



Ofsted Approval

Topcliffe school children are happily aware that they go to a good school but now it has been officially recognised as such in a recent Ofsted report.

It was noted that there had been great improvement since the last inspection and good progress for all the pupils. The good, and often outstanding, teaching provides pupils with exciting learning opportunities to motivate and interest them. The children's outstanding behaviour and high attendance have also accelerated their progress. Staff morale is high and the school's engagement with parents and carers is outstanding.

The Foundation Stage was judged to be outstanding alongside Care, Guidance and Support throughout the school. The school sees itself as a



family and older pupils help and encourage the younger children.

Topcliffe Is An Outstanding Church Of England School

Children at Topcliffe Voluntary Controlled Church of England School are celebrating Christmas in style! Amidst the Nativity performances, Christmas dinner, parties, and the School Fair they are celebrating being an outstanding Church school.

The recent Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools stated that the school's values and aims are clearly rooted in a strong Christian tradition, where children value and respect each other.

The school was thrilled that the children's enthusiasm and engagement in Collective Worship was seen as a strength.

Head Teacher Mrs. W. Shepherd said she was delighted with the way the whole community has supported the school, and how pupils are happy and confident learners, with 'Learning, Fun and Inspiration' clearly at the heart of the school.

The caring ethos and often outstanding standard of teaching has clearly impressed the Ofsted inspectors and certainly, only a good school could boast contented school children, parents and teachers.



Foundation Stage, Year 1 and 2 children celebrate Christmas by performing their Nativity, 'It's a baby!' for parents and family.



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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.

Asenby's Christmas Soiree

Once again all the grown-ups spent a lovely evening sipping mulled wine and nibbling mince pies, in aid of the maintenance of Asenby playing field. The Crab and Lobster were kind enough to allow the event to take place in their conservatory and, with the raffle proceeds, £270 was raised. The Playing Field Committee should be thanked for their hard work over the course of the year and for hosting such a lovely event.



Back: Cathy Mawson - Gail Horabin - Sharon Hutchinson

Front: Lisa Harvey - Nikki Fox - Linda Mullett - Emma McCormick

Sharon Furness and Jackie Avison are also on the committee but could not attend.

Blues Nights

Ripley's Hotel de Ville has been the unlikely setting for the Ripley Blues Club since 1999. It attracts some impressive acts, from Georgie Fame, Paul Jones' Blues Band, Buddy Whittington, The Animals, The Blockheads, and many more. It usually costs no more than £10 or £12 admittance, and rarely is the audience disappointed with the calibre of the entertainment. In fact, the lesser-known performers are often the most enjoyable. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming while the audience is cheerfully enthusiastic.

It involves getting the car out, true. But it's generally a really fab night with some excellent music, not always hard-core blues by any means. Casual dress, Theakston's beer, a raffle where the top prize is an all meat breakfast – what's not to like? Look up the Ripley Blues Club website and see what it's all about.

Message from Topcliffe Parish Council

Topcliffe Parish Council would like to extend a vote of thanks to the editors of the Tattler for their continued hard work and to the contributors and the advertisers for their continued support. The parish council will double its modest contribution towards the running of the Tattler in order to help cover the increased printing cost.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe	Asenby
Garry Key (Chairman) Cliff House, Long St. 578900	Peter Palmer (Chairman) Hilltop Farm 578057
David Bowman (Vice Chair) 21 East Lea 577843	Judy Lowe (Vice Chair) Green End Dairy 577911
Lynn Heidstrom 32 East Lea 577437	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
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Amanda Jameson-Allen 77 Long St 07594 228257	

Isobel Peters (Clerk)

Tel: 07739 258650 isobelpeters@googlemail.com

St Columba's Christingle

The loveliest of all the family services, the Christingle, was held at St Columba's. Elizabeth Molyneux enjoyed the moment along with many of her school friends.



