

Winter 2007

The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Volume 14 Issue 4

Yorkshire Evening

On October 26th, a Yorkshire Pie and Pea supper was held in Topcliffe Village Hall to raise funds for Herriot Hospice Homecare. Villagers flocked to the hall to experience a truly special evening. The British Legion Brass Band performed a host of spectacular pieces, ranging from popular Andrew Lloyd Webber tunes to a rousing finale of 'The Final Countdown'. Entertainment was also provided by Yorkshire storyteller Neil Fox, who brought about peals of laughter with his amusing poems and hilarious but often touching anecdotes. A memorable evening was had by all. Thanks to Judy Lowe, the helpers, the entertainment and the audience, the impressive amount of £400 was raised for Herriot Hospice Homecare



An Accident Waiting to Happen

by Vicki Moores

The most worrying aspect about life in Topcliffe seems to be the speed of traffic and general congestion outside the village shop, mainly in the mornings. With stationary heavy lorries, cars backing out, school children desperate to get their sugar fix at the shop – it's chaotic. And that's before we mention the steep hill coming into the village from one end and the visibility-impeding bend on the other.

We face a lot of danger merely to get the morning paper and you have to wonder whether it's really worth risking life and limb to read about illegal immigrants in The Daily Mail or admire the attributes of the page 3 pin-up in the Sun?

It seems that until someone gets killed or injured, nothing will be done. Then it will be a case of everyone grumbling that "it was an accident waiting to happen."

Canvassing the Parish Council to address the issue again is the first step. You can ring Angela Hook on 577863 (email ange@surfree.co.uk) to find out the date of the next meeting. The more people make their voices heard, the more chance we have of getting anything done.

Hot off the Press!

Topcliffe now has a police officer! We are to share him with Dalton, Sessay, and Hutton. His official title is that of Safer Neighbourhood Officer.

He will be attending our Parish Council meetings and intends to be available to our community for any matter which we feel needs attention.

More details, such as how to contact him, will be posted around the village as soon as they come available. The parish council have already informed him about the latest spate of vandalism in the village and he is very keen to solve the problem.

WELCOME TO TOPCLIFFE

PC 1673 Simon Williamson!

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Festive Editorial

Space is always at a premium in The TATtler. Every issue, we think we shan't be able to fill it but then lots of people send in their news and, before we know where we are, we're struggling to squeeze everything in.

We're both finding it great fun producing our little newspaper. It might be a tad parochial but there are more things go on in Topcliffe than this world dreams of. However, we can't possibly write about that so we'll stick to the fishing club, the village hall and church services.

We're very grateful to Howard Wilson, the typesetter, who is unbelievably patient with our ditherings. We also want to thank the advertisers, and perhaps most importantly, the distributors who really do a long slog up and down the streets and drives of our village to deliver this paper.

Thank you to the council for delivering blue boxes that we can fill up with empties over the festive season. I'm sure you've all noticed, they won't hold more than the recommended weekly quota of about six dismal units for each and every one of us. And, even more worryingly, our drinking habits are now going to be on public display.

However, don't let the killjoys get you down, Be Happy over Christmas and Enjoy a Really Great New Year.

ASENBY NEWS

by Emma McCormick

Hurrah! As many of you will have noticed, the new play equipment has now been installed. The older children (and some of the braver younger ones) seem to love the new climbing frame and the toddler swings are equally well used. They were only made possible through the support of the villagers in our fundraising events. Thank you.

Christmas approaches and our annual mulled wine and mince pie event will this year be held in Asenby Hall Barn on Sunday 9th December from 6 to 8pm. Many thanks to the John and Claire Phillips. Tickets are £2 for adults and £1 for children and available from any member of the committee. Look out for the fliers and posters. This is always a well supported event and a chance for new members of the village to get to know everybody, as well as a good opportunity for a festive catch up!

A children's Christmas party will be held on 21st December in the Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall. Under 7's party will be from 4.30 and over 7's from 6.30. Again look out for fliers. This will be a TICKET ONLY event!

We are hoping to contribute to an over 60's outing in the spring, so look out for more information.

