



Team Effort Brings Ofsted Success To Topcliffe Pre - School Playgroup

Topcliffe Pre - School Playgroup is delighted with the successful outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection in October in which they were rated as Good in all areas. Following an Ofsted inspection in May the staff and committee with assistance from the Local Education Authority have, with a lot of hard work and commitment, turned the fortunes of Topcliffe Pre - School Playgroup around.



Big Smiles Say It All

The report is positive in all aspects of the provision in particular that: "The quality of teaching is good. Children are busy, enthusiastic and confident learners." The report also states: "Children are well protected because staff have a good knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Therefore, children are provided with a safe and secure environment."

Ofsted said: "All staff prioritise children's safety and are committed to providing an environment that is welcoming, safe and stimulating, where children develop their confidence and enjoy their learning experience." and "The playgroup is well run by a

friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic committee and staff team."

The playgroup, which was registered in 1992, is situated within the grounds of Topcliffe C of E Primary School and is open five days a week. They also have a "Topcliffe Tots" group on a Monday afternoon during term - time.

If you require any further information regarding Topcliffe Pre - School Playgroup or Topcliffe Tots please feel free to contact Jessica Robertson, Playgroup Manager, on 578959 or have a look at the website www.topcliffeplaygroup.co.uk

"Planned For The Village Hall in 2015...."



'Wonderful songs, gentle anecdotes and delicious leg-pulling...a gem of an evening!'
Quarndon Village Hall, Derbyshire.

'We were entranced by their ability to make their instruments talk, their amusing stories and gentle humour (and) amazed that two hours passed so quickly, it was a wonderful evening.'
Paul Meredith, The Barn Theatre, Smallhythe Place. Kent.

"Heartfelt songs rooted in a love for people, places and nature. Two great communicators who are also fine musicians and singers - the Roundhouse audience was spellbound."
Bruce Carnaffin, Staveley Roundhouse Theatre. Cumbria.

January 24th- Hetton

7pm Free Admission (collection for charity)

January 25th- Topcliffe

Queen Mary's School

Baldersby Park,

Topcliffe YO73BZ

1pm- Free Admission (collection for charity)



Adam Robinson-Violin



Andrew Bedford - Piano

VIOLIN AND PIANO RECITAL

Cesar Frank - Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano

Frederic Chopin - Nocturne No.2 in E flat arr. Sarasate

Fritz Kreisler - Preludium and Allegro

Piano And Violin Recital

Queen Mary's will play host to this recital on January 25 at 1pm. While there will be no admission charge, there will be a collection when proceeds will go to St Columba's and Clie Sargent. Light refreshments will be served.



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Asenby Says Goodbye To Its Oldest Resident

Peter Halliday, who died recently at his home in Asenby, celebrated his 100th birthday in early 2013 with the arrival of a birthday card from the Queen. The card was one of many for the man who had spent nearly all of his many years in the village.

His parents and their nine children lived at the cobbler's shop, later moving to the blacksmith's shop when he was two. He attended Topcliffe School until he was 15 when he left Yorkshire to work for Lord Roseberry of Mentmore in Buckinghamshire, spending seven years as a gardener, then three years as a chauffeur.

He returned home to work in the blacksmith's shop in Asenby until he was called up to serve in the Second World War, when he became chauffeur to an army officer. On his discharge he returned to the blacksmith's shop where he continued to work until 1990.



Peter Halliday, who died recently, with his card from the Queen, congratulating him on reaching 100 last year.

Mr Halliday never married but, having been born into a large family, he was never short of visitors. A keen reader of the newspaper and an avid lover of crosswords, friends, neighbours and relatives enabled him to keep his independence at his home in Asenby.

Those Cameras Are Working!

If you are planning to drive north through the A1's 12 mile stretch of road works between Leeming Bar and Barton, then stick to the 50 mph speed limit and don't be tempted by others that are overtaking you.

Some 1,392 motorists have incurred speeding offences according to a report by North Yorkshire Police along this stretch of the A1 which is being upgraded. These cameras measure the speeds of vehicles between EACH camera.

