

## Transfer of Post Office ownership nears completion

Last June an announcement was made in the villages' Sunday Email that John Mulley would soon retire as Topcliffe's Postmaster and that Debbie Roberts, of the Milk Churn Farm Shop, would be taking over the role.



*Post Office change over*

Although there has been some delay as final negotiations have taken place, the deal is close to finalisation and it's hoped the changeover will be completed by around the end of this month.

Debbie intends to operate both the post office and her farm shop within one business. Discussions about the long-term development of the Post Office site will be held with Topcliffe Parish Council and Hambleton Borough Council. There are some structural alterations that Debbie would like to see to the shop's layout to accommodate new business ideas, and these will be done as soon as possible after the transfer is completed. For the time being the shop front will be freshened up with a lick of paint, replacement signs and new door.

As well as running the Post Office, Debbie has plans to extend the range of products available and one of the first new initiatives will be the introduction of a sandwich and salad counter. Other ideas are being worked up and there'll be announcements over the coming months.

Debbie says that both sites in the village will continue in business, but as one business enterprise. "This is a

**The TATtler**

massive opportunity for us to achieve a real improvement in the retail offer in Topcliffe and to provide existing and new services for our customers. We have worked extremely hard to get the farm shop up and running, despite the pandemic and other problems, and now we want to develop the Post Office and shop with a new look and new services."

John Mulley and his wife Anne-Marie said: "We are delighted that Debbie Roberts has been accepted by the Post Office and will be taking over the whole business, with completion hopefully only weeks away. We are sure that Debbie and her team will make a great success of the amalgamation of the two shops into one business. Debbie has shown tremendous energy and determination to reach this point and, if the success of the Milk Churn Farm Shop is anything to go by, there's little doubt that Topcliffe has exciting plans in store for it.

## Annual Attic Auction

The annual attic auction, held in the Village Hall on 4 September, was a great success, raising £1,260 for St Columba's Church. Asenby resident and former Sotheby's auctioneer John Phillips led the proceedings and gave the event a very professional feel.

Over 50 buyers attended the sale and took the opportunity to purchase hidden treasure that they always wanted, plus some items that they never knew they needed! That's recycling in its truest form.



*John Phillips in action*



*Packed hall for attic auction*

Congratulations to John Phillips and all of his team for a fantastic event. And a big thank you to everyone who went along to give support and make it such a success.

## Topcliffe Parish Update

**New parish councillors** - There are two new members on the parish council - Tony Bruce and Ben Collard - both of whom are already actively involved in progressing various council projects.

**Dalton Industrial Estate** - Plans for the proposed expansion of Dalton Industrial Estate did not go before the scheduled planning committee meeting in July and are now likely to be considered this month. The parish council has had discussions and made numerous submissions to Hambleton Council planners and relevant North Yorkshire County Council departments, and it will be given time at the planning meeting to ensure that the community's concerns are accommodated in the final plan.

A meeting was held in July with council representatives to discuss the issue of increased HGV traffic in the village and surrounding area. The developers have indicated a willingness to assist, including provision of better signage directing HGV and other traffic away from the village. The parish council is also asking for enforcement of the 7.5 tonne weight exclusion that is in place in the village. As yet, however, there has been no firm proposals or indeed any action that would start to mitigate the parish council's concerns. The parish council will continue to press for restrictions and would continue to urge people in Topcliffe, Asenby and Dalton to write to the planners putting their point of view forward.

**HGV Traffic** - Several meetings have been held with the Highways and Trading Standards departments with two objectives in mind. First, to request that the 7.5 tonne restriction zone be moved closer to Topcliffe. A response is still awaited. Secondly, councillors again asked that they enforce the weight restriction law which to date they have not done.

**Weight Restricted Zone enforcement** - In addition to the actions mentioned above, the parish council is involved in Operation Spartan, a police programme that allows the videoing of HGVs entering and leaving the restricted zone without stopping. These are submitted to the police for them to follow up. This is an ongoing programme which hopefully will result in offenders being prosecuted - a powerful deterrent for other potential offenders. Another initiative is Trading Standards Tracking - a system for tracking illegal HGV journeys. Two days of monitoring in June captured two illegal journeys but unfortunately, due to a technicality, prosecutions could not proceed, though

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warnings were given to the offending companies and their drivers. The technicality has now been resolved and further tracking will be carried out which will, hopefully, result in prosecutions.

