



### Very Welcome Visitors

Staff and young pupils of Alanbrooke Nursery were thrilled to welcome four Fijian children into their fold recently and a wonderful Fijian display has been created with the help of the new arrivals. This includes authentic headdresses, photographs of clay ovens, the national flag, and brightly coloured paintings of beaches and traditional thatched houses.

Lorna Young, who supervises the nursery, said, "The children are very popular and have made lots of new friends in the nursery. They've adapted incredibly well to their new life."



(Amanda Baxter, with three of the Fijian children and some of their new friends.)

### Please keep your trees...

Please keep your trees and bushes trimmed. Branches which overhang footpaths cause both inconvenience and a danger to the public when they have to step into the road to get past.



### Five Appear At Rising Sun Farm (Or Twenty Legs of Lamb and a Lot of Chops)

Farmer Eric Barnett, of Rising Sun Farm, Topcliffe Common, has been blessed with a particularly productive ewe. She gave birth to five healthy lambs in March and they are all doing well.



(No doubt exhausted mother with her five lively quintuplets.)

Mr Barnett and his wife, Jean, have lived at the farm for 45 years and he has been farming for 60 years. He said that, in all that time, neither he, nor anyone else he knew, had had a ewe produce five healthy lambs, although he had heard of it happening elsewhere.

### Look around you, Marigolds, check breathing, HELP!!!

Everyone who recently attended the Heart Start class at the Village Hall will understand this title completely. We'd all like to let Iain Cairns know how much we enjoyed his fun, lively and most informative class.

Next time the Heart Start class is advertised, do book your place. You'll enjoy it and learn how to save a life at the same time.

## St. Columba's Church

As everyone can see, St. Columba's is undergoing major repairs to the roof and masonry. The funds to support this very essential work have come from a variety of sources, not the least being the local populace, who have given us excellent support over the last two years, in helping to raise in excess of £6,000 as our share of the costs. This local money is invaluable, because other grant-aiding bodies would be less inclined to offer financial aid without a reasonable degree of local commitment.

The major share of the funding has come from English Heritage, who initiated the scheme as a follow-on to the previous scheme to rebuild the tower. This was completed in 2004. They have contributed £71,384 to the present scheme, which they are also overseeing with help of the church architect Sebastian Rowe of Pearce Bottomley Architects. The main contractor is William Anelay of York, who is also engaged on work to the roof of Ripon Cathedral.

We are also hugely indebted to the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust for their help in securing £7,500 of landfill tax money from the Waste Recycling Group Ltd. The YHCT is always very supportive to the churches in Yorkshire and we hope to do our bit for them in September, when we take part again in their major fundraising event, known as the Ride and Stride Day, which involves a sponsored walk. Last year we raised £660, of which they kindly returned 50% for our own funds.

Two other less well known bodies namely: the Sir John Priestman Trust and the Garfield Weston Trust contributed £4,000 and £5,000 respectively, for which we are most grateful. If it were not for charitable trusts of this nature, many churches would be falling into a state of dilapidation and eventual dereliction. So a big thank you to all these bodies who are helping to maintain this important and historical building in Topcliffe.



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The works should be completed by the third week in August. We are all hoping that the major repairs to the valley gutter will be completed by the beginning of June. There are a number of weddings planned for the church this summer, and we would like the church to look as good as possible for these couples and their guests on these very special days.

In the meantime our very sincere thanks to our friends at the Methodist Chapel, who in the true spirit of the covenant which exists between Methodists and Anglicans in this part of the world, are welcoming us into their church until we can safely return to St. Columba's. A special thank you to Ray Fothergill, who has been so helpful and made us feel very comfortable to be worshipping in their church – as of course they always do.

Finally – one forthcoming event we would like you to know about. St. Columba's Annual Summer Fair has been arranged for Saturday, July 11th in Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

Margaret Gimblett and Linda Carver  
Churchwardens

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## Asenby Needs You!

Want to check out the re-vamped Asenby website? Take a look at [www.asenby.net](http://www.asenby.net) and feast your eyes. Webmaster David Stringer has worked hard to update the site but he needs your help. Please let him know of upcoming village events or anything else of local interest. If you don't have anything for the website, just let him know what you would like to see included on the site.

David also offers a free advert on the site to all those local artisans living in Asenby. There are very few times you'll see something being given away for nothing, so take advantage and do let him know if you are interested in the FREE advert.