So beware ... don't be one of the 25 motorists each day that are being caught for speeding along this stretch of local highway!

Overwhelming Response To Village Hall Consultation

When the Village Hall Committee launched an evidence-gathering exercise to ask the views of villagers and hall users it never expected such an overwhelming response from local people.

In all, an amazing 189 responses were received and the committee is extremely grateful to everyone who filled in a questionnaire.

This evidence gathered will be used to support applications for grant aid to help us undertake the major improvements to the hall, which were given planning approval by Hambleton Council last July.

Although the comments praised the location of the hall and its size, the results also identified that:

- 80% think that providing new toilet facilities is 'quite' or 'very' important.
- 59% think that creating more storage space is 'quite' or 'very' important.
- 64% think that an improved entrance facility is 'quite' or 'very' important.
- 59% think that an improved access ramp is 'quite' or 'very' important.
- 41% think that improvements to the external frontage is 'quite' or 'very' important.
- 74% think that a total refurbishment of the kitchen is 'quite' or 'very' important.

The consultation also identified that a considerable number of residents would be interested in joining existing activities if the hall is improved, or in joining in a range of new activities, if they are organised. A significant number of people 35 (or 15%) suggested activities that they would be prepared to facilitate.

70% of respondents suggested that they would be prepared to hire the hall for a private function, especially if improvements were undertaken. From the list of suggested facilities that would be likely to benefit most, a large hall and kitchen facilities were most popular, attracting 53% of responses.

Among facilities (in addition to the list above) that residents thought would enhance the hall were: a stage and lighting, internet access, secure cycle parking, baby changing facilities, outside seating and tables, showers, solar panels, lounge/bar and internal marquee.

NOTE: The planned improvements, which are estimated to cost in the region of £100,000, include the construction of a new toilet facilities, conversion of existing toilet areas for storage, new less steep ramp and external planters, much improved entrance and lobby area, plus major enhancements to the external appearance of the building. In addition the kitchen will be totally refurbished.

Doug Allan

Answers Throw Up More Questions

The responses to the Village Hall Questionnaire have helped enormously to see how the committee should be taking the upgrading plans forward. The forms have been analysed additionally to see how the community's needs and interests can be better met. Strangely, the number of people showing interest in various activities is not reflected in attendance when they already exist. Further analysis may throw light on this. Perhaps activities are not promoted in the right way or timings could be improved, although because the hall is well used there isn't a great deal of flexibility. Please send comments to the editor or to Linda Nuttall on 577315.

Keep Fit was of interest to 88 people which was the highest expression of interest. Of course this includes a range of ages and fitness levels, but once the alterations are complete, we can look to providing more classes not covered by Yoga (gentle and intermediate) on Monday evenings, or Pilates on Monday and Thursday mornings, or indeed indoor carpet bowls on Thursday evenings and Tang Soo Do on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Many thought the library was a good idea but may not be aware that it is open on Tues afternoons from 3 - 4.30 pm, or may not realise they can pop into the back room and borrow books when they are in the hall for any other reason.

A very big thank you to those respondents who have offered help in all manner of ways. There will be a drinks and nibbles meeting in February for all these people where we can see how we can best use their efforts. If, for any reason, you couldn't get your questionnaire returned but can help in any way whatsoever it isn't too late - give the booking clerk a ring on 577315.

Linda Nuttall

Topcliffe Playgroup

Awarded for the third consecutive year
'Highly Effective Setting'

Good Ofsted Inspection with 'Outstanding' features
Children from 2 years old up to school age can come and join us at this warm, friendly and fantastic setting?

