

Platinum Park Project

Topcliffe Parish Council has confirmed that following collaboration between residents and councillors the anticipated Platinum Park Project in the village will get the go ahead this year.



The playground at the playing field

The exciting plans for the playing field, which were developed following a community wide survey, and will cost £95,000, include an accessible pathway/trail with raised areas for walking and bikes, a new gate for better pedestrian access, significant upgrades to the children's play equipment, including some accessible items, and a fully-fenced allotment area. There will also be tree and wildflower planting to increase the diversity of the wildlife in the area.

Pictures of the plans will be available to view on the parish website in due course.

Sincere thanks are offered to Cllr Mark Robson, our local councillor and Leader of Hambleton District Council, for appreciating the value of this redevelopment for the residents and visitors to Topcliffe and enabling the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds towards the project.



Topcliffe Bridge repairs

In January, North Yorkshire County Council's highways engineers confidently stated that a contractor was being appointed to undertake substantial repairs to the Asenby side of Topcliffe Bridge and that the work would be completed before 31 March 2023. Now, unfortunately, a further delay is the order of the day. Here is what has now transpired.

“We are sorry to say the news this time round isn't quite as positive as our last correspondence. To facilitate the works, it was necessary to obtain an Environment Agency (EA) permit due to the bridge boarding the riverbank (for reference, a Historic England permit is also required as the bridge is a listed structure). On advising the EA of the planned start date in March they have verbally advised that the window available for the works (to be undertaken) is between the fish breeding seasons, 15 June to 30 Sept inclusive.



A bridge of sighs!

“Naturally we have questioned this restriction, but we are still waiting for the EA to respond and issue a revised works permit which will confirm the exact dates available to us. It is disappointing this information was not forthcoming at the time of the permit application, but every effort is being made to secure the earliest delivery of the work.

“We expect to receive the new permit within the next couple of weeks and a revised start date will be agreed with the contractor.”

Let's hope this is soon sorted and our 400 year old bridge is repaired and tidied up before too long.

The Angel to get new wings

The Angel at Topcliffe is now closed for a refurbishment that will take around six months to complete. There are exciting plans to create an amazing venue for locals and visitors alike. Go to the back page to read a full update on what we have to look forward to.

Thank you and farewell

Mark Robson, Leader, Hambleton District Council

This is the last time I will have a column in The Tattler. My time as an elected councillor on Hambleton District Council comes to an end on 1 April with the introduction of the new North Yorkshire Council. I have served as a district councillor for 24 years and as Leader of the council for ten years. In addition, I have happily served many years on Sowerby Parish Council and regularly attended Topcliffe Parish Council, which falls within my district ward.



I am proud to have represented these areas and to have had some impact on local commercial and economic development. During my time as leader, the council tax levels in Hambleton were always the lowest in North Yorkshire and amongst the lowest anywhere in the country.

A few things stand out as particular milestones for me, including the £17 million shopping and commercial project on the old prison site in Northallerton, the construction of the first ever electrically-powered crematorium in the UK at a cost of £10million and the huge investment and commitment to leisure facilities across the district. In particular, the £8million sports and leisure village being developed at Sowerby Gateway, will stand out as a great achievement.

However, one of my proudest achievements as leader is the Make a Difference awards scheme that has pumped over £2million into local communities to help a wide range of small projects, including some in Topcliffe.

In the closing days of the existing Hambleton District Council, I have ensured that cash raised locally through the Community Infrastructure Levy is to be invested locally rather than be transferred to the new council in April. Over £1.4 million is in the process of being distributed, including £95,000 to Topcliffe for the Platinum Park Project.

The development of Dalton Industrial Estate has always been a priority for Hambleton's economic success and I have generally supported plans to increase its size and create new jobs. But I have always been very conscious of the impact on local villages and have fought tooth and nail to secure their safety and protection. Under what is called a Section 106 Agreement, the Dalton 49 scheme, for example, is providing cash for improved road signs and cameras around Topcliffe.

I have always enjoyed being involved with Topcliffe Parish Council and in doing what I could for the local community.

There has been much more, but there isn't enough space here for me to include mention of everything. But I would like to end by saying a big thank you to everyone who ever voted for me, to parish councillors for their courtesy and understanding and to my friends and colleagues in the village for their support. I have been proud to represent Topcliffe and wish the village well in the future.