**Toll Booth and Jubilee Gardens** - Northern Walls has completed necessary repointing work on the Toll Booth and wall in Jubilee Gardens. Both had suffered significant salt damage from passing traffic.

**Sheepwash** - Councillors Malcolm Morley and Ben Collard led a working party to tidy the Sheepwash and remove most of the Himalayan Balsam weeds which were threatening to overrun the site and significantly reduce the usable area. The possibility of adding more seating to further enhance and encourage the use of this attractive asset for villagers and visitors is being investigated.

**Other activities** - The problem of rogue sheep has caused the parish council to consider adding additional fencing along the entrance path to the playing field to prevent the ongoing problem of sheep getting into the playing field and other village areas. The broken window and some rotten woodwork in the cemetery shelter is to be replaced to enhance this place of quiet reflection for visitors.

### Good afternoon tea!

The Sunday afternoon tea put on by Karen Morley and Linda Carver, with some help from family and friends, was a delicious success and raised £332 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.



Tables in the Village Hall were groaning under the weight of sandwiches, quiches, sausage rolls, cakes, scones and trifles made and donated by local people. The Yorkshire Day event was attended by around 60 villagers and a great time was had by all.

A raffle raised £81 for the Seedlings Nursery Shed project. Well done Karen and Linda and everyone else who made it such a success.

### Soup and sweet success!

The fortnightly soup and sweet lunches organised by Linda Carver and Karen Morley have proved to be an outstanding success.

The number attending the lunches at the Village Hall has increased each week since the event was launched at the end of the Covid restrictions in July.

They don't set a charge for the lunch, but welcome donations and any cash raised goes to a different charity each time. By the time of going to print, nearly £750 had been raised and shared between Friends of Topcliffe School, Community Works, The Boot Shop, Seedlings Nursery Shed Project, Herriot Hospice, Salvation Army and Animal Rescue Crew.

The next lunch will be held on Wednesday 29 September at 12 noon and funds raised will be donated to the Blue Cross animal centre.

## Saint Columba's Church

With Covid restrictions now easing, St Columba's is getting back to normal with its usual monthly routine of services, namely:

1st Sunday - Choral Evensong 6.30pm (3 Oct, 7 Nov, 5 Dec)

2nd Sunday - Holy Communion 10.45am (10 Oct, 14 Nov, 12 Dec)

3rd Sunday - Sung Matins 10.45am (19 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 19 Dec)

4th Sunday - Holy Communion 10.45am (26 Sept, 24 Oct, 28 Nov)

5th Sunday - No service (31 Oct)

Morning services are always followed by refreshments and a chat in the Percy Chapel.

In addition, there is a number of special seasonal services coming up.

**3 October 6.30pm, Choral Evensong for Harvest Festival.** A service with harvest hymns and readings, giving us time to thank God for his abundant goodness and to appreciate the rural, farming community in which we live. This will be followed by a 'finger buffet' and drinks, including wine.

**2 November 7.30pm, Choral Requiem Mass for the Feast of All Souls.** November is the season of Remembrance and on the 2nd we are invited to remember

those known to us who have died. The service is open to all, of any denomination or none, and provides the space and tranquillity to reflect on and give thanks for the lives of family and friends we see no more. The unaccompanied choir sing the glorious and contemplative 1605 setting by Tomas Luis de Victoria composed in six-part harmony. During the service there will be the opportunity to remember people by name, or, if preferred, silently by the placing of names on the altar. As we emerge from the Covid pandemic this will be particularly relevant and poignant.

**14 November, Remembrance Sunday 10.45am, Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance.** With the cancellation of this service last year, it will be good to see it return to our calendar once again, particularly as we remember the sacrifices our forces have endured in Afghanistan over the past twenty years. We hope that service personnel from Alanbrooke Barracks will join us and participate in the laying of wreaths.

Full details of Christmas Services and Carol Singing in the villages will be in the December Tattler.

Efforts continue to recruit a new vicar. Meanwhile, if you are in need of anything please do not hesitate to contact Churchwarden Chris Hewlett (01845 524426), PCC member John Phillips (01845 577034) or our area Dean based in Northallerton Revd Fiona Meyer-Jones (01609 761021).

