



Discovering other Cultures

Only last term, Topcliffe School enjoyed a visit from Nepali children and adults from Le Cateau School, and now Class 1 have spent two weeks learning about life in China and finding out how Chinese people celebrate their New Year. The children had a chance to try on some Chinese clothes which belonged to one of the pupils, and to learn a little Chinese vocabulary. They sampled Chinese food, set up a restaurant, and made decorations for the classroom.



To round off the topic, Class 1 held an open afternoon where the children enjoyed showing

parents their work, reciting some poems and performing a dragon dance.

FS and KS1 enjoyed experiencing a taste of Chinese culture with Wanna Sae-Heng, as part of the Chinese New Year.



The 3-course meal was excellent and the wine flowed. As always, everyone commented that we need more community events to get us all partying together.

It's Tartan Time Again for the Village Hall

Yet again, Judith and Linda proved that they know how to throw a Burns Night. All the usual ingredients were there – haggis, poetry readings, a lot of kilts (who knew that we have so many closet Scottish folk in Topcliffe and Asenby?) and lots of whirling confusing dancing. Everyone had a grand time thanks to Judith, Linda and their hardworking team.

Before the beginning of the proceedings, John Phillips gave a very touching eulogy to Linda Hutton, who died recently. She and her husband, Andrew, used to organise Burns Nights at their home and it was fitting that we gave a toast to her. She was a lovely lady with a friendly smile, who will still be remembered by many as a mid-day supervisor at the junior school some years ago.

And indeed, coming soon at the very same venue is a 50's, 60's and 70's dance so ditch the tartan and get out your blue suede shoes! Or your Mary Quant minidress! Be there or be square. See you later, alligator, in a while, crocodile!



Jean and Roger love a good fling.



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101 - New national non-emergency number

The national non-emergency 24 hour number 101 has this week been introduced by North Yorkshire Police and it replaces the 0845 60 60 24 7 number. Dialling 101 offers the public an easy way to contact the local police force. Calls cost 15 pence per call. Textphone is available on 18001 101.

Carol Singing

Christmas may be but a distant memory but no doubt the Macmillan Nurses were happy to receive £222.88 from Topcliffe and Asenby's Christmas Carol Singing. Well sung and thanks to all the kind hosts who invited the cold participants in to enjoy mince pies and wine.

Millennium Book still as popular as ever

You might think that a book written to mark a specific event might lose some popularity 12 years later – particularly if the price per copy has more than doubled!

But that's not the case with our very own Millennium Book of Topcliffe, written by former village resident, John Graham, and supported by the Parish Council.

We reported before Christmas that a further 20 copies have been printed and that the new price – which is the actual cost of production – would be £24. That has not put off six purchasers so far, including a society in Belgium interested in Second World War airfields, where Halifax Bombers were based. As you will find on pages 159 to 165 in the book, our area has a remarkable aviation history with local airfields at Topcliffe and Dalton playing crucial roles during the war.

If you want a copy, please contact Doug Allan at 7 Dovecote Mews on 578526.

50s, 60s & 70s

Night at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall



April 21st, 2012

Pie and peas supper

7.30pm for 8pm

Please bring your own drink and glasses

Live music with The Cadillacs

Prize for best costume

Proceeds to North Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Asenby News

After many months of correspondence: e-mails, phone calls and personal meetings, our Highways division have finally repaired and re-marked the Crab & Lobster junction and the damaged approach to Topcliffe bridge. This was where a couple of cars had gone off the road on the approach to the bridge at Asenby and smashed down the retaining concrete supports and rails over about 20ft. People using the path over that length were in danger of falling over the edge.

We are pleased that our efforts have finally borne fruit for Asenby and villagers.

Mel Arkley, Asenby Parish Councillor

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Garry Key (Chairman) Cliff House, Long St. 578900	Peter Palmer (Chairman) Hilltop Farm 578057
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Lynn Heidstrom 32 East Lea 577437	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
Mark Bowen 23 Manor Close 07703 040471	Grahame Marsden 8 Jamesville Way 578156
Amanda Jameson-Allen 77 Long St 07594 228257	

Isobel Peters (Clerk)

Tel: 07739 258650 isobelpeters@goolemail.com

Letter to the editor

Whilst Graham Marsden regularly wins awards at the Asenby show, he has yet to enter any of the larger shows, such as the Thornton-le-Dale show, which frequently has over 10,000 visitors each year. On this subject, Graham's son, Andy, is a regular winner in the Thornton-le-Dale show, and last year walked off with the "Most Points Trophy". He has offered his services for a talk, should you wish to learn modern practices and how to win, from a part-time gardener, rather than from the geriatric, retired gardener that is his father. Andy wishes his father well in this year's competitions, especially if his back and bladder hold out and if he has enough time between the Grecian 2000 applications! (Only joking Dad).