Government funding from 3 years old and above
Term Time

Monday & Friday
9.00am - 12.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9.00am - 3.00pm

Lunch Club everyday
(Packed lunch or cooked school dinner)

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**Please feel free to call us on 578959
or visit us anytime!**

Topcliffe Playgroup, The Portacabin, Topcliffe C of E School,
School Lane, Topcliffe, Thirsk YO7 3RG



Mental Health Support In Hambleton And Richmondshire

We are a registered Charitable Organisation which offers support to people who are experiencing mental health problems and who live in the Hambleton & Richmondshire districts. We have a wide range of services;

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We run courses in:
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Growing in Confidence
Relaxation Techniques
Anger Management
Managing Stress and Anxiety

We deliver both Mental Health First Aid Lite Training (Taster) and the Mental Health First Aid Standard Training

For more information please contact: Jackie Glackin on 01609 7807581 or 07891192271.

Fun And Games At The Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club enjoyed a hearty Christmas lunch at The Red House where they received a warm welcome. The staff were helpful and flexible, and there were no grumbles if any diners changed their mind after they'd seen someone else's pudding. Traditional turkey wasn't the only main course and it was pleasing to be offered several interesting alternatives. Overall, it was a popular choice of venue and most people considered it was good value for money.



Gus, Sylvia, Derek and Doreen.

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Asenby Vacancy

There is a casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor in Asenby until May 2016. Please ring Peter Palmer on 578057 if interested.

The beginning of January encouraged everyone to shed the pounds they'd piled on over Christmas with some gentle exercise. Boccia and New Age Curling at the Tuesday Club proved that age and disability were not reasonable excuses to get out of PE. There was a slight competitive edge but plenty of cheering, words of encouragement and applause. Apparatus was provided to enable anyone with mobility difficulties to join in and there were some surprises when it came to our own Jessica Ennis who proved to be our most senior citizen, Nellie Ashcroft, in fine fettle at 95. An example to us all.



Nellie, Pauline, Dot and Ada.

Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month. The next one will be on February 3rd when the Town Crier from Ripon will be appearing in full regalia to talk about his nightly performance in the town square. Everyone is welcome to the Tuesday Club. Ring Judith Lowe on 577911 for more details.

News From The Topcliffe Feoffees

The Topcliffe Feoffees are sorry they were unable to organise the lunch this Christmas, due to the lack of time. However, if people would like this or something different to happen next year, we are more than happy to consider your ideas. People could consider if they would want a present... biscuits/ chocolate/ nuts or are the majority happy with the £10 gift? If we do not hear from you, we will assume to carry on as we are and give you a gift of £10. Please phone Anne Marie or myself to let us know your choice.

The criteria for eligibility this year has risen to 80 years of age. If you feel you qualify and we have unfortunately not been aware of your status, please do contact us.

Best Christmas wishes from myself (Amanda) and Anne Marie



Tel: Amanda 595050 or 07594 225254
Tel: Anne Marie 577356 or 07740 175311

Snooker Club

At only £25 a year, the Snooker Club situated in the Toll Booth, is excellent value. There are two tables, one full size and one three quarters; the club is heated, and you get your own key so you can play whenever you like. The club welcomes new members but under-18s must be accompanied by parents. Contact Dave Bowman on 577843



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Give 'em The Cold Shoulder!

North Yorkshire Trading Standards is asking residents to report traders who cold call at local homes in an effort to obtain work.

A spokesperson for Trading Standards said, "We have a zero tolerance approach to cold calling and doorstep crime because we are aware of the detriment that it can cause vulnerable residents."

"Itinerant traders use this approach to take advantage of vulnerable people, often acting aggressively to railroad them into agreeing to over charged and unnecessary work to their homes."

If you see anything suspicious please report it to the Police by ringing 101 or to Trading Standards by calling 0845 40 40 506 or emailing:
investigationsandsafeguarding@northyorks.gov.uk

Asenby Council Information

Grahame Marsden has resigned from the Parish Council and has been replaced by Peter Dale. Contact Peter on 577373.

The Parish Clerk for Asenby is now Jayne Molyneux 595053.

The North Yorkshire Councillor for Asenby is:
Cllr Margaret Atkinson 01765-658545.

Mulled Wine Evening

Christmas was a busy time for the Asenby Institute.

