



## Village Hall Improvement Update

At last, and after an unbelievable amount of work and effort from Doug Allan (our chief fund raiser), we are pleased to inform you that the proposed improvements to the Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall will start in February. The improvements to the kitchen are essentially complete, with only a small amount of decorating still needing to be done and a new light fitting to be installed.

Doug's successful grant applications, along with all the monies raised by you the villagers (Brick-in-the-Hall, donations and function support) has achieved to date approximately 90% of the £140,000 we need to complete the refurbishment works. This has enabled the village hall committee to appoint a main contractor, Paul Thompson of Northallerton, to start work.

Work will take around 12 weeks so should be finished by mid to late May. For those who are not aware of the project (new to the villages or just awoken from a long sleep!) a copy of the proposed changes Charles Shaw drew and submitted for planning consent can be found in the entrance to the village hall and there's a copy of the front elevation drawing alongside this article. Charles is now finalising the specifications with the building contractor and selecting materials to be used both inside and outside for what we hope will be a much improved toilet, entrance hall, disabled access and front elevation.

Whilst many organisations, including WREN, Yorventure, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, Hambleton Council and the National Lottery, have kindly provided the bulk of the project funding, numerous other charities and individuals have contributed to enable the improvements to go ahead.

The final bit of funding required to finish the refurbishment still needs to be raised, so if you have not bought a "Brick-in-the Hall", or would like to offer your support in any other way, please contact one of the village hall committee members.

A full list of charities and organisations that have kindly supported the Village Hall improvements is below.

Andrew Eckersley

Chairman

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee

Tel: 01845 577648

### GRANTS AWARDED

The following three grants were used to refurbish the kitchen:

National Lottery: Awards for  
All - £10,000



LOTTERY FUNDED



EAST ELEVATION AS PROPOSED

Hambleton Council - £5,000

Broadacres - £500

These grants have been awarded for the major improvements:

WREN's FCC Community Action Fund - £49,860

Yorventure - £37,020

Armed Forces Covenant Fund - £8,100

Garfield Weston Trust - £7,500

Harrogate Council - £2,994

Sir George Martin Trust - £1,000

Jack Brunton Trust - £1,000

Two Ridings Community Foundation - £1,000

Barchester Healthcare Foundation - £1,000

Skinners Company - Lady Neville Charity - £650

Locality Funds (North Yorkshire county councillors

Margaret Atkinson and Bob Baker) - £600

### More prize winners!

When each thousand pounds is raised from the Brick-in-the-Hall scheme we hold a prize draw which gives 'buyers' a chance to win something back.

The second such draw was held in October and the winners were: Iain & Sarah McPherson - £50, Peter Palmer - £25 and Alan Nuttall - £25.

Everyone who contributes to the raising of the third £1,000 will have their name entered in the next draw and have a chance to win one of three prizes with a total value of £100

### Lent Lunches

Time to put away thoughts of sherry and chocolate and instead, look forward to lovely friendly gatherings in the village hall. Lent Lunches will be available every Wednesday throughout Lent, ie February 24, March 2, March 9, March 16 between 12.15-1.15. Free soup, bread, tea and coffee will be available but donations to Christian Aid will be gratefully received.

## 50 Years of Wedded Bliss

Popular Topcliffe residents, Gus and Sylvia Storah celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary lately, in some style.

In June they attended a Golden Wedding Service at Ripon Cathedral when they renewed their vows. In September, they enjoyed a party on the Greek island of Kos, where they'd enjoyed many happy holidays over the last 28 years. Greek and English friends joined together to make the occasion extra special for the couple. During November they were delighted when their oldest friends surprised them by arriving from London, Liverpool and Leeds to spend their actual anniversary with them.



Gus and Sylvia met in Malham where Gus was camping and potholing and Sylvia was caravanning. Originally from Bradford, they eventually married and later had one son, Chris, who now lives in Australia and has three sons of his own. In 1970 they moved to Topcliffe where Gus worked as a painter and decorator at Topcliffe Aerodrome, now Alanbrooke Barracks, while Sylvia worked as a seamstress at Baldersby Park.

Gus and Sylvia are very much part of Topcliffe life. They enjoy going to the Tuesday Club at the village hall where they play boccia and new age curling. On Sundays, they're regular quiz members in The Angel.

Sylvia insists there's no secret to a long and happy marriage other than lots of patience and a good sense of humour.