Cosy up to Sarkozy in the New Year

The adult French class, which began in September chez Clare Phillips, has been well received, with the class opting to continue through till December, after the initial trial period of 6 weeks. All the students have progressed well and are always enthusiastic; in turn, I have very much enjoyed teaching and leading them through many diverse topics and grammatical lessons. We employ a range of mediums to encourage both spoken and written responses, including taped material, video, visual stimuli and a lively course book. Many of the language areas have been familiar, such as family, leisure time, food and French recipes, as well as revision of tenses and other important structural language elements. We will be starting the next session on Tuesday 24 January and if you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. The lessons are designed to give as much opportunity as possible to converse in and listen to French, with English being used to convey important grammatical points. The aim is progression and improvement BUT with fun!

COST £10 per session, payable in advance please, initially for either 4 or 6 weeks.

Clare Phillips

(Editor's comment: Clare's lessons are great fun and you learn proper useful French, such as recipes and being able to order a steak while feeling confident that you won't end up with turkey giblets. It's a cheerful and useful way towards feeling part of Europe – oh no, I forgot, we're not friends with them anymore). VM

News about Feoffees

Following today's meeting, Feoffees are to increase the eligible age from 65 to over 70; this does not affect the current recipients but starts to accommodate the ever increasing aging population nationally, not just of Topcliffe!! So eligible criteria after this year will be over 70 years old, live alone and not in paid employment. It may even go up to 75 in time; some other areas have the eligible age as 80.

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School's Christmas Fair

There were lots of lovely glittery stalls at Topcliffe School's Christmas Fair and, as we all know, you can never have too much glitter at Christmas, unless it's Gary then a smidgeon is more than enough. It seems there were plenty of pocket money opportunities because £300 was raised for school funds. Well done, Topcliffe School!



Topcliffe Parish Council News

This year seems to have flown by as we now approach the festive season once more. A few notes from the Parish Council. The good news in these financially stringent times is that the Parish Precept will remain unchanged for next year at £6800 and probably the following year, despite above inflation hikes in insurance and those items with a fuel dependency. The council is working to maximise efficiency.

Looking to the winter, NYCC will be providing a tonne bag of rock salt, of which Chris Hart at the farm has agreed to take delivery and to distribute to the various bins around the village; our thanks to him. Please be assured that if you clear paths of snow and ice you will NOT be liable to legal action unless you have done something daft like put hot water on the path and it freezes making the situation worse. If possible, please clear the path outside your premises.

Welcome to the new proprietors of the Angel Inn, which has undergone a major refurbishment.

Thanks to John, Cas and Lilly for their continued hospitality and their sponsorship of the football team. On behalf of all the council, enjoy a safe and jolly festive season.

Garry Key (Chairman of Topcliffe Parish Council)

If it's Christmas, think Produce Show!

Here we are facing Christmas and the New Year celebrations and someone's writing about next year's Produce Show!

Well yes...and it's all about keeping the many gardeners among you in the loop and up-to-date about developments to enhance the 2012 event.

The Show Committee has approved a whole batch of new classes in several of the main categories. In the horticultural category there are now 42 individual classes, including one for the heaviest single onion, whilst the baking category has been extended to 14 classes.

It's never too early to start thinking and planning what you might enter in the show. If you would like to see the full list – and read the revised Show Rules at www.topcliffe.net, www.asenby.net, or email doug@dougallan.co.uk and he'll send you a copy.

Asenby gardener Grahame Marsden's vegetables have featured high in the winners' list at the last two Produce Shows. If you are interested in hearing about how he does it, come along to The Angel at 8pm on Wednesday January 18 when he will be offering advice.

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Life from Afar

Sorry to have been rather lapse with my Tattler articles about life on t'other side of the world, ie. Malton. I've now been living here for just over a year and live in dread it will end up snowing as much as it did last year. Much as I love our house here, being stuck inside for 6 weeks can cause a severe attack of cabin fever, even in the loveliest of surroundings.

Husband is now a Malton plod, so even though I still don't know Malton well, I certainly know where most of the bad'uns live! I even have a link with Asenby here, as the son of Grahame Marsden (winner of this year's Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show) often works with my husband.