P. Bumby & Sons

Chimney Specialists

- Chimney Sweeping
- Stove Installations
- Stove Servicing
- Cowsls & Baskets Fitted
- Chimney Repairs



Tel: 01845 577483 Mob: 07921 074934

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

The Village Hall is available for hire to local organisations, businesses and individuals. It offers excellent facilities for a wide range of events including art and exercise classes, meetings, exhibitions, fayres, social events and lots more.

The Village Hall Committee has introduced the Hallmaster online booking service. This is accessed via the village website - www.topcliffe.org.uk and allows enquiries and bookings to be made directly online.

The Village Hall no longer has a Bookings Secretary.

Editorial & Advertising Sales: Doug Allan (doug@dougallan.co.uk or 07785 223707)

Production: RedKiteIT Limited www.redkiteit.co.uk - Website Design - IT - Software Development

Printing: Beyond Digital www.beyonddigital.co.uk - for Event Banners - Roller Banners - Signs - Magnetic Vehicle Signs - Leaflets - Construction/Heras Fence Mesh Branding

Dishforth Military Wives in concert

'Spring into Song' is the name of the concert the Dishforth Military Wives' Choir will give at 7pm on Saturday 25 March at All Saints church, Thirkleby. Tickets are £20 and include the first drink and nibbles.

The concert will raise money to be split between All Saints Together, a charity that supports the church in Thirkleby, and Herriot Hospice at The Lambert, Thirsk. Tickets from Gill Walmsley on 07969 571002.



Art classes at the Village Hall

Two special one-off art classes are scheduled for this and next month at the Village Hall.

Thursday 30 March - 10.30am to 1pm - Spring Flowers and Garden Birds painted in oils.

Thursday 27 April - 10.30am to 1pm - Escape to the Sea - paint a seascape in oils.

These classes, which are led by artist and teacher Becky, are for artists of every level of experience... or none! Expert guidance is offered throughout the sessions. Equipment and paint provided. Refreshments included. More information and online booking at www.rebeccajayneartist.co.uk



Artist at work

Come in and enjoy

THE MAGIC OF

THE SWAN

We serve Sunday lunch every week but there are two extra special treats coming up soon:



* **Mothering Sunday - 19th March**
* **Easter Sunday - 9th April**

12 noon to 4pm. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Food, Drink & Accommodation



THE SWAN • FRONT STREET • TOPCLIFFE • YO7 3NZ

01845 595185

Neolithic history on our doorstep

The three huge Neolithic monuments at Thornborough, just across the A1 from here, have been gifted to the nation by two local companies and will now be managed by English Heritage and open free to the public.

The Thornborough Henges complex, which have been described as 'the Stonehenge of the North' date back to around 3500BC to 2500BC and consist of three 656ft (200m) wide circular earthworks.



The henges are said to be the most important single ancient site between Stonehenge and the Orkney Islands. Archaeological finds around the site suggest the henges were probably built as ceremonial or ritual centres and may also have served as trading centres and meeting places.

Textile recycling

A big thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted textiles to the Bag2School collection last month. The event raised £220, which has been shared equally between the Village Hall and 1st Topcliffe Scouts.



Chris Heyworth, Donna Flemming and Doug Allan at the Bag2School collection in January

There'll be another textiles collection on Friday 6 October, so if you're having a clean out, please put items in black bags and keep them somewhere dry...or call Donna Flemming (07591 438766) or Doug Allan (07785 223707) if you would like them collected.




**TOPCLIFFE
POST OFFICE**

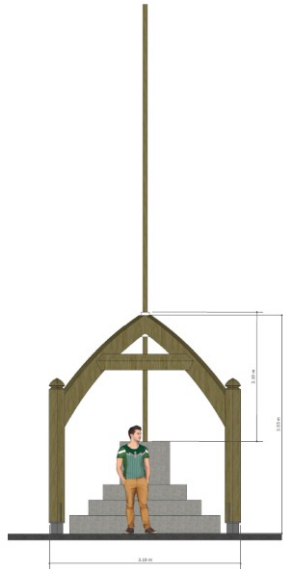
For all your postal requirements, car tax, banking, newspapers, cards, lottery tickets, lunches, snacks, sweets and much more!



