



BREAKING NEWS JUST IN!

By Lauren Atkinson

After an agonising wait to hear if we have been successful in obtaining grants for a new play park, I am delighted to confirm we now have the funds needed.

With great thanks to the expertise of Jen Smith, we were able to secure funding from our two main sources: YORVENTURE and AWARDS FOR ALL. With additional donations from Newby Foods and Topcliffe Parish Council, we will have reached the £25,000.00 needed to go ahead with the park. It was designed by Playscheme and chosen by locals who came to see the plans in the Village Hall.

Work is planned to commence on the park in March 2010. Upon completion, we plan to arrange an open day to celebrate our new park. Further information on the event will follow in the new year.

Thank you to everyone for all your support and encouragement in making this much needed addition to Topcliffe Community possible.



Fundraisers and young beneficiaries on a very wet park

Back row from left to right: Wendy Jameson, Emma Driffield, Lauren Atkinson, Amanda Jameson-Allen

Front row: Thomas and Aimee Driffield and Sophie and Oliver Atkinson

Proof that you're never too old

You know that feeling where you take the party invitation literally? The wording on it says, "Come dressed casually." And, like an idiot, you make your grand entrance in your scruffy gardening clothes, only to find all the other women dressed in evening gowns, men in top hat and tails. This may be an exaggeration, but that is the feeling I had when I turned up for the art class at the village hall. Having been told I didn't need to bring any painting paraphernalia (not that I had any to bring!), I did just that. I brought simply a sarnie for lunch and myself. I must admit to feeling a teeny bit crestfallen when I saw everyone else sat at tables with what looked like mountains of their own paint, paper, brushes etc.

Fortunately though, all worked out well in the end. Teacher must have felt sorry for me, as I was given a place by his side, and, as "Teacher's pet", got to use the paint he had mixed and his brushes.

Now, I show my efforts to anyone whoever makes the mistake of coming to our house, and they play along and tell me how well I did at my first ever art class. In fact I enjoyed the class so much that I'll definitely be attending the next one. Heck, I've even put paints and brushes on my Christmas list.

Just want you all to know it really didn't matter how much you knew beforehand, how prepared you were. Everyone left the class feeling good. Well, I did, anyway. So much for the limitations of old dogs.

A.H.



"Impression of an Artist at Work"

Topcliffe Parish Council News

The council, through careful financial planning, has been able to maintain the local precept for next year at the same level as last year. The council thanks the clerk for her diligence and Tony Bruce for his support as internal auditor.

A gentle reminder that it is the responsibility of householders to maintain their gardens. Any trees, bushes or hedges that overhang or are adjacent to footpaths or carriageways should be trimmed to allow free passage of pedestrians and traffic. Trees should be well tended and dead wood removed to prevent falling and causing potential injury or damage - check your insurance for specific requirements.

As autumn goes by and the leaves have almost fallen, it is proposed to hold a short '**village tidy up**' session on Saturday 12th December at 11.00am. Items to be cleared include the play park to remove debris, under benches, kerbsides where needed and litter at the roadsides leading into and from the village.

A short note on the future of the **Play Park**. We are confident that a new play park will be forthcoming and in place by Easter along with several new picnic benches and enhancements to the new '**sportacabin**'. We will also be installing movement activated security lights, as some footpad decided to break into the ground maintenance shed and purloin the strimmer! Despite the odd setback, this year has been a very progressive one and next year looks even more so.

Finally, Topcliffe Parish Council wishes all residents of Topcliffe Parish a merry **Christmas** and a happy and prosperous **New Year**.

Garry Key

The Litterati *will* be shot

How lovely and peaceful is the Sheepwash, whatever time of year, from snowdrops to bluebells, to the drama of floods, to ice and snow. We're very blessed with a beauty spot where we can sit on benches and watch the river. However, of late, there have been a few blots on the landscape, mainly cans, carrier bags, a discarded flask, general refreshment leftovers, and the inevitable dog excrement.