Andy Marsden

Message from John Heidstrom

2011 was a hectic time, with the arrival of baby Lilly, who has now turned into a bundle of joy. Then, on the 29th of December, The Swan Inn, which had always been owned by different breweries, finally became a free house. Since that date we have had a guest beer on every 2 weeks. We now have a permanent cask beer in place; this is Theakston's best bitter. As from March 1st, we will have all the caravan park regulars coming back for the summer season. Carrie, Lilly and I can't thank them enough for all their support in everything we do. We also thank all our village regulars for their support throughout the whole year. Over the next coming months, the pub will be having some minor refurbishment work in the bar area, and the outside will be having its much needed coat of paint. We apologise ahead of any matters that may cause some disruption.

Events happening throughout the spring and summer: the fourth year running of the Golf Society, starting on Good Friday in April, will be at Ripon Golf Club. Anyone wishing to attend the Golf Days, please come into the pub and ask at the bar. If anyone in the village would like to start a summer pool team, please come and see John. On St Patrick's day, March 17th, there will be karaoke at The Swan Inn from 7.00pm and also a regular's birthday party.

Last but not least, Topcliffe football team are lying in third position in the football league. Richard Lawley and Philip Metcalfe are doing fantastic jobs of running the team this year, so pop along on a Sunday when they are at home and give them your full support.

Many thanks to everyone again from your friendly landlord, landlady and little Lilly.

John Heidstrom



ASENBY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

How nice it was to see the efforts of Asenby residents creating an array of colourful Christmas lights over the Christmas/New Year period. It was a delight to see! Each year more people seem to join in. Let's see if we can do even better next year.

Thanks.

Carol Marsden



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**Just a reminder that
dogs are NOT allowed
on the playing fields
in Asenby and Topcliffe!**



**Easter Service
&
Egg Hunt**



**Sunday 8th April
10.45am**

St Columbas' Church

Please come and join us for this very special Communion service. Afterwards there will be lots of eggs to find while adults can enjoy a relaxing cup of tea or coffee in the church unless of course your children force you to hunt for eggs too!

Palm Sunday Coral Evensong



**1st April 6.30pm
St Columbas' Church**



Please come and join our traditional Coral Evensong Service.

“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper
Friday 18th May 2012**

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 18th May 2012 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000. In the three years we have been running the event we have raised £20,000 to support spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives.”

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350

fishandchips@spinal.co.uk
www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips



**Asenby Institute 2000
Diary Dates**



**Come and Celebrate the
Queen's DIAMOND JUBILEE.**



To commemorate this special day
the ASENBY BBQ this year will be on

MONDAY 4th JUNE (Bank Holiday)
11.30am onwards, Asenby Playing Field

And will include:

Cream Tea Tent, ADULT'S BUCKING BRONCO
(available 12-2pm), Bouncy Slide, Bouncy Castle,
Children's races, Face Painting, Pimms and
Lemonade, Bar, Raffle, decorated hat competition
and much more! (AND IF YOU
WOULD LIKE, PLEASE WEAR
RED, WHITE AND BLUE!)



Summer Trip to Saltburn 14th July

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP!
1st DECEMBER 2012**

**MULLED WINE EVENING
9th DECEMBER 2012**



OTHER DATES (TO BE CONFIRMED):

For any more information or to donate raffle prizes
please contact Lisa: 595052

Or you can now keep up to date with everything
going on or contact us via our 'group space'

www.groupspaces.com/AsenbyInstitute

To request to be added to the mailing list, go to the
home page and click on the link that says "Contact
the manager of this GroupSpaces group."

Broadband: What's it like where you live?

Having good quality broadband is something that we strive for but often can't achieve.

For those of us that use the web, good quality broadband has the potential to bring further quality to our lives.

So what level of broadband service do you get? Is the delivery up to scratch and does it match what's promised by your service provider?

In my case, I am promised up to 8mb, but the buffering that I experience when trying to watch a video or TV 'watch again' programme suggests that in practice the level of service fails to match the promise. This can be most frustrating.

That's why I started to ask questions about the provision of broadband across North Yorkshire...and why some people get a much better service than I do.

As you might expect, the issue is extremely complicated and there are no easy answers. But there are some people out there that are on the case and may be able to improve things, but only if they know we are having problems.

Connecting North Yorkshire (CNY) is an organisation set up by local authorities across North Yorkshire, together with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Federation of Small Businesses. It has been selected by the government to be one of only four national pilots for the rollout of superfast broadband. This is in recognition of the rural nature of the county and the fact that the market alone is unlikely to deliver the necessary broadband to ensure that people, communities and businesses have access to good quality broadband.

So far, CNY has been successful in securing European funding plus £17.8 million from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), a part of central government set up to deliver the national broadband strategy. This money is being used to procure a broadband supplier who will rollout a fit-for-purpose broadband network to as many small businesses and households in North Yorkshire as possible.