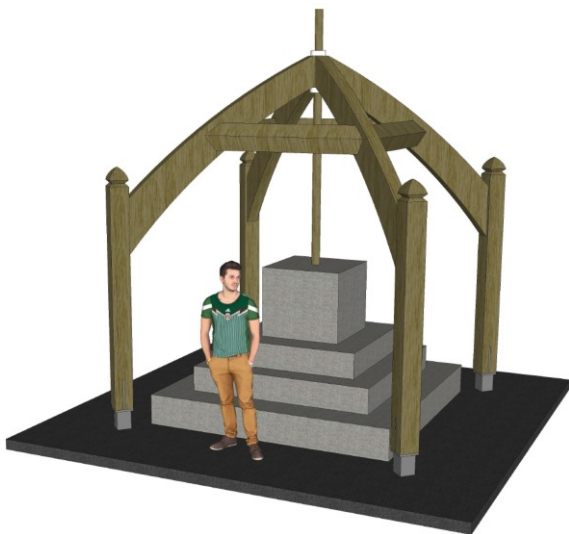
Flying the flag for Topcliffe

As far as I can determine, it is around fifty years since a flag was regularly flown from the tower of St Columba's church in Topcliffe. Technically, and in health and safety terms, it would be difficult to raise the flag from the tower, so I have been considering an alternative flag flying scheme for the village.

As a way of both commemorating the late Queen Elizabeth II and recognising the coronation of our new King, I am floating the idea of having a commemorative flag staff built in solid oak around the old stone cross in the centre of Topcliffe. Obviously, the cross itself needs to be preserved and protected, so the structure proposed would not actually touch the stone blockwork. It's envisaged that the flag staff base would have four corners in solid oak coming to a point about 12 feet from the ground, and the flagpole itself would be around 30ft high.



Parker Oak, a local company, have prepared drawings to show what I have in mind and they estimate that construction would cost approximately £20,000.



It will require both planning permission and support from Topcliffe Parish Council, which owns the land, and some councillors have already indicated their support in principle, subject to sight of a formal proposal. It would also require a major fund raising scheme.

But for now, I simply wish to see what villagers think of the idea. If you have any objections or can offer any support for this initiative, then please drop me an email. Any feedback received will help determine whether or not I invest more time and effort in trying to bring the project to fruition.

Andrew Eckersley
alieneck1963@gmail.com

The Flying Oysters

The North East's best rock and pop band will be performing at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall on Saturday 22 April. Tickets are £12, which includes a hot supper of sausage and mash and a pudding, and they're on sale now from Doug Allan (07785 223707) or Topcliffe Post Office. This is a 'bring your own drinks' event.

Knit and Natter Club

The Knit & Natter club is now meeting every Thursday afternoon between 1.30 and 3.30pm at the Village Hall.

The club is planning to decorate Topcliffe with amazing knitted bunting for the coronation of His Majesty the King on Saturday 6 May. They have a couple of months in which to achieve their goal and are hoping that residents will help by making cash donations so that sufficient wool can be purchased. They are looking for cash, rather than wool, as very specific coloured wool is needed and if they simply asked for wool donations, they would get too many different shades which would not work for the design.

Donations can be left in a collection pot at the Topcliffe Post Office. If there is any cash left over, it will be used to purchase red and black wool for Remembrance Day poppies in November.



**Traditional fish and chips
Available for parties,
functions, weddings,
christenings, etc
a perfect catering idea!**

**We also have a local village round. See our
web page or find us on Facebook**

Topcliffe Friday 5 - 7pm

**TEL 07515 422202
or 01845 595967
www.chipndales.co.uk**

A bench fit for a king

Asenby will be commemorating the coronation of King Charles III by installing a bespoke metal bench at the village entrance near the rear entrance to Crab Manor.

The bench, similar to the one pictured here, will be forged by Asenby blacksmith Louis Sturt who designed and installed the Platinum Jubilee Bench under the chestnut tree in 2022.

The Coronation Bench will replace a dilapidated seat which was donated to the village many years ago by a fishing syndicate. It will be funded by the recently defunct Asenby Institute whose last committee meeting voted to utilise remaining funds, previously donated by villagers, for this celebratory purpose.