On behalf of the whole Asenby Institute, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Topcliffe Fishing Club

An inaugural meeting of ten villagers was held on 1st October in the Toll Booth. The constitution, structure and need for such a club were discussed at length and it was decided to form a club under the auspices of the Parish Council. The aim of the club will be to maintain and protect the fishing rights of the village down at the Sheepwash and investigate possible other venues within the area. We hope to encourage the youngsters in the village to take up an interest in fishing and at a future date could offer them practical help and demonstrations.

Membership will be free to all the residents of Topcliffe with a limited number of day tickets available to visitors for a reasonable charge.

It is early days for a new organisation but if you would like to help, or use the facilities, please contact Graham Price (Chairman 07793 677754) or Ralph Morris (Secretary) 01845 577051

Playing Field News

Attention all people interested in the upkeep of Topcliffe playing field. There will be a meeting on January 14th, 2008 at 7.30pm in Mulligan's Bar at the Angel Inn. Please call John Heidstrom at 07795 362335 for further information.

ShivaNova (Talking Drums) performance

I was looking forward to what was promising to be a unique performance at Topcliffe Village Hall. However things so rarely turn out to be the way you expect them. The six member band depicted in the leaflet had somehow shrunk to four and the lithe body shown floating across a stage had been replaced by clips of a subtitled film being projected from a computer onto a cloth screen. Not one to be put off though, I was prepared to listen and enjoy.

The haunting notes of a flute with keyboard accompaniment soon filled the hall. Later we were introduced to 'Talking Drums', complete with entertaining audience interaction. Soon the room was filled with voices attempting to mimic the pattern of the beat

I feel that true appreciation of the singing accompaniment to the band's music is probably an acquired taste; one which I obviously don't possess. Still, others around me enjoyed themselves tremendously listening to the singer's clear notes.

All in all it made a refreshing change to have a little piece of India visit Topcliffe.

**Last Copy Date for
Spring issue is 15th
February 2008**

Topcliffe Craft Club

The Craft Club is now underway once again. Participants in the October class enjoyed a demonstration in the art of creating bead jewellery, going on to make a pair of earrings. This was followed on November 20th by a card making class. The December meeting will take place on December 11th.

Please note that this is a week earlier than our usual practice of holding the classes on the third Tuesday of the month.

At the December meeting we shall be spending our craft club time getting Christmas cracked, i.e. making Christmas crackers with the help of mince pies and maybe a glass of sherry!

Topcliffe Parish Council News

by Garry Key

Playing Field Committee.

The Playing Field is now run under a sub-committee of the Parish Council. It held its first meeting on 5th November and is chaired by John Heidstrom. If you would like to join the committee or volunteer to help fundraise or offer suggestions how the space might be improved, please contact John at 07795362335 or Mark Bowen 578356 or the Clerk 577863. Or pop along to the Parish Council meeting and have your say.

Jubilee Gardens

The Parish Council has decided to clear and replant the corner shrubbery, which has got out of control. Contractors will clear the site and prepare it for replanting. The replacement scheme must be low maintenance and long lasting. The council will provide the plants and the replanting will be done by children from the school at a date to be specified. If anyone has ideas for the replanting scheme, would like to assist, or donate plants, please contact the clerk at 577863.

The Toll Booth

The Toll Booth contains working computers suitable for word processing and drawing etc. It is also available to display notices and information and is the home of the fishing club. If you would like to use it to meet up or conduct an activity, please contact a councillor or the clerk for a key, which can be signed out.

Vandalism

There has been a significant drop in the number of incidents since the last TATtler. However, there has been serious damage done to the Bows club, the Football Club Container and cabin, and mindless, spiteful damage to someone's car. The council is considering some form of security lighting and covert cameras for the area. Please be vigilant and report any incident to the police at 0800 555111.

Thank you to the Topcliffe Tidy-up Team!

On September 15th, 12 wonderful adults and 7 amazing children got together to clean up around Topcliffe. Wearing bright safety jackets and armed with litter pickers, the team worked through the village like a tornado. No piece of litter escaped these hawk-eyed helpers. Bin bags were enthusiastically filled at the speed of lightning.