I'm now the treasurer of Ryedale branch MS Society, so my experience of being Village Hall treasurer and Parish Clerk to Topcliffe and Asenby is being put to good use.

All in all it's been a good year, although I still miss Topcliffe and my friends there very much.

Ange Hook

Message of gratitude From the Tattler staff

The Tattler's editors, Ange and Vicki, and our typesetter, Charles, would like to thank Topcliffe Parish Council for its generosity in doubling its annual donation to the Tattler. In these days of increasing printing costs, this means a great deal to us and will help assure the continuation of Topcliffe and Asenby's newsletter.

Thank you also for your compliments to the Tattler staff, not forgetting our contributors and advertisers. Your kind words are very much appreciated.

The Tattler staff

Nepalese Children bring smiles to Topcliffe School

Pupils from Le Cateau School were given a warm reception when they arrived to spend the day at Topcliffe School. The visitors were Nepalese and they had come to give their hosts a glimpse of life in the Himalayas.



Their arrival introduced an array of vivid colours into the school as the girls, clad in delicate turquoise saris and sparkling jewellery, treated the audience to a few examples of their national dance. The visitors painted the hands of the Yorkshire children with mendhi patterns, and invited them to sample some of their spicy regional dishes. A lively presentation was given by one of the Nepalese adults who talked humorously and descriptively about their very different way of life and astonished the children with slides of the breathtaking Himalayan scenery. The Topcliffe children then had great fun trying on various items of national dress and jewellery that their visitors had brought to show them.



Children and adults from Topcliffe felt that they had learnt so much from the visit and had also shared a wonderful experience with their guests, who are the children of Gurkha soldiers and ex-soldiers. Mrs Shepherd, said that she was delighted that the day had been such a great success for both schools.

The Millennium Book of Topcliffe

In the last edition of The Tattler we announced that the last copy of The Millennium Book of Topcliffe had been sold and that it was unlikely there'd be a further reprint.

It's back by popular demand! Your Parish councillors were persuaded that the book is still a popular purchase, particularly for new residents moving in...and as a present at Christmas time.

So now there's a fresh stock of twenty books available for sale. Unfortunately the price has again gone up – it's now £24 – but this is the actual cost of printing and no profit is made by anyone involved.

If you want a copy please contact Doug Allan at 7 Dovecote Mews or call 578526.

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

Tasting Fame

Looks like we have two new tv stars in Topcliffe. Peter and Mavis Boothroyd were seen enjoying a day out at the Leyburn Food Fair on the BBC2 programme, The Big Bread Experiment. Going out at the beginning of December, it's a documentary about a group of Bedale women who decide that making bread together, preferably while knocking back copious amounts of wine, will enhance their lives. Of course the countryside is the real star but the leader of the group, a very lively curate, clearly has aspirations to become the next Vicar of Dibley. So watch this space. And well done Peter and Mavis.

Simple Precautions To Improve Personal Safety

North Yorkshire Police have issued some useful and timely tips on how to stay safe in and around your home.

Keep the front entrance to your home well-lit and in clear view of neighbours or passers-by. Install security lighting and keep hedges and bushes trimmed back to allow clear views and avoid having places where someone could conceal themselves.

Consider planting dense, thorny plants underneath windows and around the perimeter of the garden to deter intruders. Create secure boundaries which are high and awkward enough to make scaling them difficult. Consider using crunchy gravel on drives and paths, as this will make any approach noisier.

Invest in good door and window locks...and use them even when you are in the house.

Always try to make it look as if there is someone in the house when there isn't. This will help to deter burglars and will make you feel safer when returning home.

If you live alone, ensure someone knows if you are safe. Try to ensure that someone always knows where you are and that you are ok. Consider arranging with a friend/family member to call each other each night (or if you are going out anywhere) to check that you are both safe and well. If this feels too intrusive, a quick text would be enough. Agree what they should do if they are unable to contact you after trying several times, e.g. calling round to check if you are ok.