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## Art Classes start again

Talented artist, Rebecca Jayne, this week launched another series of classes at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall.

There are five sessions in all, though readers have missed the first held on 13 September. The remainder of classes will be held on Monday morning 20 and 27 September and 4 and 18 October between 10am and 12 noon.

Rebecca is a professional artist and experienced teacher based in Thirsk. She states: "The classes are interesting with weekly topics and the opportunity to learn lots of skills. People of all abilities and experience are very welcome and it is a supportive and inclusive learning environment with lots of encouragement. It is a lovely time to relax, unwind whilst mindfully focusing on creating."



Attendees are asked to bring their own materials and a full list of what might be required is available, though participants can choose to work in whatever medium they prefer. Refreshments are provided. Places need to be pre-booked. The two-hour classes cost £12.50 weekly. Please contact Rebecca on 07704819806 or email on [rebeccajayneartanddesign@outlook.com](mailto:rebeccajayneartanddesign@outlook.com) If you would like to check out her website go to [www.rebeccajayneartist.co.uk](http://www.rebeccajayneartist.co.uk)

## Seedlings Nursery Shed Project

Karen Morley and Linda Carver have handed over nearly £300 to the Seedlings Nursery to help towards purchasing a replacement storage shed. The nursery, which is attached to Topcliffe Academy, needs to raise around £1,000 to replace a dilapidated storage shed in which equipment and toys are stored.

Karen and Linda raised £61 from a raffle organised at the recent afternoon tea and £81 at one of the Soup and Sweet lunches at the Village Hall and Doug and Mary Manning of Mill Rise on Station Road, kindly added £150 as a donation.

The Milk Churn Farm Shop is also running a 'guess the number of the seeds in a jar' challenge and anyone can join in for £1 and potentially win a £30 hamper containing meat and salad products, kindly donated by Debbie Roberts. The competition will run until 160 guesses have been made or until the end of September, whichever comes first.

Nursery Manager Alison Stone is planning to get the children involved in a fundraising event in the new term. She said: "It has been amazing how the community has responded to my appeal for help. I am very grateful for all the support from the village: it has been heart-warming to see."



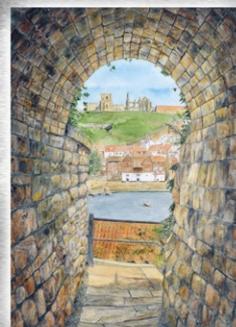
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## Council Leader's Update

These last eighteen months have been extremely challenging for everyone. It has been a most difficult time for many individuals and families, especially those that became ill, but even those who avoided infection have had a rough time in and out of lockdown and with complete disruption to their normal lives.

The council too has been impacted by Covid and it is only just beginning to adjust its services back to something closer to the pre-pandemic operation. Council workers have done a remarkable job in maintaining services as best they could and I'd like to thank them for continuing to provide essential services.

Last month the government announced that local councils in North Yorkshire will be replaced by one council, covering a population of 618,000. York remains as a separate, small unitary council serving a population of 211,000 people. This means the county council and all existing district and borough councils, including Hambleton District Council, will cease to exist from 31 March 2023.



I was extremely disappointed at this outcome as I have always believed that the current way in which we deliver essential services to Hambleton residents is the best one. The new North Yorkshire authority will come into existence on 1 April 2023 but until then Hambleton District Council will continue as at present. During this period I will be working hard to ensure the impact felt by residents, businesses and staff is as limited as possible and that we continue to offer the high quality, local and responsive service Hambleton residents expect and deserve.

Since the start of the Covid crisis, there have been many acts of kindness and generosity as well as examples of communities pulling together and going that extra mile to help and support those who need it. In the first round of the scheme two 'heroes' in Topcliffe were nominated - Anne-Marie Barningham and Doug Allan - both of whom were very worthy recipients of the award. Now a further round of the Hambleton Heroes scheme has been launched to give people the opportunity to say thank you to individuals or groups who deserve recognition. There's more information and the nomination form at [www.hambleton.gov.uk/heroes](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk/heroes) and the deadline for nominations is 31 October 2021.