*And this year, the prize for best toiling of the soil goes to Peter Brown. Well done Peter. And well done everyone else who won with their unusual coloured veg; their scrumptious cakes that none of us, even the press, were allowed to sample; and the glorious paintings. Congratulations Productive People of Topcliffe.*

## Christmas Hamper Draw

The Christmas draw appropriately took place on Christmas Eve in The Angel. The hamper had been displayed on the bar for a while which boosted the sale of tickets, thanks to The Angel management. The winner was Jayne Burrill of Dalton and was delivered later that evening in case she wanted the goodies it contained for Christmas! Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets and helped raise £100 towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall. Don't worry if you didn't win - you may be lucky next Christmas!



## Situations Vacant

The Topcliffe Consolidated Charities are looking to appoint an Administrator to:

- Clerk the Annual Meeting
- Facilitate applications for Educational grants
- Maintain the book-keeping
- Make returns to the Charity Commission

The Consolidated Charities are a small concern and the work is not onerous. Expenses will be covered and an Honorarium of £50 is offered.

The essential quality in an Administrator is someone who has a heart for the local community.

For further details and to express an interest (before the end of February), please contact:

The Rev'd Susanne Jukes  
578513

## Pilates At The Village Hall

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## Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens

The new kitchen in the village hall was well and truly christened at the Christmas Lunch which was provided by some talented chefs and skillful waitresses.



30 guests had a thoroughly fantastic 3-course meal. Everything went smoothly (of course) and the helpers were particularly enthusiastic about the super-duper new dishwasher. Many thanks to Richard Virr whose cooking skills are legendary and has now put himself at risk of being the number one chef to call whenever an event takes place in the village hall. By charging guests £10 each, funds were boosted for the Boccia and Seniors Club.



If the festive enthusiasm is anything to go by, this could be the start of a news tradition.

### Great News!!

We are pleased to advise that UK Hydro Ltd withdrew their application for the proposed hydro at Topcliffe Weir.

The application was due to go before Harrogate Councils planning committee on 2nd February.

The recommendation from the planning officer at Harrogate Council was that the committee should REFUSE the application.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped to get us to this point.

*Ruth Stockdale*



## Topcliffe Playgroup

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

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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

## Do you drink YORKSHIRE TEA?

Did you know that the barcodes can be used to buy wheelchairs for children overseas? If you think you may be able to help this project please cut out the barcodes from any Yorkshire Tea product and either leave them in the envelopes in the village hall or Asenby bus shelter or contact Carole Ford (577718) who will arrange to collect them.

**Thank you so much!**

Using something we would normally throw away to do good in the world by giving children mobility and dignity. A win-win situation!



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## Parish Council News

A new year has started and the PC wish all residents a happy, healthy and prosperous one. In 2015 the main event was the celebration of Magna Carta This proved to be a great success, provided entertainment in the form of historical Norman re-enactors and tremendous falconry display, social contact with a well-attended splendid medieval period church service and sumptuous Hog Roast. The school enjoyed a relaxing yet exciting educational experience and the event has left a lasting legacy to be proud of, namely the Magnificent Magna Carta facsimile display and banners in the church, a new notice board, a fabulous shield and village signage. A new commemorative rose garden and a cutting from an 800 year old oak tree remains to be installed in the Church grounds in the spring. This was all achieved within budget and without significant cost to the village due to the generous grant received from the Magna Carta 800th Committee. Thank you to all those who participated. It is interesting to note that we were the only recipient of grant aid that delivered on all and more planned events and items.

That was the positive. In the last quarter the village has been subject to some mindless vandalism to village property, namely the destruction and burning of benches at the play park, and most seriously criminal damage to cars at East Lea and Back Lane, as well as threatening letters. This is not acceptable in our close community and the Parish Council will be working with the Police and local residents affected to implement measures to prevent and bring those responsible to justice. Also someone has driven across the playing field again in wet conditions, and rutted the ground. Please show common sense and do not drive over the field in such conditions or the gate will be locked. Over the last 15 years damage through vandalism has cost almost a year's precept which we all pay for. Please help to stop it.

Last year we applied for and received a very generous grant from the National Lottery for a new addition to the play park aimed at 2-7 year olds. This was due for installation in October but unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions this has had to be delayed until February or March. It has long been an aspiration of the PC to improve the Sheep Wash area to make it more secure and a better amenity for recreational activity. After consultation with The Woodland Trust a plan was formulated for staged development and a valiant group of village gladiators headed by Linda and Alan Nuttall commenced serious work on a Sunday 24th January and cleared an immense quantity of dead and unwanted brush. The snowdrops look magnificent by the way. Progress will be ongoing. Well done to all who participated and any volunteers for future work please contact Linda.

