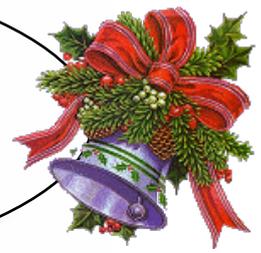




# THE TATTLER



Topcliffe and Asenby Times

## The Days of Topcliffe Fair

Anyone got a clue as to what role James Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, played in the history of Topcliffe?

The answer is that at the time he was Home Secretary in 1970, he signed the notice for the abolition of Topcliffe or Topley Fair and with the stroke of a pen one of the most interesting and colourful spectacles in village life came abruptly to an end.



*Horse activity near the old school, Long Street*

According to John Graham's Millennium Book of Topcliffe, the fair took its origins from a grant which Edward III made in 1327 to Henry de Percy, the main local land owner, for the staging of a weekly market and annual three-day fair. By the end of the 1700s, the fair took the following form - day one was for sheep sales, day two was for horse trading and the third day was 'Lady



*Portrait of Topcliffe Fair - Front Street*

Fair', when the lads took their girls around the trinket and sweet stalls.

In the 19th century the fair was said to be one of the biggest and most important in the North of England. People travelled from miles around to attend and make merry...and there was certainly no shortage of beer as anyone could apply for a licence and many did! The fields on the Thirsk side of the village were filled with gypsy encampments and those towards The Mill were occupied by "roughs, riff-raff and horse lifters". Apparently, these folk were a terror to the law-abiding residents and visitors, with thefts, fights and quarrels the order of the day. There were always fist fights going on and even the women had an arena for fighting. Things were seemingly so bad that special constables had to be employed to try and keep the peace.

Over the years there were many attempts to get rid of the fair and to stop the three days of disruption to the normal tranquil community life of Topcliffe. For example, in 1929, Asenby Parish Council (or its predecessor) voted not to let participants in the fair make use of any land in the village or surrounding area. Then in 1949, a motion before Topcliffe Parish Council that the fair should be abolished, started a heated public debate that resulted in the fair continuing.



*A horse deal is done at Topcliffe Fair*

The last fair was held in 1969 and the following year Callaghan's signature sealed the fair's fate for ever.



The Tattler production team, Doug, Charles and Alexandra, wish all readers a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.



### A Taste of Yorkshire

Just six months ago, two local insomniacs were pondering their futures and wondering if they would ever be able to achieve their dream and passion - to open their own farm shop selling award winning produce made by small Yorkshire businesses.

The dream of Topcliffe resident Debbie Alderson and Kerry Parker from Rainton, nearly came true when a well-located property at Ellerby, near Richmond came on the market, but their attempt to buy it fell through.



Debra and Kerry show off their Little Yorkshire hampers

That's when the alternative idea of a web-based supply company was born and The Little Yorkshire Hamper Company was created. Initially, well at least for six weeks, the new business operated from a caravan on Debbie's drive, but it soon became clear that something bigger was

needed and a move was made to the Barker Business Park at Melmerby.

Debbie said: "Kerry and I have a passion for our beautiful county and the many excellent food products that are produced here and we knew that there would be a market for quality hampers. We have also decided to cater for those with special dietary requirements, especially those who require gluten free food, which is not normally catered for by hamper providers."

Neither Debbie or Kerry have past retail experience - Debbie was a paramedic and Kerry involved in nursery education - but that has not got in the way of their entrepreneurial endeavour. In no time at all the fledgling business has taken off and orders are pouring in from all over the country, with individuals and businesses keen to buy a taste of Yorkshire.

Watch out for this new locally-grown business as it is obviously going places and has big ideas for the future. Already it looks like it is in line for a prestigious Yorkshire Choice Award which recognise local people and independent businesses that are an inspiration in their field. Not bad for two dreamers who couldn't get to sleep!

### Scouts' Christmas Quiz

Everyone loves a good quiz over Christmas right? Well Topcliffe Scouts are selling a general knowledge quiz which is great fun for everyone. The quiz is on sale now for just £1 a copy. If you would like to buy a quiz please email Unit Leader Dave Baker: davebaker1988@yahoo.com.