In previous updates in The Tattler, I have mentioned how work on the new crematorium on a site close to Busby Stoop is progressing. It's ten months since work started and significant progress is being made. The 22-acre site which will be named Maple Park, will include a service hall to accommodate approximately 120 mourners. As well as this, the single storey facility will include a wake facility and café with beautiful views out over the Hambleton hills. Externally there'll be a memorial garden, meadows and a wooded area making it a calm and peaceful place for

reflection or for scattering ashes. Completion of the building is anticipated in January 2022.

I am also pleased to report that although there has been some delay to the massive refit of Thirsk Leisure Centre the work is now proceeding at a pace and it should be finished by the end of October.

Consideration of the 'Dalton 49 Thirsk' planning application, which everyone in Topcliffe and Asenby will have heard about, will take place at the Planning Committee on 23 September. The final decision is for that committee to make and I am sure that councillors will have in mind the future of the area as a whole and the potential for new jobs for local people at the forefront of their minds. As your local councillor I have consistently made it clear that approval should only be given if strict, enforceable conditions are applied concerning road signage and restrictions of access through local villages.

Covid is certainly not behind us yet and we must continue to act with caution and common sense, but increasingly most aspects of everyday life are more like the normal we once knew. In Topcliffe the excellent Village Hall is again operating as the all-important community hub that it is and the parish council, which I always attend, is no longer having to rely on impersonal Zoom meetings. These are positive signs of our villages getting back to normal and I'm sure that suits us all.

### Parish Council meetings

Our two parish councils meet monthly at the Village Hall and the public are welcome to attend.

Topcliffe Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be at 7.15pm on Thursday 7 October. You can contact the Parish Clerk to Topcliffe Parish Council on [topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com) or check out the parish website at [www.topcliffe.org.uk](http://www.topcliffe.org.uk)

Asenby Parish Council meets on the third Wednesday of every other month. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 17 November 2021. More details are available at [www.asenby.net](http://www.asenby.net)

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## Hedgehog hero retires

Topcliffe's very own hedgehog rescuer has retired. Pauline Hindmarch, who lives at Moot Hall in the village, has saved the lives of thousands of hedgehogs in the last twenty years or so. Her garden rescue centre, often referred to as Hedgehog Rescue Topcliffe, has featured in many newspaper stories over the years.

But at 82 years of age Pauline decided it was time to retire and let somebody else take on the role.

"After twenty years I think I have done enough", she said. "Looking after injured and poorly hedgehogs is a big commitment. Young hogs need to be fed regularly night and day and providing medical treatment and long-term care for these adorable and threatened animals, is a full-time job.



"It's been wonderful rescuing and looking after these beautiful animals and meeting so many lovely people who have been equally concerned for their safety after and future." Pauline tended to work solo but she has been helped by many people over the years, including local vet Julian Norton who taught her how to inject a hedgehog - a process that can be extremely difficult to tackle with a rolled up prickly animal! So, a big thank you to Julian and also to the Cleveland Hedgehog Rescue for its advice and support and to the many villagers who have provided newspapers for hedgehog bedding.

Pauline hopes that someone else in the village might have the time and commitment to run a rescue centre and she'd be happy to offer advice and guidance to a new volunteer. If you might be interested please give Pauline a call on 577508.

## Village Tidy Up Planned

There's to be a Topcliffe village tidy up on Saturday 16 October. Volunteers should meet at the Village Hall at 8.45am and bring gardening gloves with them.

Afterwards at around 11am, sausage sandwiches, tea and coffee will be served at the hall.

This tidy up is being organised by parish councillors Ben Collard and Malc Morley. Watch out for more details nearer the day.

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## The Produce Show - Results

The Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show, held at the end of August in the Village Hall, was a tremendous success. Lots of residents turned out to see a large exhibition of horticultural produce, floral displays, scrumptious baking and some remarkable items made by very talented villagers.

The winners were:

Horticulture - Doug Allan was the over all winner and also received a second trophy for the most firsts in the show.

Floral - Joan & Ray Fothergill.

Baking - Cath Towers (with a special commendation for Fiorella Shepherd).

Hobbies - Karen Hargreaves.

Children's - there were some excellent entries in the children's painting and baking section.

The event raised £175 for Village Hall funds.

The date of next year's show has been set as Saturday 3 September 2022.