The PC arranged and bought a splendid new team sports kit for the school. The old one was way past its serviceable date. This was made possible by the generosity of three local businesses whose finance made it possible. The PC and the children at the school are extremely grateful to The Angel at Topcliffe, York House Leisure and Cargill Nutrition for their generous sponsorship for the high quality Adidas kit which was

provided by Fox Stitch of Thirsk. It looks fabulous and brought huge smiles and applause from the children. Hopefully this will encourage participation in sporting activity improving health and physical conditioning of our youngsters who are our future. An immense thank you to the sponsors who have demonstrated great commitment and support to our youth.



Heavy traffic remains an issue but the authorities are seemingly not willing to help with a solution to non-entitled vehicles and have again reduced the grass cutting subsidy for their grass which, unfortunately, has had to be passed on in the form of a small precept rise.

We say cheerio to our Clerk Debbie Alderson and thank her for her commitment and welcome our new Clerk Alex Little with effect from February 1.

Have a good Spring and hopefully the ground will soon be dry.

Garry key  
garrykey@aol.com

### Asenby's Christmas Mulled Wine Evening

The annual Mince Pie and Mulled Wine Evening raised £140 which will be used for playgroup maintenance. This was particularly impressive as the event wasn't well-attended and it would be nice to see young parents getting involved as the playing field is kept in good condition for their children's benefit. It's important for the next generation to take over the mantle of community projects such as this and it's a great way of making friends and feeling part of the village.

### '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.

## New 100 Club

Friends Of Topcliffe School (FOTS) are pleased to announce their new 100 club. If you are interested in supporting the school's fundraising and having the chance to win some money at the same time, please contact Caroline on 07980499778, call into the School for an application form or download the form from the School's website:

<http://www.topcliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk/school-information/fots>

## Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Hambleton and Richmondshire Citizens' Advice Bureau has recently opened a new information and advice session funded by the Big Lottery in Topcliffe Doctors Surgery on a Monday morning 9.30am - 11.30am. Our adviser can give information and advice on any matter to anyone, they do not have to be a member of the surgery.

## Peter Boothroyd

Sadly, a lovely gentleman died in August. Peter Boothroyd, husband of Mavis, passed away at the age of 89. The couple had moved here a few years ago, having lived in Leyland for 35 years when Peter worked at the Refuge Insurance Company in Chorley. Two daughters still live in Chorley while their son lives in Taunton but the family had also grown to include seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The couple settled happily in Topcliffe, joining both the indoor and outdoor bowling clubs and attending church regularly. It doesn't seem too long ago since they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary when they renewed their vows in St Columba's, a service conducted by the Rev. Christine Haddon-Reece.

Peter was a courteous and kindly man whose gentle friendliness will be missed by many.

## 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



## Meeting His Grace the Archbishop of York

Recently a group of Key Stage Two children accompanied me to Queen Mary's School to meet, greet and question the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, as he came through our area as part of his six month pilgrimage around the diocese. We joined in with Queen Mary's pupils as they sang and danced an African themed greeting and then joined with pupils from Queen Mary's and other local primary schools for a session of songs followed by question and answer. I was very impressed by the quality of the questions that our children asked and with their conduct and confidence in an unfamiliar situation. The only downside (if there was one) to a really good afternoon was that the children would now like Topcliffe school to have a roaring log fire in the entrance, like Queen Mary's! I'm sure Mrs Hartley would appreciate this development. Our thanks go to Queen Mary's school for their hospitality and the use of their mini-bus.

*Mrs S Porteous  
Acting Head Teacher*



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## An Art Gallery in Topcliffe!

After many weeks of hard work, we are delighted to say that our gallery in Front Street is now open! As one passer-by remarked: "An art gallery in Topcliffe? I've lived 'ere all my life and we've never 'ad owt like that!" We think he liked the idea. We already love being here and have been made very welcome - thank you.