Complete and return your quiz by post to North Yorkshire Scouts via the postal details provided. The deadline for the completed quiz is Monday 7th January 2019. Prizes include some lovely prizes donated by local businesses and individuals, including a Luxury Yorkshire Hamper and a selection of Wensleydale Cheeses! All money raised is in aid of Unit 33 funds towards our Skills For Life World Scout Jamboree adventure! Just £1 - it's a no brainer! Thank you for your support.

## The Little Yorkshire Hamper Company

Beautiful hampers in many different sizes and containing the best of produce from small Yorkshire food and drink producers.

[www.thelittleyorkshirehampercompany.co.uk](http://www.thelittleyorkshirehampercompany.co.uk)



## P. Bumby & Sons

### Chimney Specialists

- Chimney Sweeping
- Stove Installations
- Stove Servicing
- Cowl & Baskets Fitted
- Chimney Repairs



Tel: 01845 577483 Mob: 07921 074934

## Village Hall Committee Update

Here's a summary of matters discussed at the village hall meeting on 7 November:

The committee is considering the appointment of a company to undertake work to improve the acoustics in the main hall.

Concern was expressed about plans for the village website - [www.topcliffe.net](http://www.topcliffe.net) The Parish Council has informed the Village Hall Committee that it must pay towards the cost of the site or remove its content. The matter is being taken up with the Parish Council.

The Bookings Secretary reported that interest in booking the hall for all sorts of activities continues to be high.

Those who attended the 'Phil your Boots with Food & Song' supper and entertainment on 27 October had a great evening...and £210 was raised for village hall funds. Phil Collingwood played keyboard and guitar and sang songs requested by the audience. Thanks to Karen Morley and family for making the event a success.

Following the success of the first Race Night staged earlier this year, Doug Allan has agreed to organise another event in April 2019.

The next Village Hall Committee meeting will be held late January 2019. Date to be agreed.

**See us on Facebook...**

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall features on Facebook so follow our page for all the latest news and information about upcoming events.

[www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall)

**... or via email**

If you want to hear directly about events coming up at the village hall then add your email address to the circulation list maintained by committee member, Doug Allan. He promises not to send too many emails and will keep those he does circulate short and sweet. If you would like to be added to the list, simply drop Doug an email: [doug@dougallan.co.uk](mailto:doug@dougallan.co.uk) and he'll do the rest.

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe	Asenby
Anne-Marie Barningham (Chairman) 07740 175311	Peter Palmer (Chairman) 578057
Lynn Wallis (Vice Chair) 577437	Judy Lowe (Vice Chair) 577911
Heather Holt 577024	Mel Arkley 578728
Garry Key 578900	Don Compton 577462
Roy Beckwith 578662	Vacancy
Alex Little (Clerk) 07977 417428	Vacancy (Clerk)

## The Swan At Topcliffe

Traditional home cooked food and real ales



**Bed & Breakfast**

**Basket Night - Tuesday**

**Pie Night - Wednesday**

**Sunday lunch - 12 noon to 3pm**

**Main menu and Chef Specials:  
Wednesday to Sunday**

**Bookings for the festive season  
now being taken**

**Telephone: 01845 595185**

## The Dog & Gun At Carlton Miniott

Traditional home cooked food and real ales



**Large function room**

**Basket Night - Tuesday**

**Pizza and Pasta Night - Wednesday**

**Pie Night - Thursday**

**Home cooked Sunday lunch - 12 noon to 3pm**

**Main menu and Chef Specials:  
Tuesday to Saturday**

**Bookings for the festive season  
now being taken**

**Telephone: 01845 523384**

## Our County to Host World Cup of Cycling

North Yorkshire County Council has welcomed the announcement of the routes for the UCI Road World Championships, which will come to Yorkshire in September 2019.



Harrogate will be the host town for nine days of cycle racing from 21 to 29 September, and Northallerton, Richmond, Ripon and Tadcaster will each host a race start.

The championships are the pinnacle of the international road cycling calendar and this will be the first time Britain has hosted the event since 1982.

County Council Leader Cllr Carl Les said: "We're proud that North Yorkshire will host what can justifiably be

described as the World Cup of cycling. It's a massive global sporting event and will again focus the eyes of the world on North Yorkshire, allowing everyone a wonderful opportunity to showcase our vibrant county to the world. I have no doubt the county will rise to the occasion and the residents across North Yorkshire will embrace the spectacle and the opportunities the event offers.