*Doug with his two trophies*



*Children's exhibits*



*Andrew Eckersley's winning entry*

## The Boccia Club needs you!

The Boccia Club, which restarted last month, is still hoping to attract a few more members. Currently, those who are attending the weekly session are really enjoying the exercise and company, but it would be better all round if half a dozen more residents were to attend. Boccia Club meets Tuesdays between 1.30 to 3.30pm at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall. Anyone interested can just turn up on the day or if you want more information ring organiser Judith Lowe on 577911.

## Indoor Carpet Bowls

The number of members of the Indoor Bowls Club is reducing year on year and the age range of those continuing to participate is at the higher end of the scale! That means that the continued existence of the club is in doubt unless more younger residents join and give it a new lease of life.

The club meets at the Village Hall on Thursday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30pm and this season will just be playing friendlies, rather than entering competitions or leagues. If you're interested in giving the sport a try please just pop along and join in.

There'll be no membership charge for the rest of this year. If you want to chat about getting involved, please call Mel Arkley on 01845 578728.

## New cinema for Northallerton

The Everyman Cinema chain is planning to build a new cinema on the Treadmills site, just behind the High Street in Northallerton.

The new cinema, which will be open every day from next summer, will have four screens with a total of 276 seats, showing mainstream, classic and independent films. It will also have its own restaurant and licensed bar.

The Everyman cinema group is known for its luxurious venues and sofa-like seats where filmgoers can enjoy a glass of wine and a slice of freshly made pizza served to their seats.



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## Topcliffe Surgery Update

Topcliffe Surgery has a new Practice Manager. Sophie Briers joined the team in August and is looking forward to getting to know the staff and to meeting patients in the coming months.

The surgery is operating a combination of telephone triage and face-to-face consultations and is continuing with safe working practices specific to the current Covid situation. These include:



*Sophie Briers*

Staff continue to wear a face mask and patients are asked to do the same when visiting the surgery. This will help protect both staff and patients and help to reassure those who may be vulnerable or feeling anxious.

The practice of social distancing is being maintained in the waiting rooms.

The most up-to-date infection, prevention and control guidance is being followed and staff continue to encourage patients to maintain good hand hygiene.

The surgery team is awaiting final guidance from the government relating to the 2021 flu vaccination and Covid-19 booster vaccination programmes. Latest news

on these will be added to the website as soon as it is available, so please check the website on a regular basis. It is widely predicted that the flu virus will be more prolific this year so all those who are eligible for the vaccine are encouraged to get it when it's offered. To find out more and to check eligibility please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

Finally, did you know that you can now contact Topcliffe Surgery online and order prescriptions via their website? Go to [www.topcliffesurgery@nhs.net](mailto:www.topcliffesurgery@nhs.net) to find out more.

## Asenby Picnic in the Park

The recent picnic on Asenby's playing field may not have attracted a massive crowd but those who did attend had a wonderful afternoon. It was the idea of eight-year old Oliver Robertson and planned as a celebration of the end of Covid restrictions. Villagers seemed extremely happy to get together to mark the relaxation of recent lockdowns and to see the Asenby playing field back in use.



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## Volunteers tackle Himalayan Balsam

On two Saturday mornings in August, volunteers rolled up their sleeves to tackle a huge clump of Himalayan Balsam at the Sheepwash. The pernicious weed had spread at an amazing rate over the last two summers and was taking up more and more valuable land which could be better used as a wild flower meadow or even a picnic area for use by local residents.

Parish councillors Malc Morley and Ben Collard put out an appeal for helpers and were encouraged by the enthusiastic response.

The two photographs show the volunteers on each Saturday. They include Andrew and Karen Cussons (and their nephew Christopher Styles who was visiting), Doug Allan, Mandi Labuschagne, Karen Morley, Linda Carver, Linda Bumby, Sarah and John Barbour, Geraldine Clifton and Eric Jones.



*The Balsam destroyers*

Also in the second photograph third from left is one of Topcliffe's newest residents, Charlotte 'Lottie' Melsom, who with help from partner Daniel, kindly provided tea and bacon rolls.

Charlotte and Daniel are the new owners of The Mount, the house previously occupied by Alan and Linda Nuttall who have now moved to Killinghall.



*Team two at the Sheepwash*

A final mention goes to Josh Barningham who supplied a trailer and carried the dreaded balsam away to be burned. A big thank you to you all.

## Bags2school recycling event

There's to be a Bags2school textile recycling event at the Village Hall on Thursday 7 October between 8.30am and 12 noon.

