situations that can occur.

If you wish to attend, please 'phone Karen at the Community Education Office on 01845 526441.

422 Ceilidh Band

422 are a young folk band, fresh from the latest wave of young performers from all around the northern part of England and they will be performing at the Village Hall on Saturday 20th May. This stunning group play traditional folk music from all over the planet, including Sweden, Canada, Ireland, Scotland and their native Northumbria and Yorkshire.

In 1999, the band 422 won the BBC Young Folk Award and emerged as a great force on the British folk scene. 422's clear enjoyment of the music reaches out to every audience they play to and with tunes from all over Europe and America there is huge variety throughout their performance.

Look out for more information on posters on the notice boards nearer the time. Tickets will be available from Lewis Rudge on 01845 578644.

Asenby News by Emma McCormick

Another successful and enjoyable mulled wine and mince pie evening began the festivities back in December and raised £240. Many thanks for everyone who came and especially the Phillips' for their continued generosity and hospitality in providing the venue.

Now spring is fast approaching, the mowing rota will soon begin again. Last year it ran smoothly thanks to those villagers who helped out. Any

extra volunteers would be greatly appreciated - please see Jackie (578871) or any other member of the committee as soon as possible.

Hopefully I will be able to report on a successful Table Top Sale in the next addition of the TATtler, another step towards the TWO new pieces of playground equipment we hope to get installed soon. We are always open to new fundraising ideas - so if anyone has some good ideas, please get in touch!

A host of golden daffodils... A Spring Walk!

Most of you will have heard of Farndale, and the wonderful show of wild daffodils to be found there each April, but how many of you have enjoyed a walk up the valley of the River Dove and viewed the display in person? May we recommend a trip there this year before Easter – the 8th/9th April should be a good weekend to go. You will not be disappointed.

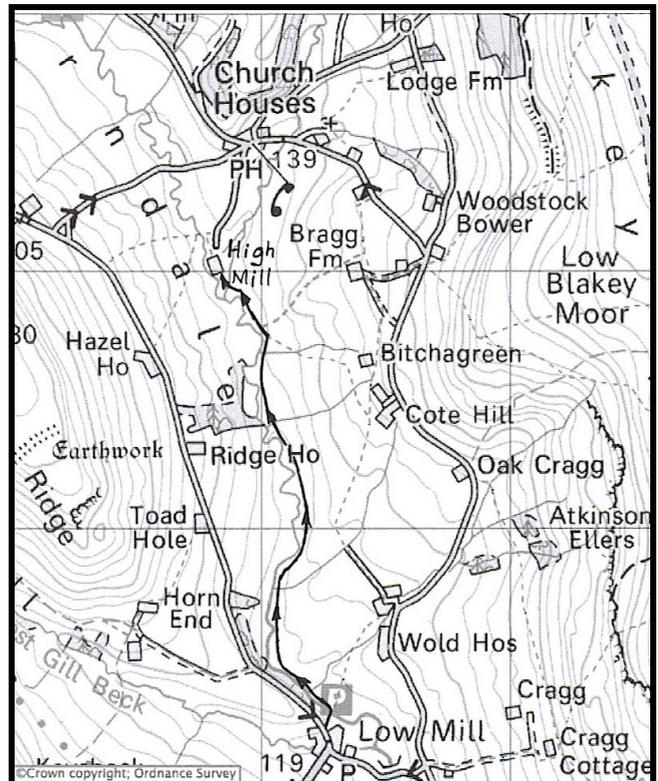
The walk up the valley is about 3 miles for the round trip and starts and finishes at the village of Low Mill, and you can get a cuppa at the halfway point - High Mill, which is now "The Daffy Caffy". Those who would like something stronger will find the Feversham Arms in nearby Church Houses.

Take the A170 from Thirsk and at Kirby Mills, just past Kirby Moorside, follow the signs for Hutton-le-Hole. During the daffodil season, on busy days, it may be best to park at Hutton-le-Hole and take the "Daffodil Bus" which runs 5 miles up the narrow twisting road to Low Mill. However, you may prefer to park at Low Mill where toilets are available and a nearby field provides parking for cars.

The footpath up the valley leaves from the entrance to the car park and is well signposted. The track follows the river bank and you will soon find yourself surrounded by daffodils as the walk continues from field to field. The going can be a bit soft, especially after heavy rain, and wellies or waterproof boots are recommended. If you take the dog, make sure you have something to wipe the mud off afterwards, and do look out for livestock as the lambing season will be underway.

The daffodils, which are protected by law, are reputed to have been planted by the monks of nearby Rievaulx Abbey, and around 35,000 people go to Farndale each year to see them. The small map will help you find your way around, but more detail is available on Ordnance Survey Landranger Sheet 100 or Explorer OL 26 maps.

And last, but definitely not least, if, like me, you need to be sure of your refreshments, the Daffy Caffy and The Feversham Arms 'phone numbers are 01751 430363 and 01751 433206 respectively!



Playschool Fundraiser

Topcliffe & Asenby Playschool Group will be holding an "Open Garden" at Columba Cottage, Church Street, Topcliffe on Saturday 20th May. Plants will be on sale and there will be refreshments available with all the profits going towards Playschool funds. Please look out for the posters in May for the timing of this event.