I am told that the procurement process is well underway and CNY expects the procurement process to be completed and a broadband supplier appointed by July 2012, with the broadband network rollout starting soon after and being delivered over the following couple of years. The problem for local people in Topcliffe and Asenby is that our villages don't appear to be on CNY's radar.

The organisation is unaware of any problems or issues on our patch.

So the single most important action for the immediate future is to draw their attention to our needs. And there's a tool that can help. It's called the 'Need for Speed' test and we need as many people as possible across Asenby and Topcliffe to complete it. Please check it out at www.northyorks.gov.uk/broadbandsurvey and also ask as many friends, relatives and neighbours to do the same.

(Please note that to complete the test you will need to know how fast your current broadband is. You can do this quite simply by going to www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk

It is extremely important that as a community we register our aspiration for better broadband. If we can prove that our broadband is inadequate, we may be able to encourage CNY to invest some of its funds to provide a faster network where we live.

CNY is also looking for Community Champions – local people with an interest in broadband provision – who can play a central role in bringing communities together and collecting the evidence to support and demonstrate the demand. Details are on the website at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/bbgetinvolved

Doug Allan

www.Topcliffe.net

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, a colour version of The Tattler and all the pictures of Topcliffe and the surrounding area.

THE TATTLER NEEDS YOU!

People are needed to help deliver the Tattler to homes in Topcliffe. If you can spare a few hours to help us every 3 months, please phone 01845 578076

Money Saving Tip

Nowadays, more than ever, we all seem to be doing whatever we can to spend less. Did you know that there are small grants available to Topcliffe and Asenby students for the purchase of books? They must have recently left school and be in their first degree course at university or the equivalent.

Last year, surprisingly enough, nobody applied for Educational Funds from either Topcliffe or Asenby.

Look in the summer Tattler for more details.

Spring is coming!

As we rapidly move from Winter to Springtime, those gardeners among The Tattler's readers will be starting to think seriously about what they will grow this year and planning where everything will go in their garden or allotment.



Grahame Marsden, the prolific vegetable grower who has an allotment in Asenby and has regularly walked off with the most prizes at the annual Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show, says that dedicated gardeners start to plan for the next year even before the current growing season has ended.

At an informal talk on how he manages to achieve his fantastic wins year after year, he told a small group of local gardeners that there are three key elements to successful vegetable growing – planning, dedication and selection.

I guess we all adopt these elements to some extent – particularly the first and last, but few of us will be able to claim the level of dedication that Grahame applies to his plot. But that's probably why he is presented with so many prizes every year...and we can only claim the leftovers!

The few keen gardeners that went along to Grahame's very informative talk at The Angel in January learned a few of the secrets of his success and I'm sure they'll be experimenting with some of his ideas and tips this year. Grahame is always prepared to pass on useful information and answer questions about veg growing. Just call him on 578156 if you want any advice.



With regard to this year's Produce Show, please mark Saturday, 1 September on your calendar. There's a whole batch of new classes in the horticultural category, making 42 in total, including one for the heaviest single onion. The baking category has been extended to 14 classes.

Now's the time to start thinking about what you might enter in the show. If you would like to see the full list – and read the revised Show Rules – check out either village website – or email doug@dougallan.co.uk and he'll send you a copy. The village websites are: www.asenby.net and www.topcliffe.net

Doug Allan

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Invite you to join us in the run up to Easter



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Every Wednesday until March 28th

Please come and join us for steaming hot soup, a roll and a warm drink anytime between **12-1pm** in Topcliffe Village Hall. A great opportunity to meet your friends for a simple lunch without the bother of cooking! All are welcome and high chairs will be available for little ones.

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

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Topcliffe School's Busy March Diary

Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day
Monday 12 th March	Enrichment Day Y5 Thirsk Secondary School (Details to follow)
Tuesday 20 th March	Boys Football Match at Queen Ethelburga's
Wednesday 21 st - Thursday 22 nd March	Parent Consultations
Friday 23 rd March	Sport Relief Activities
Monday 26 th March	Parent Forum 8.45am Tea and coffee provided
Thursday 29 th March	Topcliffe's Got Talent
Friday 30 th March	FOTS Chocolate Tombola

Happy Mother's Day! Mothering Sunday Benefice Family Service Happy Mother's Day!

**Sunday 18th March
10.45am**

St Columbas' Church

Please come and join us to celebrate Mother's Day. Our Family Service begins at 10.45am.

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Topcliffe and Asenby residents only, please.



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Snooker Club

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Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Membership is due to be paid on September 1st, 2011.



Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

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www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk

Friarage Hospital - 01609 779911

www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies - 0800 111 999

www.nationalgrid.com/uk

Police - 101 Textphone 18001 101

www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Hambleton DC - 01609 779977

www.hambleton.gov.uk

Harrogate BC - 01423 568954

www.harrogate.gov.uk

HDC Cllr Neville Huxtable 01845 501068

Cllr.neville.huxtable@hambleton.gov.uk

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