If you are having a clear out of cupboards, wardrobes and blanket boxes, please consider keeping bags of textiles for this charity collection. The proceeds of the event will be shared equally between the Village Hall and 1st Topcliffe Scouts.

*The following items are welcomed: men's, ladies and children's clothing - paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around) - handbags - hats - bags - scarves and ties - jewellery - lingerie - socks - belts - soft toys - household linen - household curtains - household towels - household bedding (bed sheets, pillow-cases and duvet covers). We are unable to accept duvets and blankets, pillows and cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats), soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms, corporate clothing and workwear or textile off cuts or yarns.*

## In memory of Patrick

It's ten years since Topcliffe lad, Patrick Hooker, was diagnosed with a rare cancer and eight years since he died, aged 13, at the Royal Infirmary in Newcastle.

Throughout Patrick's treatment the community in Topcliffe and Asenby came together to support the Hooker family and to fundraise for CLIC Sargent, a charity for children and young people with cancer. In all over £30,000 was raised in Patrick's memory.

Now Patrick's mother Lois is hosting a Macmillan coffee morning at her home at 17 Manor Close to mark ten years since her son was diagnosed with the illness. The event will be held between 11am and 2pm on Sunday 26 September.

Anyone who is willing to bake scones or cakes, donate prizes for a Magic Square, help on the day or provide a boiling water dispenser is asked to get in touch with Lois via Messenger or email [loisjeantopcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:loisjeantopcliffe@gmail.com) in advance of the day.

## Coffee morning for Asenby

The Parker family are also organising a coffee morning as part of The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support at their home at Meadow View, Asenby. It'll be on the afternoon of Saturday 25 September. Everyone's invited to pop along and raise some cash for an excellent cause, as well as socialise and enjoy a selection of home-made cakes and treats.

## Snooker club fees remain unchanged

At last week's annual general meeting of the Topcliffe Snooker Club it was decided that membership fees will remain at £25 per annum. Fees are due now. Existing and new members are asked to get in touch with Dave Bowman on 577843 to make arrangements to renew their subscription.

If you don't intend to renew your subscription, please return your key to David Bowman as soon as possible.



## It's a family affair

A Topcliffe family has taken over a centuries-old pub and is turning it into a culinary and cultural success story.



*The Staveley Arms team*

Dave Mathews and his wife Maggie, who live in Church Street, Topcliffe, have transformed The Staveley Arms, in the historic village of North Stainley, and aim to make it a mecca for some of the best food and drink, and entertainment, in the area.

The family connection also includes Dave and Maggie's daughter Rose and her fiancé Jack Baldwin.

As well as owning the public house and restaurant, Dave is head chef and he takes great pride in presenting dishes which reflect Yorkshire's culinary heritage. Dave was

brought up in Whitby, which inspired his ongoing love of dishes featuring seafood. He was classically trained in the techniques of the great French chef Auguste Escoffier and has spent time working at top restaurants in France, Italy and the USA. His last local hostelry was the well-respected Bruce Arms at West Tanfield.

Dave is joined in the kitchens at The Staveley Arms by his future son-in-law Jack who initially joined the team at The Bruce Arms aged 15 as a pot washer. His potential and enthusiasm for preparing and presenting food was soon discovered and, after much training and success in competitions, he is now sous chef.

Maggie, who has previously managed The Crab & Lobster, and her daughter Rose jointly run the front of house activity and help give The Staveley Arms the all-important friendly welcome and an exceptional level of service.

"This is a real family affair" says Dave. "We have worked together as a team in other places but now we have taken over the management of one of the area's oldest hostelries and we have plans to make it a culinary and cultural mecca. Individually and as a team we have an interest in making a huge success of The Staveley Arms and putting it at the top of North Yorkshire's eating experiences."

The Staveley Arms is on the North Stainley Estate, one of the oldest and most diverse farming estates in the country.

## Squirrels build a drey

1st Topcliffe Scout Group is leading the way in national scouting by being one of the first in the country to launch a Squirrel Drey, a section for four and five year old boys and girls.

The name of this new section links nicely with scouting's founder, Lord Baden-Powell, who in 1907 organised the first ever scout camp at Brownsea Island, near Poole in Dorset - a location that is home to over two hundred red squirrels.