## Fancy Converting to Colour?

In these environmentally-friendly days and as a way to help us keep our costs down, more and more residents of Topcliffe and Asenby are choosing to read the TATtler online rather than receive a paper version.

If you are online and would like to do this, simply go to the Topcliffe website at [www.topcliffe.net](http://www.topcliffe.net) and click on 'Tattler' to see the current and past issues. What's more, you'll be able to see the photos in colour.

Parishioners who are interested in cancelling their paper copy should e-mail me at [tattler@topcliffe.net](mailto:tattler@topcliffe.net) to be taken off the distribution list. Each time a new issue is posted on the website, we'll e-mail you to let you know.

## A Turner Electrical

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## The Asenby Institute (2000)

With regret, due to the lack of committee members, there will be no Asenby barbeque this year. If the future of the playing field and play area is to be secured, an Asenby Committee is essential.

PLEASE- we need members! We are here for everybody- we are not a committee just for young people and need a cross section of villagers of all ages. Our committee is searching for a viable project, but we have reached a turning point. We will fold if we do not have the support of a larger committee.

PLEASE get in touch. Jackie: 578871

## [www.Topcliffe.net](http://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.

Pub Quiz at The Lamb in Rainton, we approached Steve from The Lamb to organise a pub quiz in celebration of Great Britain. The food was to be good old traditional British grub. We decided on bangers 'n' mash. Asenby Institute supplied the apple pies and cream, along with some prizes for the raffle and the 'quick fire' questions. And then the fun began...

I am pleased to report that after costs, we made £208. How fab is that?

I would love to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported us that night, especially members of the Parish Council, who helped sell tickets and came along to join in the fun. Also, I would love to thank Steve and Bev from The Lamb at Rainton for holding the pub quiz for us. I know they often hold pub quizzes, so watch out for the next one. I think Steve really enjoys doing them. I would also like to say thank you to all the domino players who were at The Lamb that night. I am sure that the wonderful smell of bangers 'n' mash was very off-putting. "Good luck in your future tournaments."

Sharon Furness, Asenby Institute

## St George's Day

I have always found, prior to moving to Asenby, that St. George's Day has never been a big day for celebration, unlike St. Patrick's Day, when it would seem that the rivers turn into Guinness! However, when I moved to Asenby two years ago, I was absolutely delighted to discover that St. George's Day is a big celebration here. It was organised previously by people from Asenby and held in Topcliffe Village Hall, and what a great celebration it was.

This year, Asenby Institute was approached with regards to organising a St. George's Day event. After thinking about it, and one of the members having recently attended an excellent Curry Night



## Ladies who lunch and know how to throw a pancake

We were truly amazed by the response to the Pancake Party when so many people came to join us. Even though we had made 250 pancakes earlier, demand far outstripped supply and extra supplies of milk and eggs had to be bought urgently. David Matthews, our chef for the evening, had three frying pans on the go from 3-6pm.

The idea of the Lent lunches started when we were trying to think of something more productive to do during Lent than enduring the usual spell of chocolate and coffee deprivation. We decided that giving up our time to do something that would be a service to the community, and which would be completely free of charge, would perhaps be more in line with the true meaning of Lent. We also felt that it would be a good way to say thank you to all those people who have so generously supported St Columba's over the years, and particularly during our recent fund-raising for the church roof.



People of all ages came to try our home-made soup and there were many generous donations of ingredients. Even though these two events were free of charge, we have still received £400 in donations which is wonderful!

*Lent Lunch Ladies from left to right: Charlotte Graham, Leisel Hamnett, Jenny Roberts, Julie Shepherd, Emma Benoit, Linda Carver, Janette Yates, Margaret Gimblett*

## Simply Red

Pupils of Topcliffe School don't believe in subtlety and, for Comic Relief, they didn't just don red noses, they also wore red jumpers, t-shirts, hair, face-paint and even red pyjamas.



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### Editor's note:

Jimmy has painted several houses in Dovecote, and even ventured as far as Front Street. I can vouch that he is efficient, aimable, kind to old people and cats, and, best of all, doesn't leave a mess. Highly recommended!

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



## Exceedingly Good Cakes

Topcliffe School's Year 6 pupils are showing themselves to be entrepreneurs of not just tomorrow, but today as well.