After a soft drink break at the Angel, these steadfast workers went down to the Sheepwash to continue the job.

The Parish Council wishes to thank everyone who volunteered to tidy up Topcliffe that day. Your hard work was very much appreciated. Thanks also to the Angel Inn for their support and to Hambleton District Council for providing safety equipment and gifts for the children.

Remembrance Sunday

Two young soldiers step out from the solemnity of the Remembrance Service at St Columba's into the mild autumn sunshine.

The soldiers had been part of a parade from The Angel to the church and had played an important part in the service that had been particularly well-attended. They were from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Workshops, based at Dishforth, where they work with the 9 Regiment Army Air Corps.



POLICE REPORT

1. Describe what happened

Who did what.....
 When it happened, what time.....
 Where did it/they go.....

2. Description of person(s)

Height..... Hair.....
 Build..... Age.....
 Clothing.....

3. Vehicle(s)

Type/shape (Saloon, Hatchback, Estate, Sports, Van).....
 Registration number or any letters.....
 Colour..... Number of occupants.....

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S

Everyone is welcome at all of our Christmas services, but three of them are particularly suitable for children. We will be holding the ever-popular Christingle Service at 3.00 pm on Sunday December 16th when it is hoped that children from Topcliffe C.E. School, along with the Sunday School children, will be taking part. On Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm there is a Crib Service when we sing carols and listen to the Christmas Story whilst building up the Christmas Crib. Even the youngest children can enter into the wonder of Jesus' birth, and the service is followed by sherry or squash, and mince pies. On Christmas morning we join with the Methodists at Topcliffe Chapel for festive Family Worship.

For those who like something more traditional, there is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 23rd at 6.30 pm, and Midnight Mass of the Nativity will be celebrated at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve.

Revd Christine and David Haddon-Reece

wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Topcliffe School by Diane Walker

As usual, the school is busy and in the run up to Christmas even more so. The caretaker is already finding bits of glitter in his Hoover bag. Tinsel halos cannot be too far away. Already the parents and children have donated their shoeboxes of presents to the Romania Christmas Shoebox Appeal and have seen the video of last year's recipients, reminding them of how lucky we all are.

Everyone is looking forward to the whole school trip to Harrogate to watch the pantomime for the second year running - oh yes they are!

FOTS (Friends of Topcliffe School) held a night of entertainment and dance at the Angel on the 6th October, a fun evening which raised £650.00. FOTs have provided a gazebo/shelter for outside lessons/play and are fundraising to provide seating for the area.

Our Christmas Fayre is on Friday 30th November in the school hall 6 – 8pm, entry 50p for adults, children free. There will be a variety of stalls. In addition, mulled wine,

mince pies, and a tombola are just some of the other attractions that will be there to be enjoyed. Santa will be in his grotto awaiting visitors and as always, all are welcome.

Our Nativity is called 'The Wiggly Nativity' this year, which sounds about right for our youngest pupils. This will be performed in St Columba's church on Monday December 17th at 6pm and on Wednesday 19th December 2pm in school. I can promise a treat for anyone who would like to join us at either performance.

School holidays begin 2pm on Friday 21st December.

Harvest Festival

A harvest festival service was greatly enjoyed by parents and friends at Topcliffe School. There were some thought-provoking subjects such as world trade, the thorny question of "food miles" and the plethora of choice presented to us compared to the meagre diet of the third world. The songs were lively and the children in high spirits, resulting in an uplifting afternoon.

Staff at the school had reason to be especially pleased, having been awarded a Basic Skills Award for the second time.

Village Hall Events

Chimera, a group from the Richmond area, will be entertaining us at the village hall on **March 7th**. They perform folk band music with an interesting twist. Do look out for more info nearer the date.

Brownies, Toddlers, Indoor Bowls, Yoga, Tango, Craft Club, Daisy Chain, and Senior Citizens all meet regularly at the village hall. Have you tried any of these groups yet? If these don't appeal to you, why not either start your own group or give us suggestions as to which new type of group would interest you?