Snooker Club

Membership subscriptions for the snooker club are now due. The fee for this year has gone up to £30 because of increasing energy costs. Existing and new members should arrange payment to David Bowman as soon as possible. Members who do not plan to remain in the club are asked to return their door key to David Bowman. He can be contacted on 577843.

St Columba's Lent services

Throughout Lent there'll be a service of Compline at 7pm every Wednesday. Compline for Lent is a quiet reflective service of prayers and readings for the end of the day and the service lasts about 15 to 20 minutes. The usual services will be held on Sundays.

The church isn't organising Lent lunches this year as the Warm Space lunches are being held each Wednesday.

- Sunday 12 March at 10.45am - Holy Communion
- Wednesday 15 March at 7pm - Compline
- Sunday 19 March at 10.45am - Choral Matins
- Wednesday 22 March at 7pm - Compline
- Sunday 26 March at 10.45am - Holy Communion
- Wednesday 29 March at 7pm - Compline
- Palm Sunday - 2 April at 6.30pm - Choral Evensong and distribution of palms.
- Wednesday 5 April at 7pm - Final Lent Compline
- Saturday 8 April at 7.30pm - Easter Eve Vigil and First Mass of Easter, a choral communion service with full choir and refreshments afterwards
- Easter Day - Sunday 9 April - No Service
- Sunday 16 April at 10.45am - Choral Matins
- Sunday 23 April at 10.45am - Holy Communion
- Sunday 30 April - No Service (5th Sunday of the month)

THE ELM GALLERY

Front Street, Topcliffe



**ORIGINAL PAINTINGS, PRINTS,
CARDS & BEAUTIFUL HAND MADE
GIFTS**

OPENING TIMES

MON - CLOSED
TUE - CLOSED
WED - 10 TO 5.30
THU - 10 TO 5.30
FRI - 10 TO 5.30
SAT - 10 TO 5.30
SUN - 12 TO 5.30



CONTACT DETAILS

01845 577316
07709 223920

lizanddave@the-elm-gallery.co.uk



Topcliffe History Weekend

There's a very special event planned in June to mark St Columba's Day and to celebrate the history of Topcliffe and the role of the church over the centuries.

On Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June St Columba's Church is organising a Village History Weekend and this year it will explore how events of the 17th century affected the people of Topcliffe.



Plans are well underway and, at the time The Tattler went to print, will include:

A visit from members of Sir Thomas Lunsford's Regiment, a re-enactment group specialising in recreating the battles and lifestyles of the English Civil War. They will offer a talk and presentation of arms and artefacts from the period with opportunities for children and adults to get involved.

A talk from the Prayer Book Society on the afternoon of Sunday 4 in celebration of the beauty, poetry and majesty of the Book of Common Prayer (1662) as used in St Columba's services of Evensong and Matins. Followed by tea and then Choral Evensong at 6.30pm.

Displays of archives, papers and artefacts from the 17th century - if anyone has anything they might lend to add to this, please do get in touch with organiser John Phillips on 01845 577034. This could include a review of the story surrounding the exchange of the 'King for Gold' in 1646 at or near Topcliffe.

A picnic or barbecue in the churchyard on Sunday lunchtime, plus teas and tours of the Church, including the chance to climb to the top of the tower and admire the views (not for young children).

And possibly more - please look out for the full details of this weekend of spectacle, informed discussion, display, choral celebration and much more, which will be widely circulated well beforehand.

Dream & Doodle

This is a new session running in Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall on Thursday mornings that are led by Katrina Addison.

Her intention is to provide relaxing classes where participants are encouraged to take a very free approach using a variety of media from pencils to paint...and with relaxing music in the background. "These are classes to help you unwind", says Katrina "it's not about demonstrating a particular artistic strength, but more to do with relaxation and expression."

Forthcoming classes are from 10 to 11am on Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 March, and others may be organised if these go well. Each hour-long session is £7.50. For further information call 07890 429159 or email:

dreamanddoodleart@gmail.com



New Horizon

Composite Door Specialist

www.newhorizondoors.co.uk email: paulstoves22@gmail.com

CREATE AN ENTRANCE



with a ...

- Stylish
- Secure
- Stunning

Composite Door from

New Horizon

North Yorkshire's Finest!!!