The drey will run along the same format as our other sections, with squirrels wearing a uniform and group neckerchief, there'll be investiture ceremonies and members will be expected to follow the scouting values. There will be lots of activity badges and challenge awards to achieve, whilst having fun, learning key skills for life and making lots of new friends.

1st Topcliffe Squirrels will meet every Tuesday during term time 5 to 6pm starting Tuesday 14 September at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall. The section is starting small with only ten children already recruited, but if you would like to add your child to the waiting list for Squirrels or any of our other sections, please get in touch with Pebbles, Sarah Rands, by email at: TopcliffeSquirrels@gmail.com or call 07852 584344.

Leadership: all scouting leaders and committee members are unpaid volunteers. There's a serious side to the activity but it's also a lot of fun as young people are helped and guided through the diverse programme that scouting offers. New volunteers are always welcome and they don't need a scouting background - just a willingness to help, support and join in the fun.



As you get older your needs and circumstances can change. Our extra care developments in Northallerton, Brompton, Stokesley and Leyburn are designed with this change in mind, enabling people to maintain their independence, living behind their own front door, whilst safe in the knowledge that care and support are on hand if needed.

For more information call: **01609 767900**  
Or email: **info@broadacres.org.uk**



## Going Dutch in Topcliffe

There are some very interesting people who live in our two villages and Pauline de Jongh, who moved to Topcliffe nearly three years ago, is certainly one of them.

Pauline was born in Amsterdam to parents who worked for KLM Airlines. She studied medicine at the University of Leuven in Belgium and she set her sights on being a surgeon. She achieved her medical qualification but because of a quirk in the Flemish system was unable to achieve her dream vocation.

That disappointment caused her and a university friend to travel to the UK looking for work in our NHS...and she has never looked back. Belgium's loss was the UK's gain as in 2001 Pauline was recruited by Hartlepool General Hospital.

After years of working exhaustive 120-hour weeks Pauline decided she had to make a change if she wasn't going to drive herself into the ground. She went back to studying and three years later qualified as a GP. She stayed in Hartlepool at first - even winning the title of GP of the Year in a Hartlepool Mail competition - but later moved to Middlesbrough to become a partner in a medium-sized medical practice.

Following her divorce, she met her new partner, Martin Smith, online and the search for a new home somewhere between Teesside and York got underway. Eventually, in 2018, the couple and Martin's son Aidan, discovered Topcliffe and they've been extremely happy here ever since. "I love the North East and especially North Yorkshire", says Pauline. "This county has everything going for it and it is very well suited to my main hobbies - wild water swimming and VW camper vans."



*Pauline in her garden pool*

Pauline started wild water swimming as a child in Holland and now she swims throughout the year, no matter what the weather. It was difficult to swim during the pandemic as it is important only to wild swim with

others and that was not possible because of the restrictions. But in normal times, regular places to dive-in include the River Tees at Preston Park and right here in the River Swale. She also has a large pool in her garden for regular dips.

'Miss Daisy' is Pauline's favourite VW Camper - a gorgeous 1976 Riviera model with 'bay window' windscreen and conversion work undertaken in the USA. Partner Martin also has his own camper van and they often go off to festivals and holidays in this country and The Netherlands in one van or the other, or both. And of

course, Pauline can indulge in her passion for wild swimming whilst they are away.



*Pauline and Martin with their camper vans*

Pauline has other hobbies, including singing and collecting 'annuals', particularly those published in the 1970s. Her intention during lockdown was to learn to play the guitar, but she simply didn't find the time. But rest assured she will get there...and soon.

### Christmas fayre and coffee morning

Karen Morley and Linda Carver are planning a Christmas Fayre and coffee morning to raise funds for those little extras that make village life so pleasant!

It'll be held in the Village Hall between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 13 November and there'll be no charge for entry. Karen and Linda will be putting on a cake stall and are hoping other villagers will organise other stalls to sell their own craft items and products. Tables will be just £5 each. Refreshments will include hot sausage sandwiches (vegan ones too!) with tea or coffee.

The 'little extras' they have in mind are things such as spring bulbs for the grass verges, new trees for the Sheepwash and paint for the village benches. If anyone has additional ideas that they would like to see money going towards, Karen and Linda will be happy to hear about them - but they must be things that will benefit the village as a whole.

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