Some people have enquired about the possibility of holding a mixed-ability, mixed sex, keep-fit class. If anyone is a qualified instructor and would be willing to take such a class, or knows a man (or woman) who does, please get in touch with Linda on 577315, Ange or Vicki.

Surgery Hours Christmas & New Year

**The surgery will be closed Christmas Day,
Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**

**It will be open usual hours
on all other days.**



Fireworks in Topcliffe

It's highly probable that the very last thing on your minds right now is**next year's Bonfire Night**. With Christmas rapidly approaching from all directions, it's not an obvious logical distraction, but there will be other reminders later in the year if we get a positive response now. People who have lived in Topcliffe for any length of time will remember the village bonfire as a really good family event. The Barninghams generously allowed the use of their field and Anne Marie proved to be an ace events organiser. Malcolm Morley was a talented pyrotechnic as well as a practised car mechanic. It was muddy, it was noisy, it was fun, and you didn't have to get in your car to drive to Thirsk. Unfortunately, it was always difficult to raise sufficient funds but this problem worsened when insurance premiums escalated and, as in other villages, the tradition was abandoned. The actual amount needed was the daunting sum of £1500. Also, the amount of work involved in the event was massive and so a proper committee would have to be formed. This article, then, is to sound out any prospective volunteers. It would be a year long task with the amount of fundraising required but it would be great to encourage more community spirit and you might get to know neighbours you've only seen in the paper shop. If you would like to be a member of the committee, you like fireworks but you're not an actual arsonist, please ring Ange or Vicki on the usual numbers.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
CHRIS CLARKE AT:

Hambleton & Richmondshire Carers Centre
32 High Street, Northallerton
DL7 8EE

Tel: 01609 780872

e-mail: hrcarersoffice@hrcarers.f2s.com

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Topcliffe Methodist Church

Minister The Rev'd Elizabeth A Clark (01845 522255)

Services are held on Sundays at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Dec		2nd	Mrs C Lawson
		9th	Rev E A Clark, Holy Communion
		16th	Rev Andrew Bryer, Carols
		23rd	United Carol Service at St Columba's Church
Jan		6th	Rev E A Clark, Covenant Service
		13th	Rev Neil Graham
		20th	Rev Roy Burley
Feb		3rd	Rev E A Clark
		10th	Rev Rachel Parkinson
		17th	Rev Geoffrey Bruce, Holy Communion

For further information and notice of other meetings contact Mrs Dorothy Hunton on 01845 577452

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

DECEMBER 2007	Sunday	2nd	Prayer Book Holy Communion Family Worship for Advent	8.00 am 10.45 am
	Sunday	9th	Holy Communion Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.45 am
	Sunday	16th	Holy Communion Christingle	10.45 am 3.00 pm
	Sunday	23rd	Matins Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols	10.45 am 6.30 pm
	Monday	24th	Crib Service Midnight Mass of the Nativity	3.00 pm 11.30 pm
	Tuesday	25th	Joint Family Worship at <u>Topcliffe Chapel</u>	10.30 am
	Sunday	30th	Benefice Holy Communion at <u>Dalton St John</u> [NB no service at St Columba's]	10.30 am
	JANUARY 2008	Sunday	6th	Prayer Book Holy Communion Family Worship for Epiphany
Sunday		13th	Holy Communion Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.45 am
Sunday		20th	Holy Communion Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.45 am
Sunday		27th	Matins Choral Evensong	10.45 am 6.30 pm
FEBRUARY	Sunday	3rd	Prayer Book Holy Communion Family Worship	8.00 am 10.45 am
	Sunday	10th	Holy Communion Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.45 am
	Sunday	17th	Holy Communion Creche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	10.45 am
	Sunday	24th	Matins Choral Evensong	10.45 am 6.30 pm

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO HOLY COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION

Since the nineteenth century, the Church has confined the privilege of receiving the bread and wine at the service of Holy Communion to those who have been Confirmed by the Bishop. Therefore baptised/christened children are excluded.

This was not always so. Church leaders now see this situation as a denial of a child's baptism/christening. The rules which allow children to receive Holy Communion were changed in 1997 and at last the Diocese of York, with the very strong support of Archbishop Sentamu, is catching up with what is already common practice in other dioceses.