Take precautions against bogus callers. It's advisable to install a door chain, spy-hole and good outside lighting. Before opening the door, check if you know them or not. If not, put the door chain on before opening the door and ask the caller for proof of identity. Keep them waiting until you're satisfied, even if that means calling their company to check. Once you have admitted the caller, don't leave them on their own while you go into a different room. Never let someone you don't know into your house without checking their identification thoroughly. Never let someone into your house because you feel rude not to.

Don't publicise the fact that your home is empty. Avoid broadcasting – whether online or in the pub, at work or in the gym etc. – that you live alone or will be alone in the house at a specific time. Keep this information for people you know well. Similarly, don't let strangers know details of when your house will be empty for any given period. It's a good idea to keep a light on when you are going out so that when you return it doesn't look like you are returning to an empty property.

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Christmas Angel

The New Improved Angel is up and running and welcoming customers in time for Christmas. It has been completely refurbished in a far more comfortable style. The food is pub grub so far, but there are plans to expand the menu. Also, traditionalists will be pleased to hear, while it's a bit too soon to expect the new landlord and landlady to lay on the annual Boxing Day Party, they have promised a buffet for locals in the bar. So, Readers, show some community spirit and support your local pub. Both of them!



Something for Everyone at the Village Hall



Fit for Anything

Yoga with Barry Walmsley is changing from Tuesday to **Monday** evenings in the New Year. Classes will start at 7.15. Ring Barry on 577976.

Pilates classes are still going strong on Monday and Tuesdays from 9.30-10.30am and Thursday from 10.15 – 11.15. Ring 07887 581364.

Zumba classes will now be held on Tuesday evenings starting on January 10. Amanda Piper is taking these sessions from 6.30pm which will cost £4.50 each. Ring 0771 3895991.

Tang Soo Do: There will be three sessions – Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Ring 01439 798198.

There is a possibility of Tai Chi Quong classes taking place in the New Year. Details will be posted on the notice board.

Black Hole Vanishes

Users of the hall may have noticed that the hole, which was in the corner of the room, has disappeared. Thank you to our users who may have been inconvenienced whilst repairs were taking place. Thank you to Steve Halliday for such a neat job. (We're pleased to hear that Steve is up and running – well, probably not literally – after his recent illness).

Book Exchange

There's no paperwork to go through and no fines for late returns so just come and borrow a book or two from the excellent collection. The Book Exchange is held on Tuesday afternoons from 3-5pm. Tea/coffee available for 50p. Remember to use the back door when the Senior Citizens' Meeting is taking place in the main hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

Bowled Over

Members are still rolling on the mats on Thursday evenings. Why not roll with them? New members welcome. Contact David Winfield on 577930.

Child's Play

On Wednesday mornings there is a meeting of "Daisychain," the group for childminders. Ring 577739 for more information.

Toddlers and carers meet on Friday mornings. Ring 578308.

Rainbow Brownies meet on Wednesday from 3.30-5pm. Ring 595097.

Brownies meet also on Wednesdays from 5.15 to 6.45. Ring 01609 748582.

Artful Inclinations

Watercolour classes have a short waiting list and the September Produce Show indicated an enthusiastic interest in painting with the many entries. Classes will re-start with Mike Dobson on Monday January 16 at 1pm. Call Linda on 577315 for further details.

Furry Friends on Show

The Northern Hamster Show will be using the hall again on April 21. The exhibitors welcome visitors to see the hamsters and ask questions. If you are considering one as a pet, this is an ideal opportunity to learn about their care and upkeep.

Something on Your Mind?

Topcliffe Parish Council meets on the third Monday of every month (Asenby meets on the third Wednesday alternate months) in the meeting room at the back of the village hall via the back door. (Please don't interrupt classes in the main hall). Ring Isobel Peters on 578663 for times.

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Friarage Hospital - 01609 779911

www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies - 0800 111 999

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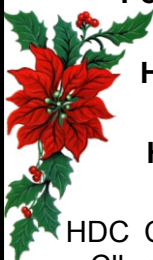
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