### About us



We first met at an art show in 2004. Over the next few weeks we kept meeting at other local art shows and eventually, our friendship blossomed into something more. We had a lot in common, including the fact that we had both always dreamed of making a living from our art! To see if people liked our work, we decided to take our work to some local craft fairs and see if we could sell it. Encouraged by sales at these events, we opened a small gallery at Addingham Moorside, near Ilkley, in a little barn conversion called "The Elm". Although it was 2 miles from the main road with virtually no passing trade, we ran The Elm Gallery there for almost 8 years. Sadly, after a summer of almost continuous rain three years ago, we were forced to close the gallery due to lack of visitors. For the last three years, we've hired different village halls in Yorkshire and put on many exhibitions of our work, trading as The Elm Gallery because everyone still called us that! We got married in November 2013 and celebrated our second anniversary with a meal at The Angel.

### The New Elm Gallery

We decided early in 2015 that we should look for a bigger house. We were living in a small cottage in Cononley, near Skipton but it wasn't big enough for us to display our work there. We wanted a property in which we could both live and sell our work. Eventually we found The Old Post House in Topcliffe and felt that this would give us everything we needed. We got planning permission to change the commercial side of the property into a gallery and moved here on the 5th of October 2015, opening the gallery on the 6th of December.

### Our art

We both have very different painting styles but we both share a love of detail, so our paintings take quite a lot of time to do. Dave's paintings are more traditional and he mainly uses watercolour, often adding fine detail in pen and ink. My paintings have a more contemporary style and I prefer strong bold colours and a variety of media. Between us, we paint landscapes, animals, birds, flowers, foliage and mystical subjects. The gallery has three rooms which display our original paintings and prints, as well as a

## Church, Schools, Community... bringing it all together

Wednesday 6th January 2016 was a notable date in the Topcliffe diary. It was the day when we welcomed The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, to the village. It was by no means his first visit (in fact he was here just two years ago) but this time it wasn't for a formal service, but as part of his Pilgrimage of Witness, Prayer and Blessing. The Pilgrimage is a six-month undertaking that the Archbishop has made to walk throughout the whole of the Diocese of York. He began in the Whitby area at the beginning of December last year, and will complete the walk at the beginning of summer this year, and for those who have internet access, his journey can be followed on the Diocese of York web-site.

And so, at mid-day on 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany, the Archbishop arrived at Baldersby St James. After having lunch in church with members of the community and the local school children, he walked with them along the lanes and across the fields to Queen Mary's School, where children from Topcliffe and Dishforth Schools joined the Baldersby and Queen Mary pupils for a Question and Answer session with the Archbishop. The questions were interesting and far-ranging, and the Archbishop answered them honestly and fully. From there the Archbishop and company walked to Topcliffe and had an enjoyable hour in The Angel, for a cuppa and a piece of cake in the snug, and an opportunity to meet local folk and have a chat - about faith, life ... and anything else you would normally chat about in the pub. Our thanks to The Angel for their generosity in funding this part of the day.

The visit concluded with a service for Epiphany at Dalton Church, when the Archbishop presided at Holy Communion and preached to a congregation drawn from across the Deanery. It was a privilege to have the Archbishop with us. We got to know more about him and his faith; it drew us together as a community; and it has given us confidence in our identity as Christians. It was, indeed, a pilgrimage of witness, prayer and blessing, and we wish the Archbishop well for the remaining stages of his journey.



Ash Wednesday	10th February
Good Friday	25th March
Easter Day	27th March

*Susanne Jukes, Vicar*

large range of art cards. In addition to our work, we sell ceramics, jewellery and other gift items, most of which are made by Yorkshire craftspeople. We love meeting people, so please pop in and have a look!

## Village Hall Bookings during Building Works

The extension works will be starting in February with work concentrating on exterior developments first. The appointed contractor, Paul Thompson, will not need the hall closed whilst this is going on but will be using facilities in the hall. He has promised to keep disruption to a minimum so that we can continue with our regular bookings, but we do ask all our users to be patient and understanding.

No occasional use bookings will be taken for a while as the time scale of work is uncertain, particularly the point after the main building work is completed but redecoration and other work is underway in the main hall, when the hall will be temporarily out of use.

The booking clerk will keep regular users as up to date as possible with developments.

*Linda Nuttall*

### Bopping Time Again

A new band (to Topcliffe) has been booked to play at the village hall on Saturday February 13, so time to dig out your dancing shoes. It should be a fab evening with a varied performance by Sugartown. With a reputation for being very versatile, they hope to play something for everyone so it would be great if all ages joined in. Tickets are £10 from Judith on 577911 or Linda on 577315. Bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.