Personally, we don't think it adds to the landscape and would like to see CCTV cameras which could obliterate people who left open cans, in particular, lying around. However, we don't live in a computer



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Salmon run spotted by Topcliffe Mill

I live in the Mill at Topcliffe and have done for a couple of years. On 28-30th October there was a massive salmon run up the river which I have never witnessed before. It was amazing. This might be a



regular spectacle but I have never been so humbled. I managed to get a photo, of which I am very proud, and wondered if you would like to include it in the TATtler. I am very happy for you to use it. We should celebrate nature in every one of its manifestations. Everyone I have told is amazed that this was on my doorstep.

Sal

game so just do the decent thing and take your rubbish home with you. Or else.....



A photograph of a wintry Sheepwash without litter.

Treats for Everyone but Absolutely No Tricks

Topcliffe and Asenby children enjoyed a busy Hallowe'en party at the village hall. Dressed in suitably scary costumes, they were given treats for completing small tasks, which included creating gifts of biscuits, cards and decorations. This was rounded off by a good old singalong. Small supervised groups then made their way round the village, knocking on doors, but instead of the usual cry of "trick or treat", the householders were given gifts the children had made.

Incidentally, the standard of trick or treaters was exemplary this year, no egg-lobbing or wilful damage. All the groups of children looked amazing in their fancy dress; all were accompanied by adults and all were very polite. Well done, all those ghosts and ghouls! Having the living daylighters scared out of us was never more fun!



Creative Workshop in Village Hall

It was all eyes, ears and brushes at the ready during half-term as a watercolour painting workshop took place. A group of would-be artists, with little or no experience, had a go at watercolour painting under the eye of Mike Dobson. The session was greatly enjoyed and though no one is going to exhibit at the Tate for a while, progress was definitely made. A further session with Mike is now being planned for Wednesday 17th February. Anyone interested should contact Linda (577315).

Linda Nuttall

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RECYCLE WITH TOPCLIFFE FREECYCLE

by Linda Nuttall

How about it? Some villages (eg Osmotherly) run freecycle schemes for their localities. Unwanted items are offered free to others in their community thus helping:

1. The "It's too good to throw away" syndrome
2. To provide others with a little support
3. Hambleton District Council's rubbish mountain (ie our rates)

Let us know your thoughts. Good Idea - Bad Idea?
Call Linda (577315) or email tattler@topcliffe.net

Asenby Institute 2000 News

We are delighted to have new and VERY MUCH WELCOMED members of our committee Linda, Liz, Cathy and Margaret. Hopefully this will herald a fresh look to the committee with new ideas and projects for the whole village.

Christmas is almost upon us! Please come to our Mince Pie and Mulled Wine evening (see page 8). As well as being fun and a fantastic way to meet new and 'old' villagers alike, it could also be a time for any of you to share ideas for how we can help and improve the village. Also many of you may have noticed that we need to repair the see-saw in the playground. However, we need to raise more funds in order to do this. Grass cutting, upkeep and repair seem to be swallowing money!!!

So, we hope to see as many of you as possible there and may we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

A word from The Revd Robin Davill, your new Vicar

Actually, it's Priest in Charge, but let's not get too technical. It is very good to be with you and I hope, like me, you are looking forward to Christmas.

"Well, who is he?" You may well be saying this, so let me introduce myself. I come originally from Nottinghamshire, but have lived in Yorkshire for the majority of time since 1980. I trained as a secondary school history teacher and taught for eleven years up until 1985. I then studied for the Church of England ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge, and then served curacies, firstly in Preston (Lancs) and then in Howden (E. Yorks).

Subsequently, since 1993, I have been priest in charge of Crayke, Brandsby and Yearsley, and from 2003, Thirkleby, Kilburn and Bagby. From 1993 to 1997 I was non stipendiary, i.e. I worked four years for nothing and had no church housing. So that is why in 1993 we bought our own house in Easingwold, and thus I have had sixteen years of rural commuter ministry. I have also been a school governor for fourteen years, firstly at Crayke C. of E. school and then for the last seven years as a parent governor at Easingwold Comprehensive School.

I attempt to sing with the Easingwold Singers, but find that making regular Tuesday night rehearsals is often difficult with so many evening meetings. I love music but am completely untrained and have to do my best not to embarrass the rest of the choir.