It began with another successful shopping trip to the Trafford Centre raising £180.

Christmas really felt like it had started at the Annual Mulled Wine Evening on December 14th. Although a smaller turn out than usual, it raised a healthy £214. Many thanks for the generosity of everyone who attended and to West Park for providing a super raffle prize of £50 to spend in any of their venues. A special thank you to Crab Manor for providing the venue yet again. It really is appreciated.

Emma

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Topcliffe Parish Council News

This year has seen some considerable changes to policy by our local government, requiring not the resolution of in-house financial problems but simply passing some costs onto the Parish Council. In particular, NYCC has resolved to cut grass areas only in identified areas for road safety 3 times per year, and consequently removed the grass cutting grant of about £750 which, if the parish wishes to maintain amenity, it will have to make up. HDC have resolved to charge us proportionately for parish elections, even if held at the same time as Parliamentary, County and District elections. This is a change from previous policy. Even if we don't hold parish elections we face a charge of £100. The cost of holding an election would amount to about £1,000, which the parish would have pay over four years

Unfortunately, The Parish Council has regrettably been forced to raise the precept by £800 and will cover the cost of elections from reserves if necessary.

With regard to enforcement of the 7.5 ton weight limit, we have had no response from NYCC, despite suggesting a local help plan, and no support from our council representative at County. I have learned that the improved 4-way A168 junction for the controversial Sowerby Gateway project has been placed on hold, while a revised scheme is put forward by the developers. The reason given, is that no NYCC traffic survey was done and that has now been commissioned. This will take months. I question how a revised amendment can be considered before the results of the survey are known?

On a brighter note, we have had a positive response to a request to extend the 30mph zone out beyond the S bends on Station Road leading out of the village, which is good news.

'Up The Garden Path'

Lawn need Mowing?
Dog need walking/sitting?
House need a bit of a tidy or sort out?
Shed need clearing?
Shopping need doing?Or

Any other little jobs 'Up your garden path' that I can help you with.



The contact me, Heather, on 578796 or 07752653034 and I will pop round and see if I can help you.

The Parish Council has also held a site meeting with the installers of the Play Park to see how we might improve it for younger children. The result was that the installers will apply for a grant on our behalf, using their in-house bid team for an additional scheme for toddlers and infants. The outcome should be known in January.

The build up for Magna Carta moves on with an agreed date of Sunday 14th June 2015 as the day of festivities. The PC has applied for £4,500 from the Magna Carta 800th committee to fund some activities and we should know in January if it has been successful. The PC has received a parchment facsimile of Magna Carta (free) from the Magna Carta Barons Association. It is intended to display this in the church along with the planting of a MC Rose in the churchyard. The PC has purchased some high quality greetings cards, tea towels (yet to arrive) and scrolls displaying Magna Carta and baronial emblems. These are very reasonably priced and will be available for purchase. In the New Year the PC will be setting up a committee to support the celebrations. Anyone wishing to join, please contact a member of the PC.

Looking forward to the elections in May. Please consider standing for Topcliffe Parish Council. If more than five wish to stand, I will gladly step down to make way for new blood and new ideas.

That is a brief roundup of Parish activity and it remains to wish you all joy of the season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Regards,

Garry Key (Chairman Topcliffe Parish Council)



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A Brick In The Hall

Plans are being finalised for a fund raising event with a difference...and it's probably the most ambitious that the Village Hall Committee has ever launched.

The idea is raise funds for village hall improvements by selling individual "bricks".

In the near future, the notice board on the left side of the main hall (as you walk in) will be papered with "brick" wallpaper which depicts foundation, full and half bricks which will be sold at £25, £10 and £5 respectively.

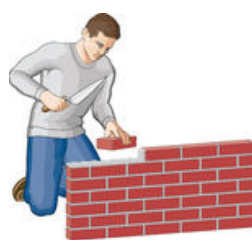
The bricks will be numbered and referenced to a Record Book in which buyers' names will be noted. Buyers will be given a receipt for their numbered brick.

