

Summer 2007

The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Volume 14 Issue 2

Two for the Price of One !

It's not normal to have the Editorial on the front page of the TAttler. However this issue we make an exception so that our two new Editors, Vicki Moores and Angela Hook, can have their say. Thanks to Vicki and Angela volunteering for this task the TAttler is to continue and will be bringing you the usual mixture of village news, events and dates for your diary.

Take it away ladies!

The Summer issue of the TAttler marks a change of management after David Pilgrim stood down from the post of editor. David has done an excellent job in keeping us all informed of current events in the village and his will be a hard act to follow. Angela Hook and Vicki Moores have taken over and we will do our best to continue the sterling work of David and his predecessor, John Walter.

First of all, we want to encourage more reader participation. It's your newsletter and so we hope that you will voice your concerns and comments on local issues. We must discourage anything that might be considered libellous, however; we have a very tight budget and couldn't possibly run to a lawsuit. Also, neighbourly disputes are probably best avoided, especially if the dreaded word "leylandii" is involved. We are particularly keen to hear from younger readers as they generally have opinions on important matters such as play areas and social events.

Should you have any low-key grumbles that other villagers would empathise with, you are welcome to use The Tattler as your forum. Raging rants from the Angry Brigade can't really be encouraged however. Memories of Topcliffe, recent or distant are interesting both to "Topcliffe born and bred" residents or newcomers. The gala used to provide a great deal of enjoyment for all generations with competitions, face-painting, races, 6-a-side football matches, and even parachutists (remember the good old days before Health and Safety?).

Also, in the good old days there was the sandy beach alongside the river where children used to play. Just like the Cote d'Azur it was. The path has since been fenced off to make way for the fishing club, of course, but anyway, as I was saying, remember the good old days before Health and Safety? The important thing to remember is that the deadline is August 15 when the paper goes to the printer's. It doesn't matter how earth-shattering the news - it could be a sighting of Osama Bin Laden living rough at the Sheepwash *without a fishing licence* or it could be the Queen booking a girls' party night at The Angel. If it isn't sent in by August 15, we can't put it in unfortunately. If we don't get lots of contributions, then the whole paper will be written by the editors and that could well be The Worst of All Possible Worlds.

We really hope you enjoy reading The Tattler. In our defence, we've had only three weeks to put together this issue, rather than the usual three months, so we hope that we'll be able to correct any shortcomings in the future.

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Breaking NewsBreaking News

It's tough this job. No sooner have we sent an article to the typesetter then something happens to make it outdated. Now we know how the reporters of the 1930's must have felt when one minute they're saying we're at peace with Germany then – whoops – no we're not, we're at war.

So recycling. It seems that Hambleton Councillors have noticed that it's a lot to ask of non-drivers to catch a bus from Topcliffe to Sowerby then trudge miles to the tip burdened with cornflakes packets and empty wine bottles, so at last the kerbside collection is due to begin.

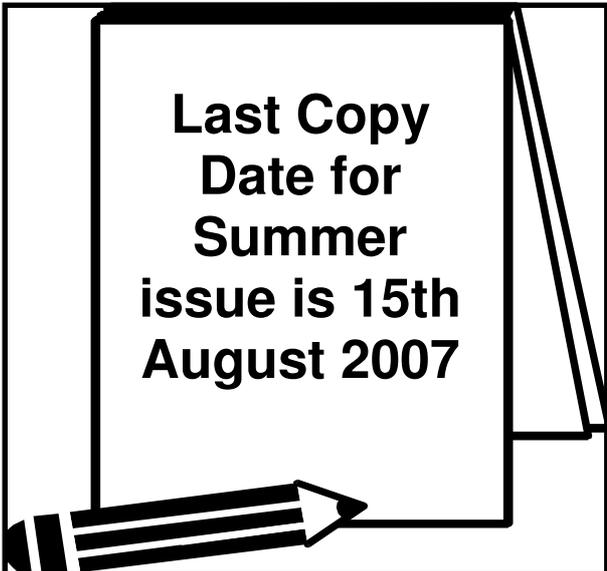
The well-informed Hambleton News reports that later this month members of the District Council's cabinet are expected to agree that a scheme to collect glass, plastics, cans and paper will begin by November. The scheme is part of the long-term goal to increase the amount of recycling undertaken by householders to 50% by 2010.