"The spectators, who will come from around the world, and the global media coverage, including live broadcasts on BBC TV, will bring significant economic benefits."

As an indication of the benefits cycling events can bring, it is claimed that this year's Tour de Yorkshire boosted the Yorkshire economy by £98 million. A record 2.6 million spectators lined the route over the four days of racing in May.

*The Vicar and Churchwardens wish  
you all  
every blessing for Christmas  
and peace and joy in 2019*



*You are warmly invited to join us for*

<i>Nine Lessons and Carols</i>		
	Sunday 16th December	6.30pm
<i>Crib Service</i>		
	Monday 24th December	2.00pm
<i>Midnight Mass</i>		
	Monday 24th December	11.30pm
<i>Christmas Morning Worship</i>		
	Tuesday 25th December	9.00am

### Village Hall Events

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mon	Pilates 9.30am-11am	Art Class 1pm-4pm	Yoga 7pm-8.30pm
Tues	Pilates 9.30am-10.30am	Boccia/Tues Club 1.30pm-3.30pm  Book Exchange 1.30pm-4.30pm  Footloose Dance 4.30pm-6pm	
Wed	Daisychain 9.15am-11.15am	Hatha Yoga 1.30pm-2.45pm	Beavers & Cubs 6pm-8.30pm
Thurs	Pilates 10.15am-11.15am		Pilates 6.15am-7.15am  Indoor Carpet Bowls 7.30pm-10.30pm
Fri		Private Yoga 5.15pm-6.15pm	Scouts 7pm-9pm

Topcliffe Parish Council - 1st Thursday of the month (but no meeting in January)

Asenby Parish Council - 3rd Wednesday of alternate months. Next meeting 16 January.

Village Hall Committee - late January 2019 (tbc)

Booking Secretary - Judith Lowe - 577911



**Traditional fish and chips  
Available for parties,  
functions, weddings,  
christenings, etc  
a perfect catering idea!**

**We also have a local village round. See our  
web page or find us on Facebook  
Topcliffe Fri 4.30 - 7.30pm  
Sat 12 - 1.30pm**

**TEL 07515 422202  
or 01845 595967  
www.chipndales.co.uk**

## Asenby Parish Council Needs You!

The position of Clerk to the Parish Council is currently vacant and the position needs filling as soon as possible to ensure the smooth running of village business. The Clerk, who will be paid £9.50 per hour, is responsible for taking minutes of meetings and dealing with correspondence. Attendance is required at the six meetings held each year and these last around two hours each. Applicants must be computer literate. Anyone interested should contact Peter Palmer on 578057.

A new councillor is also required. Following the recent resignation of Peter Dale, there is a vacancy for a parish councillor on Asenby Parish Council. Anyone with energy and fresh ideas who is interested in village matters is asked to step forward to take on the role. Again, the person to contact is Peter Palmer on the above number.

## Are You Living With Type 2 Diabetes?

Managing Type 2 diabetes just got a bit easier.

Topcliffe Surgery recently announced a new local service for patients with Type 2 diabetes.

It's called Diabetes Today and it's a short course designed to help you beat the myths, learn great tips and discover how to manage your condition, both now and in the future, with the help of specialist nurses and dietitians.

Courses are delivered by South Tees Hospitals NHSFT and Heartbeat Alliance and sessions are available on weekdays and weekends across Hambleton.

To book a place or to find out more, just ask at Surgery Reception when you next pop in to the practice or visit: [www.diabetestoday.org.uk](http://www.diabetestoday.org.uk)

## Think Jessica

Anyone who has suffered at the hands of scammers might like to know about a charity called 'Think Jessica' which offers support to victims and their families.

Andy Fox, Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer with North Yorkshire Police says: "Lots of people receive a letter through the post informing them that they have won a large cash prize and in order to claim that prize they need to send off a small 'admin fee'.

"It might be tempting, but those who fall for this trick are most likely on a scammers 'Suckers List', a list of people who at some point in the past have answered a scam mail or given their details for a free prize draw or other incentive. Scammers sell these details to other scammers and in North Yorkshire alone it's believed there are more than 2500 residents listed.