### MONKEY PUZZLE

#### SEWING & CLOTHING ALTERATIONS

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Topcliffe	Asenby
<b>Garry Key (Chairman)</b> Cliff House, Long St. 578900	<b>Peter Palmer (Chairman)</b> Hilltop Farm 578057
<b>David Bowman (Vice Chair)</b> 21 East Lea 577843	<b>Judy Lowe (Vice Chair)</b> Green End Dairy 577911
<b>Lynn Wallis</b> 32 East Lea 577437	<b>Mel Arkley</b> Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
<b>Amanda Jameson-Allen</b> 77 Long St 07594 225254	<b>Peter Dale</b> 577373
<b>Anne-Marie Barningham</b>	

**Alex Little (Clerk)**  
578702

### Job Vacancies - Alanbrooke Nursery



We are seeking to employ two Nursery practitioners. One for maternity cover and one to work part-time hours.

Applicants must have a level 213 in early Years Childcare and education and a good knowledge of the early year's foundation stage.

Any interested candidates should contact Lorna Young on 577151

### Yarnbombing Thirsk!

The Tour de Yorkshire cycle race will pass through Thirsk on Sunday 1st May. It is hoped to decorate the town with lots of knitted and crocheted items to make it look more colourful and attract publicity. If you can knit or crochet and would like to be part of this community project by making bunting, toys, flowers, garlands etc please get in touch with either:-

Facebook: Thirsk Yarnbombers

Email: emma.atkinson1971@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 577718 (Carole Ford)

Items can be left at The Fabric Bird shop in Thirsk and wool is also available there too, free of charge. Any creations are welcome; your imagination is the only limitation!

(BUT if you would like a basic bunting pattern to knit this works well. Use DK wool and UK size 8 needles. Cast on 36 stitches. Row 1: Knit. Row 2: Knit. Row 3: Slip 1, knit 1, pssso, knit to end. Row 4: as row 3. Continue to repeat this 4 row pattern until only 2 stitches remain. Knit 2 together and finish. That's it!)

### Games People Play

Why not join the Boccia and New Age Curling sessions which are held on Tuesday afternoons in the village hall between 1.30-3.30. This is a very friendly meeting with games that provide gentle exercise and lots of fun. Anyone over 50 is welcome to come along and meet friends and neighbours. Tea and coffee is provided. If you feel you'd like to find out more before you venture out, ring Judith on 577911 or Linda on 577315.

### Easter Messy Church

Lots of fun to be had at Easter Messy Church on Saturday March 19 from 2-4pm. Baldersby St James Church will be hosting the event and youngsters can look forward to an afternoon of stories, songs, crafts and food. Bring your mum and dad too. All the family is welcome. A preparation meeting will be held at the Vicarage on Monday February 29 at 7.30.

#### Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

**Topcliffe Surgery** 577297 **Friarage Hospital** 01609 779911  
[www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk](http://www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk) [www.southtees.nhs.uk](http://www.southtees.nhs.uk)

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**Hambleton DC** 01609 779977 **Harrogate BC** 01423 568954  
[www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk) [www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

HDC Cllr Garry Key 01845 578900  
[cllr.garry.key@hambleton.gov](mailto:cllr.garry.key@hambleton.gov)  
HBC Cllr Margaret Atkinson 01765 658545



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## Events At The Angel

### Coffee Mornings

9-11am

Every Friday

Hot Drink & a Cake only £4.95

Hot Drink & Scone only £3.95

### Happy Hour

4-6pm, Monday - Saturday

50p off a Pint

Double Up on Spirits for £1

Wine & Nibbles Offer

### Valentine's Weekend

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February

We've two fantastic menus to choose from again this year: treat your loved one to an Angelic Afternoon Tea or go all out with our Romantic Valentine's Menu for Two. Menus available online

**Plus:** Live Music in the Bar on Friday Night

### Mother's Day

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Treat your Mum to a fantastic Sunday Lunch at The Angel.

(Plaza Suite Tables also available for larger parties)

### Easter Weekend

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Fun for all the Family, including Bouncy Castle, Games and a Hog Roast on Bank Holiday Monday

### Wedding Open Day

April - Follow us on Facebook to hear the date first!

The perfect opportunity to see the Plaza Suite as it could be for your big day and meet a whole host of great local wedding suppliers.

### Comedy Nights

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March | Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Our Monthly Comedy Night always features great up-and-coming acts from the Northern Comedy Scene

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We're currently planning loads more great events, let us know what you'd like to see by emailing [events@theangelatopcliffe.co.uk](mailto:events@theangelatopcliffe.co.uk)

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