Paul - Owner / Installer

Call NOW! tel: 01845 595919 / 07801 496603

The award-winning Catton Kitchen

Congratulations to The Catton Kitchen who won the Start-up Award in Hambleton District Council's 2022 Business Awards. Proprietors Amy and Hugo Pearson attended the awards ceremony on 28 February to receive their award.

Hugo and Amy had a dream of setting up their own market garden where they could make a living from small-scale food production based on sustainable and environmentally responsible methods. They also wanted to create a community hub where local people can meet, enjoy the space that has been created, eat and buy the food that has been produced...all on a very local basis and without creating any food miles.

They opened in July 2021 and since then, the trade has steadily increased and the 'Kitchen', with its regular café, has become a regular venue for people from surrounding villages. The events side of the business has gone extremely well, with BBQs, pie nights, pizza nights, flower arranging classes, wreath-making, musical entertainment and dance.

The recent introduction of a range of ready meals, all made using the meat and vegetables produced on the market garden, has been a big success. There are more ideas in the pipeline for 2023, particularly in supplying on a wholesale level.

The judges said "This is a great start up working closely with other businesses, showing commercial acumen right from the beginning and setting a splendid example for others."

So, congratulations to Amy and Hugo on their amazing success in the Business Awards and we all look forward to seeing The Catton Kitchen go from strength to strength.



A view of the market garden and cafe-shop

Deer Shed Festival 2023

This year's Deer Shed Festival will be held from Friday 28 to Monday 31 July.

The Sunday Email

Next week's Sunday Email will be the 150th edition. Anyone who wants to be added to the circulation can register by going to www.dougallan.co.uk



A MARKET GARDEN, GROWING OUR OWN VEGETABLES, REARING OUR OWN MEAT,
WITH A TAKEAWAY SHACK USING OUR OWN PRODUCE.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK, CATTON, THIRSK, NORTH YORKSHIRE YO7 4SG

 [the_catton_kitchen/](https://www.instagram.com/the_catton_kitchen/)

07747 083 155 | Hello@thecattonkitchen.co.uk | www.thecattonkitchen.co.uk

The Swan - a great local pub!

Another local entry in the Hambleton Business Awards was The Swan public house. Regulars entered The Swan in the heavily contested Customer Service category. Although main hosts Jane and George didn't reach the finals, they did receive a certificate acknowledging the entry and recognising the quality of their customer service.

Whether a local resident, a holiday maker or just travellers passing through, George, Jane and their team couldn't make you feel any more 'at home' if they tried. Isn't that the essence of a good pub?

But The Swan isn't just a pub in the heart of our village, it serves excellent food - so not only does it focus on good beer, wine, guest gins and other alcoholic beverages, The Swan also provides top class quality food. All that at affordable prices, consistently excellent fayre and service second to none.



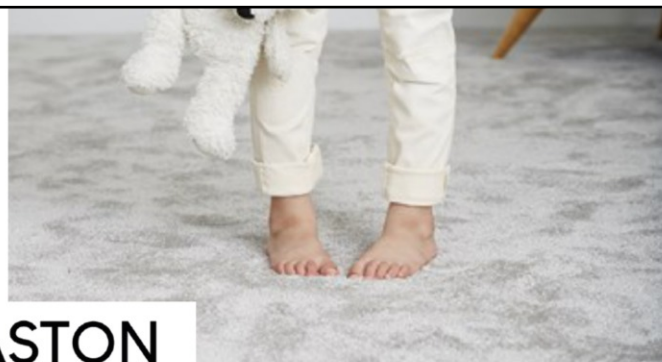
George and Jane at The Swan



And talking about home-made - too tired or bored with cooking? - then The Swan's take out menu is just for you...any day of the week.

George and Jane are also great supporters of our community often offering such things as raffle prizes of dinner for two, supporting the local quarterly newsletter and their award-winning B&B is very much appreciated in the village as it supports other local businesses.

Well done George and Jane.