Our son Sam is in his first year at Sheffield University, where he is studying Town Planning and seems to be enjoying it very much. He is a keen cricketer and pianist, but he keeps quiet about the piano and hates playing in public.

My wife Ann is a Cumbrian by birth and is head of French and Director of Language College (the school's specialist subject) at All Saints' School, the Roman Catholic Comprehensive at York, so if I'm honest, we both tend to see the world somewhat through classroom windows. We both enjoy gardening and the countryside, but constraints on time often mean that the state of our garden is what we might call a conservation area.

So, I look forward to meeting you on 16th December or around our villages and churches in the near future.

With best wishes,
Robin



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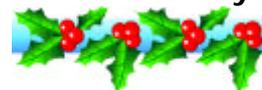
Conference room and facilities available all week

Surgery Hours

Christmas & New Year

The surgery will be closed
Christmas Day, December 28th
and New Year's Day.

It will be open usual hours
on all other days.



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



Asenby Needs You!

Want to check out the re-vamped Asenby website? Take a look at 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.

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UFOs at Topcliffe School

Topcliffe School had a Close Encounter of the Mysterious Kind recently, which might, at first, have given cause for some anxiety. During the previous night, there were reports of a loud cacophony on the school field and, at morning assembly, Mrs Shepherd worriedly told the children that neighbours had been alarmed by what was originally thought to be scaffolding, from the recent building works, collapsing. This was followed by a blinding light as an object descended noisily from the sky. The children were warned to keep well away from the site until further investigations were carried out.

Mrs Shepherd, aware that children love an adventure, told everyone that if they were very careful and sensible, they could go down to have a look at the debris at the bottom of the field but had to be accompanied by an adult and definitely had to stay behind the barriers. Strange silver objects lay on the ground, inspiring the children to write their own reports as to what could have happened, and this developed into a whole school CSI investigation.



ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

Sat' Dec' 5th
2pm - 4pm

in

Topcliffe
Village Hall

CHRISTMAS
FAIR

Cakes & Produce
Raffle

Tombola

Bric-a-Brac

Books

Games & Competitions

Christmas cards

Entrance £1.00

(includes Coffee/Tea and a Scone)

The final pieces were shared with different classes and some are in a big book for all to see. How fortunate that the opportunity for some exciting reportage just happened to fall on Everybody Writing Day.



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.

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Burns Night is Back!

Plans for a Burns Night Supper are underway, so all those who usually participate in eating haggis, listening to the Scottish bard's words and dancing their legs off in a highland fling, please note the date, Saturday 30th January. The band is booked, so make sure *you* are by speaking to Judith (577911) or Linda. (577315)



Linda Nuttall

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St. Columba's Church News

An apology

The churchwardens and PCC of St. Columba's would like to apologise to any resident affected by the church clock striking at the unsociable hour of 5.00am recently. We endeavoured to remedy the situation as quickly as possible.

Restoration of St. Columba's

The most recent phase in the restoration of the church is virtually complete. The cost of the work was almost £100,000 and most of this money was achieved through grants and the generous help of local people. Needless to say, there is still much to be done before restoration is complete. Progress has been made on the final restoration of the organ. Work to the heating system should provide us with more comfort this winter and other improvements will help to make us a more welcoming church.

Sunday school in Topcliffe

A great team of dedicated young mothers run a Sunday school and crèche for local children on the second and third Sundays of the month. The emphasis is clearly based on Christian principles but there is also a fun time with stories, drawing and art work and simple prayers. The Sunday school works in close cooperation with Topcliffe C of E Primary School.

If you are interested, please contact Jenny Roberts at Plumtree House, Front Street or Claire Cadogan at The Mill House, Mill Lane.

A new vicar for Topcliffe

The congregation of St. Columba's, along with the other churches in the Benefice (Dalton, Skipton, and Baldersby St. James), is preparing to welcome The Reverend Robin Davill as their new vicar towards the end of December. Although Robin will not be moving to the vicarage in Topcliffe, he intends to be a very visible presence in the villages. He intends to have an office in the Benefice – probably Topcliffe, where he will be available to meet parishioners and deal with any relevant matters pertaining to the church.