Following the dreaded SATS exams, their teacher Mrs Kay Pearson felt that they deserved to do something completely different and had the idea of helping them to set up their own business. Deciding they would like

### Hog Heaven at The Angel

From the looks of things, very few of you missed the Angel's unforgettable Hog Feast on Saturday, 2nd May. As hosts, the staff at The Angel were top rate. Everyone ate their fill of succulent pork sandwiches and most joined in the fun and games. The live act, Graham Oliver, was both professional and talented, and best of all he performed popular, well-known songs. There's nothing like a good sing-a-long! People who had previously claimed to have two left feet were seen bopping away happily without a care in the world. A wonderful evening was had by all.

We'd like to thank the Angel for donating all profits made on the night to the TATler. We are most grateful for your generous donation of £372.60.



to raise money for a school in Zambia, they set about organising a cake sale. Not just any cake sale, this was a "Top Cake" cake sale, sponsored by The Angel Inn.

First, they appointed an MD, a deputy MD, financial team, graphics team and buyers. Then they gave The Angel management a Power-point presentation, showing their aims and strategies. Clearly the managers of the pub were impressed because they donated £45 for ingredients and were happy to have The Angel named as sponsor, on posters sited round the village.



Teaching assistant and owner of the Yorks Tearooms, Mrs Karen Cousins, gave the children a talk on costing and profit margins, which helped them to price up the cakes correctly.

After spending two days baking victoria sponge cakes, pineapple upside-down puddings, and various other items of confectionary, the Top Cake organisation opened its doors to the public. Their success was astounding. The children easily exceeded their own target and whilst they had aimed to make £100 profit, the Zambian School are set to make something in the region of £200.

Be afraid, Mr Kipling, be very afraid!

### Snooker Club

We are still looking for members, new and old. Membership costs £15 and members must be at least 18 years of age.



#### Under New Management

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## The Land Girls of Yorkshire

A new comedy.

Written and directed by Kate Bramley (ex-Hull Truck Theatre)

Original music by Jez Lowe (Radio 2 SONY ACADEMY AWARD winner)

Starring Natalie Bennett and Lois Creasy

**'Some girls just aren't cut out for farming...'**

It's wartime, and there are some new arrivals in the village. They're turning heads and breaking hearts as the fine girls of the Women's Land Army take to the hills.

This brand new show is the latest comedy two-hander from Badapple's resident writer as she celebrates the highs and lows of the wonderful women who helped keep Britain fed during World War II, set against a backdrop of glorious music of the age, as well as new tunes by songwriter Jez Lowe.



Although a fictional tale, this play owes much to the reminiscences of a number of Land Army Girls who contributed their own personal stories to this exciting new comedy.

Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall, Sat 4th July, 8pm. Tickets £8 full price, £6.50 concessions, £4 under 16's. Tickets on 01423 339168 or [www.badapple.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.badapple.freeserve.co.uk)

A family friendly show best suited to age 10+.



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## The Topcliffe Educational Foundation

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation is a charity which makes small grants for the purchase of books, to students who have recently left school and are in their first degree course at University or the equivalent. To be eligible, the student must live in the parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area covered by the parish as now constituted together with Marton le Moor.

The Charity's income is fixed and limited, therefore the value of any single grant will depend not only on the funds available to distribute but also on the number of successful applications.

Applications are sought in September/October and the Trustees meet in December to approve grants. Students who have received grants in previous years will automatically receive an invitation to apply for 2009.

Anyone seeking further information, wishing to apply or questioning their eligibility to apply should ring Geoff Hall on 01845 578324.



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## Topcliffe Parish Council

The last year has seen the progression of a number of projects targeted at maintaining and improving the village amenity. We have purchased and installed a large greenhouse at the school. This has been well received and is being put to good use by staff and the children. Thanks to the engineering skills of Malcolm Morley, the large gang mower for the playing field has been repaired and brought back into service. With continued care and maintenance, this should give years more of service. The time to cut the main field has been reduced from over two hours to about 30 minutes and with much less fuel consumption. The bid for the proposed new £25,000 Play Park has gone in and a site visit has been carried out. It is hoped for a decision around July and if successful, installation by September.