In addition to the static wall of bricks in the village hall, a transportable "wall of bricks" will be created for use at events held elsewhere. Bricks sold will later be marked up on the main wall and recorded in the Record Book.

Once £1,000 has been raised, a draw will be held offering the chance to win prize money totalling £100, based on an agreed percentage for £25, £10 and £5 brick buyers. Similar draws will take place if the scheme is successful and further amounts of £1,000 are raised.

Once the improvements are completed, the name of everyone buying a brick will be listed on a commemorative plaque which will be produced and displayed in the completed village hall.

Anyone wishing to reserve a brick can do so by calling Doug Allan on 578526 or contacting any member of the Village Hall Committee, namely Andrew Eckersley, Judith Lowe, Linda Nuttall, David Bowman, Ray Parkin, Jane Graham or Amanda Jameson-Allen.



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 Wallis 32 East Lea 577437	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
Mark Bowen 23 Manor Close 07703 040471	Peter Dale 577373
Amanda Jameson-Allen 77 Long St 07594 225254	
Jayne Molyneux (Clerk) 595053	

Pilates at the Village Hall

Monday 9-9.30am
KETTLE BELL PILATES

An energetic class, combining cardiovascular & toning exercises.

Monday 9.30-10.30am
MAT PILATES

Classic Pilates. Core strength work & stretching.

Tuesday 9-9.30am
KETTLE BELL PILATES

Classic Pilates. Core strength work & stretching.

Tuesday 9.30-10.30am
BALL PILATES CLASS

Gym balls & toning exercises. Help strengthen the core, improve balance and co-ordination.

Thursday 10.15-11.15am
MIXED EQUIPMENT PILATES CLASS

Certified Pilates Instructor and Sport Therapist.
Please ring Nicole on 07887 581364

Get Thinking!

It's going to take a lot of hard work and enthusiastic fundraising to achieve our ambition for a state-of-the-art village hall, so any help will be gratefully received, as will any ingenious money raising schemes. Please contact Doug Allan on 578526 with your brilliant ideas.

www.Topcliffe.net & www.Asenby.net

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

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



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 - 101 Textphone 18001 101
www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Hambleton DC - 01609 779977
www.hambleton.gov.uk

Harrogate BC - 01423 568954
www.harrogate.gov.uk

HDC Cllr Garry Key 01845 578900
cllr.garry.key@hambleton.gov

HBC Cllr Margaret Atkinson 01765 658545

Comedy Nights

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3rd February | 3rd March
14th April

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14th Feb - Valentines

15th March - Mother's Day

5th April - Easter Sunday

Perfect for those New Year's Resolutions

Skinnylicious Menu

STARTERS

Garlic Mushrooms 104 Calories
Breaded Garlic Mushrooms, Dressed Watercress Salad, Pepper Coulis
£4.95

Calamari Salad 157 Calories
Lemon & Herb Chilled Calamari Salad, Roast Red Peppers, Kalamata Olives, Cherry Tomatoes
£6.95

MAINS

Cod Loin 355 Calories
Grilled Cod Loin, Lemon & Herb Risotto, Spicy Baby Tomato Sauce
£12.95

Chicken 403 Calories
Caramelised Chicken Fillet wrapped in Parma Ham, Creamy Mushroom Sauce, Green Bean Parcel
£11.95

DESSERTS

Chocolate Fudge Pie 272 Calories
Chocolate Fudge Pie, Raspberry Compote
£5.95

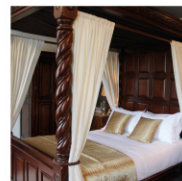
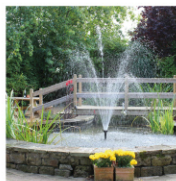
Lemon Meringue Pie 303 Calories
Lemon Meringue Pie, Mint Syrup
£5.95

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Wedding Open Day | 29th March

Editorial: Vicki Moores / Angela Hook - Tel. 578076: (E-mail: tattler@topcliffe.net)

Production: Charles Collinson - Tel. 578464