Parish Council News

The outgoing Topcliffe Parish Council would like to thank retiring TATtler editor David Pilgrim for all his years of hard work. He has spent countless hours encouraging others to contribute and making sure no home was without the village newsletter. His written articles have been very much appreciated by us all. We are very grateful for all his dedication and time and wish him well for the future in all he undertakes.

Parish Council Elections

Note that news of the elections will appear in the next issue of the TATtler.



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

Saving the Planet from the Comfort of your own Garden

Saving the Planet can be a chore. One of those things you just keep putting off, like clearing out the old paint tins from the shed or cleaning the cutlery drawer in the kitchen. You know it needs doing but it's just not fun. Recycling is a word that's become, let's face it, a bit *boring*. There's the not insignificant problem in Topcliffe of having to drive four miles to take recyclable items to the tip which means that you actually need your own transport to save the planet. Also, there are all those bins hanging round street corners like disaffected teenagers, and even more malodorous than well-worn trainers. Recycling - a good idea that could have done with a bit of thought *before* we started putting it into effect, rather than waiting until the whole exercise had become somewhat tedious and complicated.

However, it is possible to do some recycling without leaving carbon footprints all the way down the A168. Get a reduced-price compost bin by calling 0845 077 0757 or visit www.recyclenow.com/compost.

Making good compost relies on a good mixture of "greens and browns". Greens are quick to rot and are rich in moisture and nitrogen and provide the fuel for the composting process. Browns are slower to rot, are dry and rich in carbon. Browns provide the air and structure to the process. Greens could include uncooked vegetable peelings and fruit waste, tea bags, plant prunings and grass cuttings. Browns could include dried flowers, woody stems, cardboard and paper. Cooked vegetables, meat, dairy products, plants, animal excrement or nappies should not be added. Aerate the compost with a fork or by mixing in scrunched-up paper and card. The compost is ready to use when it resembles dark soil and has a sweet, earthy smell which usually takes six to twelve months.

For more guidance on composting, contact the Community Waste Management Officer on 01609 532045 or email nyrotters@northyorks.gov.uk.

If you become a Composting Expert, you may feel that you would like to pass the green and the good message on to the unconverted. If so, volunteers would be very welcome and will receive full training. The contact number and email address are the same as above.

Yoga



Yoga Class at Topcliffe Village Hall

- **Yoga class Wednesday evenings 7.00 to 8.30 pm from April 18th 2007 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.

Look out for the Big Van with the Purple Balloons

If you have trouble getting into Thirsk or Ripon, and you're an enthusiastic reader, take advantage of the Mobile Library Service which stops in Topcliffe and Asenby every three weeks. All mobiles have improved access for people with mobility problems with wide doors and passenger lifts.

To join the mobile library, just visit the vehicle taking with you documentation bearing your name and address such as a utility bill. Your membership card can also be used at any branch library in North Yorkshire. You can request books or CD's that aren't immediately available and you can return books borrowed from a mobile at any branch library. The mobile visits every three weeks but if you miss the visit and have borrowed books you wish to return, just take them into your local library or telephone the library to extend the loan.

The next visit is scheduled for June 7 and will stop at Fosse Bungalow, Asenby between 14.10 and 14.15 and Jamesville Way between 14.20 and 14.40. It will be at East Lea in Topcliffe between 14.45 and 14.55. This is a very good service and, if it is difficult to use the official stops, ring 01609 533800 as it may be possible to arrange somewhere more convenient.

'James Herriot' play comes to the village - 18th August:

On 18th August Badapple Theatre Company bring their latest theatre show to Topcliffe Village Hall. They are touring across North and East Yorkshire in August 2007 with a new play by Alice Bartlett based on the life of 'James Herriot'. Herriot of course became a household name through his books and was later immortalised by the BBC series 'All Creatures Great and Small'. As you may know, originally born in Sunderland but raised in Glasgow, he found himself apprenticed to a small veterinary practice in rural North Yorkshire, and took a crash course in getting to know the locals and their animals!

The new one-man play takes a jovial look at some of the situations the young vet found himself in, as he spins stories and yarns spanning the length of his career.

Alice Bartlett is a director best known for her recent sell-out comedies at Hull Truck Theatre (Unleashed/Woman Who Cooked Her Husband) as well as plays for Harrogate Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Stephen Joseph Theatre.

Badapple Theatre specialise in new plays based on biographical themes and have a reputation both for theatre and comedy. This summer show is expected to be a fun night out and suitable for all family audiences. For tickets, prices and information contact the theatre box office on 01423 339168.