"These types of scams are invariably aimed at the elderly who are maybe lonely and isolated and the scammers will form a relationship with these people, grooming them to be potential victims. At times victims can lose several thousands of pounds genuinely believing they are going to win a prize."

If you want to know how 'Think Jessica' can offer support, have a look at the charity's latest 'Think Jessica' video on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwXMsG2xkcM>

If you believe you or a family member are a victim of scam mail visit [www.thinkjessica.com](http://www.thinkjessica.com) for further advice and information.

# THE ELM GALLERY

Front Street, Topcliffe



Late night opening every Wednesday until Christmas

ORIGINAL PAINTINGS, PRINTS, CARDS & BEAUTIFUL HAND MADE GIFTS

## OPENING TIMES

MON - CLOSED  
TUE - CLOSED  
WED - 10 TO 5.30  
THU - 10 TO 5.30  
FRI - 10 TO 5.30  
SAT - 10 TO 5.30  
SUN - 12 TO 5.30



## CONTACT DETAILS

01845 577316  
07709 223920

[lizanddave@the-elm-gallery.co.uk](mailto:lizanddave@the-elm-gallery.co.uk)



# ART CONNECTIONS

Art Classes at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall  
Artists Barry & Vivien Wilton-Middlemass take the classes  
every week on Monday afternoons from  
1pm to 4pm (Now in its 2nd Year)

We will be delighted if you come and join us, all are  
welcome, tuition from beginners to advance artists  
(Always something new to learn)

If you are not sure of your capabilities come and have a look  
and chat--any Monday

Call Barry mob: 07909 690543

Email: [jbm.lockwoodbeck@btopenworld.com](mailto:jbm.lockwoodbeck@btopenworld.com)



## Produce Show Rule Change

The Topcliffe & Asenby Show Committee has agreed a  
change to Rule 16 which currently states that a maximum  
of two entries can be made in each class. In the future,  
only one entry per class will be permitted.

More information about next year's Produce Show - which  
will be staged on 31 August 2019 - will be available in  
future editions of The Tattler.

[www.Topcliffe.net](http://www.Topcliffe.net) & [www.Asenby.net](http://www.Asenby.net)  
[www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall)

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes,  
the TATtler, pictures of Topcliffe, Asenby and  
a copy of the Millennium Book of Topcliffe.



## Topcliffe Post Office

For all your postal requirements, car  
tax, banking, newspapers, bread and  
dairy, meat orders, cards, lottery  
tickets...and much more.

Long Street, Topcliffe, YO7 3RL  
01845 577517

Open 7am to 5pm weekdays.  
7am to 12 noon Saturdays.  
Closed Sundays.

## Topcliffe's Own Art Café

The monthly art café staged at the village hall is attracting  
over twenty participants each session and the organisers  
report the free event is a tremendous success.

Sponsored by Rural Arts, the free arts café provides an  
opportunity for the over 60s to try their hand at a range of  
activities, such as painting, drawing, card-making, pottery  
making and decoration, printmaking and even iPad art!

There's no need for anyone attending to worry about  
having artistic skills as the idea is that whatever your  
ability and experience you can join in and unleash your  
creative side. There's guidance from professional artists  
and all the necessary materials are supplied free of charge.

There are three more Tuesday sessions in the current  
series - 8 January, 5 February and 5 March. To find out  
more, or to enquire on behalf of someone who you know  
might like to attend, please call Judith Lowe on 577911.

Boccia sessions will be held on all other Tuesdays (except  
the 18 December, when Christmas lunch will be served).

## Art Class - Monday afternoons, 1 'til 4pm

On Monday afternoons, artists Vivien and Barry Wilton-  
Middlemass of Art Connections hold an art class that  
caters for complete beginners through to those with more  
experience, making use of a wide range of formats  
including watercolours, acrylics and oils. For more details  
call Barry on 07909 690543 or just turn up on any Monday  
afternoon to see how it works. (The last session of 2018 is  
Monday 17 December. The first of 2019 will be on Monday  
14 January).