Robin will be licensed at a service in Baldersby St. James on 16th December at 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Margaret Gimblett

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Have Your Say...

Dear Editor,

I love Topcliffe. I have lived here for 15 years. I do think there should be a youth club or something because it does get really boring sometimes.

Fifteen-year old Topcliffe resident

Dear Editor,

As a local resident, I am finding transport to and from Ripon a problem, as the 70 bus service runs only at limited times. I am interested in finding someone I can share a lift with, so I can take up work in Ripon. Thank you.

Neil Lambert (578811 or 07935 368 858)

Dear Editor,

This is a polite request for 'dog walkers' walking down to the Mill and towards Salmon Farm to clean up after their dogs! There is a bin at the Sheep Wash and notices outside the Mill.

Also It's surprising that no-one has yet been hurt due to the speed that some people drive down here. I know it is a country lane but most locals know of the Mill. Please watch your speed.

Thank you, Topcliffe Mill resident

[Editor's note: As a regular dog-walker, I very much agree with this reader. Some drivers do seem to think they're Lewis Hamilton when they hit country lanes. Stop it! Stop it now!]

tattler@topcliffe.net

CARERS SUPPORT

Hambleton and Richmondshire Sitting Scheme for Families and Children with Special Needs

Could you volunteer to sit with a child with special needs?

Volunteers are needed to cover Hambleton and Richmondshire Towns and Villages

Further information please contact: Gill Burn

Carers Support Co-ordinator, 14a Market Place, Thirsk: 01845 523115

Office Hours: Weds. 10am - 1pm

Reasons to Drag Yourselves Away from Xmas Telly

Once again, The Angel is hosting the popular Boxing Day Party with a Children's Fancy Dress from 5.30-8.30 with prizes for the best costumes. Adults are invited from 8.30 but children are welcome to stay and join in the fun. There will be a pork roast supper and admission is free.

The second event is New Year's Eve when "live" (yet dead) singer, Elvis, will perform. There will be a buffet supper and admission is £15. Numbers are limited so please get your tickets asap.

Other things are planned but no information yet.....

A message from Simon Mosley

Due to an overwhelming demand for our skip services throughout the county, we have been a little late delivering the free service in Topcliffe.

We have ordered a new batch for delivery in December and the service should resume as normal.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and wish them a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks,
Simon

Befriending Scheme Can you help?

The Alzheimer's Society is seeking volunteers for a Befriending Scheme across the Hambleton and Richmondshire area.

The service seeks to help people with dementia to maintain a social life and to follow a hobby, or interest for as long as they wish, or are able to do so.

Training will be provided and expenses will be reimbursed.

For further details about volunteering for the service please contact:

Anne Brown, Befriending Manager
01748 825817 or 07545 207029
Anne.brown@alzheimers.org.uk
www.alzheimers.org.uk

St. Columba's Church

06/12/09	3.30pm	Topcliffe	Christingle Service
13/12/09	10.45am	Topcliffe	Holy Communion (CW Traditional) Creche/Sunday School
17/12/09	6.00pm	Topcliffe	Topcliffe C of E Primary School Nativity Play
20/12/09	10.45am	Topcliffe	Holy Communion (CW Modern) Creche/ Sunday School
	6.30pm	Topcliffe	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
24/12/09	3.00pm	Topcliffe	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Topcliffe	Midnight Mass
25/12/09	10.00am	Topcliffe Methodist Chapel	Service for Christmas Day
03/01/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Family Worship
10/01/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Holy Communion (CW Traditional) Creche/Sunday School
17/01/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Holy Communion (CW Traditional) Creche/Sunday School
24/01/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Matins
	6.30pm	Topcliffe	Choral Evensong
07/02/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Family Worship

Asenby Institute 2000 (alive and kicking!!)

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Snooker Club

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Due to increasing costs, membership may have to be raised from its current price of £15 per year.



Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

Topcliffe Surgery - 577297
www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk

Friarage Hospital - 01609 779911
www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies - 0800 111 999
www.nationalgrid.com/uk

Police - 0845 60 60 24 7
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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