Lots of Variety at the Village Hall

Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall has an austere appearance and is markedly out of synch with surrounding buildings. It's surely unlikely that the architects would have been granted planning permission for such an unattractive construction in these more aesthetically aware times. And yet it provides an ideal venue for first aid classes, senior citizens' meetings, a craft group, tango sessions, yoga lessons, dairy goats (parties? discos?), a Ceilidh and many, many more events.

A couple of weeks ago, neighbours were startled, and possibly excited in some cases (you know who you are) to catch glimpses of well-toned limbs clad in fluorescent lycra darting up the steps. Not some retro seventies concert, sadly, but, almost as good. The Otley Cycling Club were using the village hall as their meeting point where they planned to enjoy refreshments, no doubt consisting of ham sandwiches, cake, boiled eggs, and lashings and lashings of ginger beer. Even more recently, passers-by might have been impressed to see a large yellow banner announcing The Northern Hamster Show.

The eclectic mix of parties and pastimes at the Village Hall is commendable and owes much to the efficient booking expertise of Linda Nuttall. To contact Linda ring 01845 577315.

Bored? Feel Unappreciated? At A Loose End?.....

.....Fret no more. We have the answer you have been looking for. For the fulfilment and excitement you crave, join Topcliffe and Asenby's Village Hall Committee! For an hour or so once every two months, you can sit at a meeting in the village hall and help make mind-blowing decisions affecting the lives of millions (or so) of Asenby and Topcliffe villagers. What's more, all this is FREE!

For the ones who are still unconvinced, just read this Tattler's article about the current goings-on at the village hall! Now realising the hall is the centre of the universe, how can you resist joining?

For further information and a chance to serve your village, please phone Linda Nuttall at (01845) 577315 – but hurry now. Places are limited.

Seriously now, we are crying out for new committee members. It doesn't take up an awful lot of time and all new blood is extremely welcome. Please, please, please join us if you can.

Happy Faces

There were lots of smiles at Alanbrooke Barracks Nursery School when the Inspector called. A recent Ofsted Inspection confirmed that the Nursery provided high quality care and stimulating surroundings. The curriculum is "challenging, purposeful and innovative" and the children develop good social skills, as well as a firm basis for the development of maths and literacy. They learn the importance of good manners, sharing and taking turns and the



staff instill confidence and motivation with regular praise. Ofsted Inspectors declared that this was a good nursery.

Although it is situated on Alanbrooke Barracks, the Nursery welcomes children from civilian families. Telephone the Supervisor Mrs Lorna Young on 577151 if you would like to enquire about vacancies. Lorna would also like to hear from anyone interested in working as a relief nursery assistant to cover for holidays and illnesses. There would be an opportunity for this to develop into a permanent position.

A Night To Remember

Anyone fortunate enough to have been present at Chris Newman and Máire Ní Chathasaigh's concert on May 18th in the village hall will have witnessed a truly unique delight of exciting acoustic guitar and sometimes haunting, other times downright magical harp melodies. Máire's clear, beautiful vocals left the audience spellbound and deeply touched. For more information about this truly talented duo and details of how to order CD's (including their new CD "Firewire"), visit <http://www.oldbridgemusic.com> Do make the effort to go see this incredible pair. I promise you won't be disappointed.

Cyberspace – the Final Frontier

Rural Arts is hoping to run workshops in Photoshop, web design and digital photography at various venues across the region if sufficient interest is shown. The courses would comprise six three-hour lessons for up to ten people per class and would be free of charge. If you would like to participate, contact Rural Arts on 526536 or visit www.ruralarts.org.

The more people express an interest, the greater the chance of classes being run locally.

Art at Topcliffe by Jaz and Meg Jameson-Allen.

Dani Mitchell came to Topcliffe from Whitby. She sounded really good at art-and she was! She came to do an art project based on the village Topcliffe. We met every Monday Evening at the Tollbooth seven till nine. Dani came to greet everyone. At first we were told that all of our pieces of art work would be put up in the Tollbooth.

We were ready to start – we had chosen which aspects of Topcliffe we were doing – differing from Saint Columba's Church to Long Street (modern compared to in the 1860's). Our group – Meg/Jaz Jameson – Allen and Georgie/Chelsea Taylor – did modern Topcliffe, 1860's Topcliffe, the School and



the Castle. We took photographs then copied and traced them. All our art took a few weeks.

When our first picture was done, we started on another one-but this time our group split and worked in two pairs on two new pictures (the castle/the school).