The Playschool committee would be pleased to receive, plants and plant cuttings for the occasion so if you can help out or would like more details, then please contact Zoe Fothergill, Swaleside Grange, Asenby, Tel: 01845 578787

St. Columba's Sunday School

Sunday school is going really well and Claire Cadogan, along with helpers Charlotte Burnett-Graham, Anna Hare and Jenny Roberts were really pleased to have 16 children arrive for the kick-off session in January. Numbers have settled at around a dozen or so each session and this keen support shows that the activity is really appreciated.

The school meets on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of every month at the same time as morning church services and the dates for the next three months will be March 12th & 19th, April 9th & 16th and May 14th & 21st. If you would like more information please ring Claire Cadogan on 01845 577238.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE
for Topcliffe Group of Parishes.
July 23rd 2006, at Baldersby St James Church, at 10.30 am.

What is Confirmation?

Your chance to confirm that you want to be a Christian by saying for yourself the promises made by your parents and godparents when you were Baptized (Christened), probably as a baby. These promises affirm that you believe the Christian Creed and that from now on you want to live a Christian life.

The Bishop's Part

During the service, the Bishop lays his hands upon your head and prays for God's blessing on you.

Afterwards

You will then be able to receive the bread and wine at Holy Communion and become a full member of the Church.

What if I have not been Baptized (Christened)?

Not at problem! Your Baptism can take place within the service of Confirmation. In any case, all the candidates will be asked to renew their Baptism vows at the font.

Who is it for?

Anyone from 9 years old and upwards - adults too - and living within our parishes of Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth, Dalton and Skipton on Swale.

What if I think I'm interested

Contact the Vicar, the Revd Christine Haddon-Reece, tel: 01845 577939, to talk about it further and have any questions answered. You will be expected to attend six or seven preparation classes, which be interesting, and - hopefully - fun too.

GRAND ATTIC AUCTION

**To be held on a Saturday in May, 2006, at 2pm
in Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall**

Date to be confirmed

All proceeds to St. Columba's Restoration Appeal

Auctioneer: Mr. John Phillips

**We are appealing for items for the above Auction, so please do not discard anything during
your Spring Cleaning, which could be sold to assist the above! Books...Furniture...Bric-a-
brac.....even Antiques!**

**IN FACT ANYTHING SALEABLE!!!!!!
But please, no clothes!**

Items to be brought to the Village Hall on the Saturday morning between 8am and 11am

Viewing from 12 noon to 2.00pm on the day.

Refreshments, Raffle

It may be possible to arrange transport for any bulky items.
Please contact John Phillips, Tel: 01845 577034

St Columba's Church Services

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

March	Sunday	5th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wednesday	8th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	12th	Holy Communion; and Creche/Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.30 am
	Sunday	19th	Holy Communion; and Creche/Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.30 am
	Sunday	26th	Mothering Sunday Family Worship, with Topcliffe CE School Note venue: DALTON ST JOHN	9.15 am
	Sunday	26th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sunday	26th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Tuesday	28th	Compline with Address: Psalm 84	8.00 pm
April	Sunday	2nd	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wednesday	5th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	9th	Palm Sunday: Holy Communion and Blessing of Palms	10.30 am
	Friday	14th	Good Friday: Joint family service at the Chapel	10.30 am
	Sunday	16th	Easter Sunday: Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sunday	23rd	Matins	10.30 am
	Sunday	23rd	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sunday	30th	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)	10.30 am
May	Sunday	7th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wednesday	10th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	14th	Holy Communion; and Creche/Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.30 am
	Sunday	21st	Holy Communion; and Creche/Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.30 am
	Sunday	28th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sunday	28th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

Compline. The evening service of Compline has an established place in the observation of Lent - the season of penitence and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. This short service, with its periods of silence, provides a quiet oasis in the middle of the week.

This year the series of Compline services in the Topcliffe group of parishes will look more closely at five well-known Psalms.

Please feel welcome to attend any or all of these services. **All start at 8.00 pm.**

March	Tuesday	7th	Compline with Address: Psalm 23	Baldersby St James
	Tuesday	14th	Compline with Address: Psalm 46	Skipton St John
	Tuesday	21st	Compline with Address: Psalm 100	Dalton St John
	Tuesday	28th	Compline with Address: Psalm 84	Topcliffe St Columba
April	Tuesday	4th	Compline with Address: Psalm 22	Baldersby St James

Classics at St. Columba's

The next concert at St. Columba's is on Saturday 11th March 2006 at 7.30 pm, when the Europa Ensemble will be playing Vivaldi, Four Seasons (Spring & Summer); Greig, Holberg Suite; Bach, Double Violin Concerto and Janacek, Suite for Strings.

This is a terrific programme, full of excellent melodies and even if the names of the works may not all be familiar, if you enjoy classics then you will enjoy this concert.

Tickets at £8 (£6 concessions) are available from John Phillips, Asenby Hall, YO7 3QR, Tel: 01845 577034. All profits will go to Asthma UK as part of the sponsorship for the lead violinist, Adam Robinson, to run in this year's London Marathon.