JOHN ASTON FLOORING



We supply a vast range of flooring from quality, well known brands including:-

KARNDIEN | TEDD TODD | ROGER OATES | ALTERNATIVE | RIVIERA | ULSTER |



Find us at Unit 1, Carr Lane Ind Est, Asenby, YO7 3PF. 01845 421111



Topcliffe Parish Council Update

1. HGV issues

Slowly but surely, the Parish Council's efforts to reduce heavy goods vehicle (HGV) passage through our villages are resulting in some positive actions by the local authorities concerned.

Signage: The county council's highways department has installed new weight restriction signs at the Waites Lane entry to Asenby. This should prevent HGVs using what was a 'loophole' in the old signage arrangement which allowed them to avoid the restricted area signs by the Crab & Lobster and pass through Asenby and then on to Topcliffe (see article below for full story).

New signs have also been installed at the junction of Dalton Lane and A167 approach road to Topcliffe. These large signs prominently display the weight restriction warning and direct HGVs, and other traffic, away from Topcliffe via the A168 and subsequently to the A1(M) or A19.



In addition, National Highways has confirmed that signs are in production for installation on the A168. These will direct HGV traffic to the Dalton Industrial estate without passing through Topcliffe and Asenby. As yet, however, the installation date is not known.



Enforcement: It is clear that trading standards officers are completely under resourced as far as HGV enforcement activity is concerned. For a long time, they were doing only twelve days enforcement activity per annum across the whole of North Yorkshire. Recently the number of days has been increased to twenty-four, but that is completely inadequate taking account of the size of the county and the number of HGV enforcement zones. It makes sense, therefore, that our parish councils, plus volunteers, provide extra support to enforce restrictions in our local zone.

A few weeks ago the county council's trading standards department ran an enforcement morning in Topcliffe and a number of vehicles were caught breaking the weight restriction. Parish council members were in attendance and received training that will, in due course, allow them to carry out their own enforcement days. They are now to follow the important procedures that will meet the legal

requirements and hopefully, with support of county legal officers, allow successful prosecutions.

Rather strangely both the county highways and trading standards departments are at this stage reluctant to use ANPR cameras to identify illegal HGV movements. Parish councillors, however, believe the best way forward is to purchase some cameras and use them on local enforcement days to demonstrate their effectiveness.

Police support: Recently, parish councillors had a useful meeting with county highways and trading standards officers, National Highways and North Yorkshire Police. As a result, the police have committed to increase their presence in the village and to monitor and enforce HGV offenders as appropriate.

Appeal re existing Weight Restriction Zone: Finally, the parish council has appealed the decision to not move the zone from near Busby Stoop closer to the edge of the village. This is important because much of the HGV traffic through Topcliffe and Asenby emanates from companies based within the current zone - which makes their passages legal. The date of the appeal hearing is keenly awaited.

2. Thank you to Topcliffe ward councillors

This is the last edition of The Tattler before North Yorkshire Council comes into being on 1 April and Hambleton District Council, along with the other boroughs and districts in the county, disappear into local government history. At that time we will say goodbye to our two long-standing ward councillors, Mark Robson and Peter Bardon. It's appropriate that this opportunity is taken to offer sincere thanks to both of them for all their support, advice and help over many years. They rarely ever missed attending parish council meetings and there is no doubt that without their support many projects past, present and future in the village could never have happened. They will be missed.

New weight restriction signs for Asenby

The local 7.5 tonne weight restriction in the Asenby area has been in place for quite a few years, though everyone knows it isn't the most successful of schemes.

When it was launched, highway engineers erected signs on the main road past Asenby, but at the time they neglected to place appropriate signs at the entry to the village, off Waites Lane (the southern end of the village). This meant that HGVs could quite legitimately enter Asenby village and by-pass restrictions, and drivers could argue that they hadn't passed any weight limit signs. The situation was ridiculous and years of lobbying by the Parish Council to get extra signs followed.

Now, almost five years later, two brand new 7.5 tonne weight restriction signs have been installed. The recent and ongoing Topcliffe/Asenby HGV saga may have had some influence but a big thank you is due to the intervention of Councillor Nick Brown - Asenby's representative on North Yorkshire County Council.



The Repair Cafe

The next repair cafe will be held on Saturday 11 March between 10am and 1pm at Thirsk Community Library on Chapel Street. It's a chance to get items such as small appliances, computers, toys, tools and clothes repaired. It's much better to try and give things a new life rather than bin them.