### New Headteacher Finds Novel Way To Bring In New Pupils

Most headteachers would probably think twice before dressing up as the Childcatcher for World Book Day. They could be excused for thinking that they see more than enough children in the course of their work and the last thing they need is to go looking for more. However, Topcliffe School's new headteacher, Mrs Wendy Shepherd, did just that although she looked much too friendly and kind to scare anybody, least of all her young charges, who clearly thought it was great that she joined in the fun with such enthusiasm.

Throughout the day, the children enjoyed literature-related games, word searches and stories, culminating in a challenge to create their own version of a traditional tale. Staff and children all dressed up as their favourite fictional characters, entirely disproving the notion that nobody reads anymore.

Mrs Shepherd has been at the school since Christmas after taking over from Mrs Chatwin. Her husband, Graham, is head of Le Cateau School at Catterick Garrison while eighteen year old daughter, Amy, is set to begin teacher training in September. Son Andrew, like his sister, is at Queen Elizabeth's School and is particularly keen on sport.

"The people of Topcliffe have been wonderful, the staff, the parents and children." commented Mrs Shepherd, "I couldn't have wished for a warmer welcome."

Last year the council was subjected to rigorous financial and procedural scrutiny by external auditors and came out with only very minor comments. The council extends its thanks to Angela, the clerk, and to Tony Bruce, the volunteer internal auditor, for their diligence and advice. In these troubled political times, the council continues to operate to the highest governance standards, to clear procedures and processes and openness to scrutiny. It continues to monitor, update and amend General and Financial Standing Orders and Risk Assessments on an annual basis.

At the Annual Parish meeting, the council wished a happy retirement and a vote of thanks to NYCC Cllr Bill Barton OBE, who is retiring from office after the forthcoming election. Bill has been involved in local government since 1960. He has held many top offices, has been a firm and active supporter of this council in particular and a font of knowledge, advice and support.

Turning to the elections, whatever your political preference, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. Have your say. It is a hard won right.

Garry Key (Topcliffe Parish Council Chairman)

### Heartfelt Thanks



Iain Cairns, teacher of the Heart Start class on May 8 at the village hall, would like to thank everyone who participated. He was pleased at the number of people who attended the class, and hopes they will return next year for the refresher. Villagers wishing to take the class for the first time will also be very welcome.



Well caught Mrs Shepherd



## Abundant Bookings - Hamsters Take the Biscuit!

Linda Nuttall

The Village Hall continues to have a high level of regular bookings, see below, plus a good number of occasional bookings for a wide range of activities, the most unusual of which has to be the hamster show! There are opportunities for daytime activities and there is a possibility of the Country Women's Association starting here on a Wednesday evening. It would be great to have all sectors of our community using this meeting place. Some of you out there must have more ideas, so let's hear them.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Pilates	Pilates	Daisy Chain	Pilates	Toddlers		
Afternoon		Senior Citizens*		Brownies			
Evening	Argentine Tango Topcliffe PC†	Yoga	Tang Soo Do Asenby PC‡	Carpet Bowls	Tang Soo Do (Provis.)		

\* Weekly † Monthly ‡ Two monthly Bookings 577315

### FREE SKIP SERVICE!

We are offering, **to every household in Topcliffe village only**, a free skip service.

What this means is that if anyone is re-developing or planning some building work on their home or just fancies tidying their garage or garden, we will provide a skip, free of charge, to remove this waste. We will take all soil, rubble, gravel, concrete, stone, plastic, wood, cardboard, metal and other recyclables away for free.

It does not include the disposal of hazardous products, fridges, oil, flammable or toxic liquids, asbestos or any other dangerous or special substances. We can provide disposal of those kinds of materials, but they will have a charge attached.

The free service starts 1st May 2009.

If anyone needs any further details, please don't hesitate to call me on the numbers below.

Simon Mosley

Tel: 01845 577684  
Mob: 07801 864901

### The Little Red Bus

For those who yearn for the bright city lights, the Little Red Bus provides services to Thirsk market on Mondays and Northallerton market on Wednesdays for only £2.50. The service doesn't stop there, however. The company ethos is to support people who have difficulty accessing public transport and they always try to meet individual requests. Hambleton residents are offered a year's free membership which would normally cost £6.

To find out more about this excellent service, ring 01423 526655.

### Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

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**Police** - 0845 60 60 24 7  
[www.northyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk)

**Hambleton DC** - 01609 779977  
[www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk)

**Harrogate BC** - 01423 568954  
[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

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