There are arguments for and against.

Everyone has an opportunity to explore the issues further at an open meeting on Saturday December 8th at 9.30 am in Topcliffe Village Hall.

The meeting will be led by the Revd Ashley Wilson, who has been appointed to lead local debates. If you have a child attending Topcliffe C.E. Primary School or the Sunday School, the decision could affect you, but rest assured that nothing will happen without proper discussion and preparation.

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

The once-popular midweek Prayer Book Holy Communion has dwindled to very low attendance numbers. A joint decision has therefore been made to cancel this service during the winter months. The need for the service will be re-assessed in the Spring.

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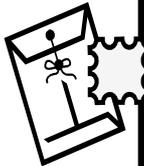
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Getting Out and About

Age Concern has had a presence in Ripon for the past fifty five years - quite a remarkable achievement - and since January 2006 it has been based at Community House, Allhallowgate. There are over fifty volunteers with three part-time paid members of staff. Age Concern is for everyone aged 50+, and arranges a wide variety of activities to cater for all tastes. These include three lunch clubs, an art class, two walking groups (one in Ripon, the other in Masham), a theatre club, a dominoes and whist club, and a group for those over 65 who may be feeling low and socially isolated. Two new developments which are due to begin this autumn include a book club and the Gad-Abouts. Occasionally, special activities are arranged and these include both computer and exercise classes, specially designed for the over 50's.

Through our Voice of Ripon Project we are also keen to hear from older people, living in the area, on issues such as local transport provision, crime and safety in the home, and health and dental services.

Details of all our activities and services can be obtained from our office - open each weekday morning from 10am-12 or phoning Ripon 01765 606872 or emailing

acnyorks3@clara.co.uk.

One of the lunch clubs meets at the Black Swan, Dishforth on alternate Thursdays for lunch at 12.30. If you are interested and would like to know more, contact Age Concern or John Rayner on 01845 577273.

Sports Roundup by David Bowman

Topcliffe & Asenby Football Club

The club continues to have great success. Over the last few weeks, it has been on top of the 1st division, having played 9, won 6, drawn 1, and lost 2. They have scored 42 goals, conceding 18. The team has also reached the final of the Norby Cup, which will be played on Boxing Day morning on Sowerby Flats, weather permitting.

Topcliffe Snooker Club

The club is still on the lookout for members - new and old. Memberships run from September to September and cost £15 per year.

Neighbourhood Watch by David Bowman

In autumn's TATtler we warned about cold callers. People were strongly advised to keep doors locked or chained. Recently one elderly resident was shocked to find a stranger walk into her house through her open door. Luckily he was spotted by a neighbour, who threw him out and called the police. Well done to that lady.

The police are also warning residents to beware of thieves stealing metals – mainly copper and lead. Garden ornaments are also being stolen regularly. If you see anything suspicious, ring the police on 0845 60 60 247.

Dog fouling on the playing field: On the whole, the playing field keeps reasonably clear of any dog mess, but you always get the odd few who think children's play areas are a good place to walk their dogs. Dog mess in a cut can cause a form of gangrene and if not treated, a youngster could easily lose a leg or even worse.

Vandalism: Sadly, all three playing field cabins have been broken into recently. This seemed to be a case of pure vandalism since nothing was stolen. On the vandalism front, on Saturday 10th November three garden fences in East Lea and Manor Close were knocked down.

Having Family to stay over the Christmas Holidays?

Maggie and Richard Christon of CM3 Property Ltd have a unique offer for readers of the Tattler. They own a self catering holiday apartment at Topcliffe Mill which is available at special rates our readers. Whilst it is unlikely that Tattler readers will want to holiday at the mill, you may have family or friends coming to stay and require the extra accommodation.

The ground floor apartment sleeps four and can be set up as twin or double rooms. It is available for long weekends as well as the more traditional week long holiday rentals. In addition to the two bedrooms; the smaller with PS/2 for the kids; the living room is home to a 42inch wall mounted TV with Sky. There is also a PC with wireless broadband. If you would like more details you can visit the web site on www.topcliffemill.com or ring 527862.

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

**The TATtler
Team**

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