Rural Arts launches spring programme

As Rural Arts approaches its 30th anniversary it has announced plans for an amazing programme of events for adults, children and families, including workshops, exhibitions, music and dance performances and lots more. Rural Arts is based at The Courthouse in Thirsk. The full programme can be checked-out at www.ruralarts.org

School Holiday and training days - North Yorkshire

Parents may wish to make a note of these school holiday and training days dates on their calendar:

Half term holiday: Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February.

Easter holiday: Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April.

Professional development training day: Monday 17 April.

Bank holiday: 1 May.

Bank holiday: 8 May.

Half term: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June.

Term ends: Tuesday 25 July 2023

Summer holidays: Tuesday 25 July to Monday 4 September.

Professional development training day: Monday 4 September.

Half term holiday: Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November.

Christmas holiday: Monday 25 December to Friday 5 January.

The Rainton Gardening Club

The popular Rainton gardening club is inviting anyone interested in gardening to join the club, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at Rainton Village Hall. Eight speakers and four summer garden visits are booked for the coming year, and these are covered by the annual membership fee. For more details contact Gill Common, Club Secretary:

gillcommon@icloud.com

BARNEY'S
BURNERS
JAB AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS LIMITED
Topcliffe, Thirsk
Locally Sourced

Seasoned Hard Wood Logs, Coal, Kindling And Natural Fire Lighters

To order please email or leave a message on

01845 868798
LOGS@JAB-AGRIC.CO.UK

The Angel at Topcliffe to have a major refit



Two years ago, The Tattler published an article about a Topcliffe family who had taken over a centuries-old pub and was turning it into a culinary and cultural success story.

That article about the Mathews family related to the Staveley Arms in North Stainley...and now history is repeating itself, but much closer to home.

Dave Mathews and his wife Maggie, who live in Church Street, Topcliffe, transformed The Staveley Arms and made it a mecca for some of the best food, drink and entertainment in the area. Now they have purchased The Angel at Topcliffe and have amazing plans to do the same here.

The Angel closed on 13 February when it was sold to the Mathews family by West Park Inns, which had run it for many years. Dave and Maggie's company, Stoneybridge Ltd, has moved in and already work is underway on a massive improvement plan.

The immediate priority is a total refit and reconfiguration of the kitchen, bar, restaurant and hotel reception area, but plans in a second phase of development will see the 16 guest bedrooms modernised, the Plaza Suite improved and refurbished and there are exciting plans for a garden and outside bar make-over.

Dave said: "It has long been a dream of mine to own and operate The Angel and Maggie and I, along with our daughter Rose and son-in-law Jack, are now seeing that dream become reality. Our aim is to make The Angel into a very special place that will serve locals and visitors alike, providing excellent food and drink, along with first class service.

"We have plans that will see The Angel transformed into a first-class wedding and well-being venue that will compete with the best in this part of North Yorkshire. We are in the process of finalising the purchase of the neighbouring property, Cliff House, and in the summer will start work on creating a top-quality bridal suite on the first floor of the house and luxury bedrooms at ground level.

"All of this work will be undertaken with climate change at the forefront of our minds and our goal will be to reduce the Angel's carbon footprint in every way

we can, using among other things, ground heat source pumps and solar energy.

"The scale of the work unfortunately means that The Angel has had to close and it's likely that it will be around six months before we are open for business again, but the wait will definitely be worth it."

In the new set up Dave will be taking an executive role, though he plans to help out in the kitchens to keep his hand in at creating and presenting dishes which reflect Yorkshire's culinary heritage. Jack will be the head chef. Maggie will be in charge of everything 'front of house' and Rose is taking on management and administrative matters.

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. Before taking on The Staveley Arms, he was head chef at the well-respected Bruce Arms at West Tanfield.

"The story of the Mathews family love affair with exceptional quality will continue" says Dave. "We have experience of working together as a team and now we have taken over The Angel - one of the area's well-established hostelrys - we plan to create an exceptional venue of which Topcliffe can be proud.

"Individually and as a team we have an interest in making a huge success of The Angel at Topcliffe and we hope that residents will join us on our fantastic journey. The community will be central to everything we do - we'll support initiatives in any way we can, such as supporting The Tattler newsletter, providing food for the Warm Space lunches and raising funds for other good causes."