Other pictures included: Saint Columba's church, photos of important buildings, The River Swale, the Tollbooth, Long Street, Scouts and even a collage of all the events in Topcliffe. All of our paintings were put up and we saw them weeks later.

We had so much fun; we would love to do it again!

More Tangos in Topcliffe



Dancing the Tango is thirsty work so a glass of wine and a party can be a welcome relief. The Tango class has proved a great hit in the Village Hall. So many enthusiasts are tripping the light fantastic that, from September, it is hoped to hold two sessions a week. Beginners will have lessons from 7-8pm and improvers from 8-9pm.

There will also be a Practica until 9.30. The dancers are hoping to take part in a Day of Dance on September 22 when they will give a demonstration and a taster session. More details in the next issue of The TATtler!

Asenby Recreation Ground News

PLAY AREA: Plans are well underway for the new additions to our play area! As mentioned previously, there will be 2 pieces of equipment, a toddler swing and another piece, with the older child's needs in mind. As you may appreciate, organising this and the funding has been a lengthy process! Watch this space for further updates!

CREAM TEAS : As you read this, a Cream Tea Afternoon will have taken place. Hopefully the rain held off and it was a successful and fun afternoon for all villagers.

MOWING: The mowing season has arrived again, and again we are in need of volunteers. Please contact Jackie on 578871 if you would be willing to help. Also, has anybody seen the large petrol can????

BARBEQUE: A reminder that this year's Barbeque will be held on Saturday 23rd June. Details nearer the time.

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

Jun	Sunday	3rd	Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	6th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sunday	10th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sunday	17th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sunday	24th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
Jul	Sunday	1st	Family Worship led by Topcliffe Church of England Primary School	10.30 am
	Wednesday	4th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sunday	8th	Holy Communion	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	Benefice Family Worship with Baptism	10.30 am
Aug	Sunday	5th	Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	8th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sunday	12th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sunday	19th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sunday	26th	Matins	10.30 am
Sep	Sunday	2nd	Family Worship	10.30 am

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.

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Snooker Club

The Snooker Club meets upstairs at the Toll Booth and is always on the lookout for new members from Topcliffe and Asenby. Due to our rising costs, membership has had to be raised to £15, covering the period from September to September. As you will appreciate, this is still an incredible bargain! Members must be 18 or over, but under-18s are allowed in with members. The Club has two tables, one full-size and one ¾-size. The light meter costs only 10p for 8 minutes. The club is no longer in a

league.

Anyone interested in joining should contact David Bowman on 577843.

St. Columba's Church

Our efforts to raise funds for the restoration of the Church continue. On Saturday May 12th another successful Attic Auction, organised by John Phillips with the help of a willing band of helpers, raised a further £800 for the fund. Our sincere thanks to everyone in Topcliffe and Asenby who gave items and also to those who came to bid. We have a long way to go before we can feel that we are getting on top of the many problems that face us but we will increase our endeavours to this end. Our next major task is to repair the leaking roof. We are still trying for a grant from English Heritage to make this possible.

We are pleased that the clock is now going again. Work continues on this project thanks to Mr. Robert Place. We are still raising funds to complete all the work required. The delay in completing Stage 1 of the restoration of the Churchyard wall is because of difficulties in the supply of new coping stones. However these are on order and this task should be completed shortly

Once again we stress the importance of ensuring that children do not play in Churchyard and in particular that they do not jump off the wall. We do like to see the Church and it's environs used by the inhabitants – after all it is your Church – but it is not a playground.

Dates for your diary.

June 23rd. Annual Summer Fair

July 7th. Joint Coffee Morning with Dalton Church in aid of Traidcraft

From District Councillor Neville Huxtable

By now you will know that I was returned unopposed at the Hambleton District Council election this month. I look forward to representing you again.

The next four years will bring new challenges. We need affordable homes in our villages, and jobs that are nearby, providing environmentally friendly travel to work. Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate could develop further. I will do all that is possible to ensure that future commercial developments, wherever they take place in the Topcliffe ward, do not create noise, smells, and traffic movements that disrupt the quality of life villagers have come to expect.

Thank you for your continuing support. If I can help you at any time, please telephone **01845 501068** or e-mail Cllr.neville.huxtable@hambleton.gov.uk

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.

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)

**The TAttler
Team**

Editorial: Vicki Moores / Angela Hook - Tel. 578076: (E-mail: tattlereditor@surfree.co.uk)

Production: Howard Wilson - Tel. 577039