## Snooker Club

To all Snooker Club members, the annual  
subscription is due and is still only £25 for the 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



WAYNE ELLIS GARAGE  
SERVICES

07745 264900

The Old Hatchery  
Asenby  
Thirsk  
YO7 3PF

Down the lane opposite  
the Crab and Lobster  
VEHICLE SERVICING, REPAIRS  
AND MOTS  
REGULAR CUSTOMERS AND  
NEW CUSTOMERS WELCOME

## Brunch Sizzler

The Autumn Sunday Brunch served in the village hall last month was a sell-out success, with an amazing £199.10 raised for village hall funds.

Special thanks are due to Kim, Heather and Karen who slaved over a hot over for several hours and to everyone who bothered to come along and enjoy a very pleasant social occasion.

There'll be another Sunday Brunch in the New Year.



*Breakfast stars - Karen Morley, Kim Hughes and Heather Holt*



*Full house at the Sunday Brunch*

## Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

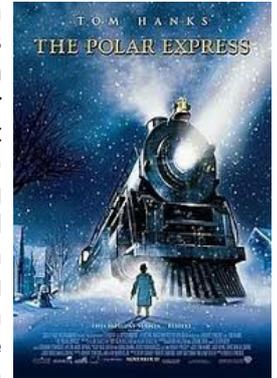
### Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch - 18 December, 12.30pm

Once again Christmas lunch will be served to senior citizens from our two villages. Places are limited so make your booking as soon as possible. Tickets are only £15 and that price includes the three course lunch, choice of wine and mince pies and coffee. Contact Judith Lowe on 577911.

### Film Night - Friday 28 December

We will be showing two films on this date.

There'll be a children's session at 5pm when *The Polar Express* will be shown. This is the film where Tom Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis ("Forrest Gump" and "Cast Away") reunite for an inspiring adventure based on the beloved children's book by Chris Van Allsburg. When a doubting young boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery that shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe.



And for adults we are showing *Swimming with Men* at 7.30pm. A man suffering from a mid-life crisis finds new meaning in his life after joining an all-male, middle-aged, amateur synchronised swimming team.



Tickets are £4 on the door. Refreshments will be on sale.

### Keep Them in the Cold!

In recent weeks North Yorkshire Police have received several reports of cold callers becoming pushy or abusive when attempting to sell door to door. If you experience any issues of this nature, or believe that they are selling illegally, please report it to the police on 101.

"No Cold Callers" sticky signs are available from Thirsk Police Station.

## MyTimeYoga

Ever fancied trying yoga but not sure where to start?  
Beginners very welcome.

Why not come along to our friendly and relaxed class at the village hall on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.30-2.45pm

All equipment is provided for you, classes payable by the term or drop ins.

If you want to find out more either give me a ring or drop me a line at:



Yvonne Lovatt - 07944435718  
[info@mytimeyoga.uk](mailto:info@mytimeyoga.uk)  
[facebook.com/Yogayorkshire](https://www.facebook.com/Yogayorkshire)  
[www.mytimeyoga.uk](http://www.mytimeyoga.uk)



## DOUGIE'S CHIMNEY SWEEP



Stoves, Fireplaces & Flue Linings Fitted  
Professionally Fitted Chimney Cowl & Bird Guards  
All Roof & Chimney Work Undertaken

Tel: 01845 577071 / 07809 574446  
[www.dougieschimneysweep.co.uk](http://www.dougieschimneysweep.co.uk)

# THE Angel WHAT'S ON

at TOPCLIFFE

## NEW YEAR'S EVE APRÈS-SKI PARTY

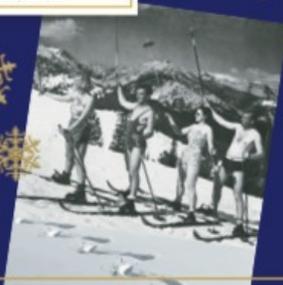
THE ANGEL AT TOPCLIFFE - PLAZA "LODGE"

**TICKETS £15**

Includes

**WELCOME DRINK  
SIZZLING BBQ  
DISCO**

**FUN SKI SUITS, LEDERHOSEN  
& DANCING SHOES  
dress-up optional**



## PARTY IN THE BAR

**BOXING DAY 5-10pm**

**FREE BUFFET KARAOKE 5pm**

**FREE POOL 12-10pm**

"SING FOR YOUR SUPPER" Discover the Voice of Topcliffe!

## THE SITCOM DINNER EXPERIENCE

A parody tribute, evoking the comedy classic Fawlty Towers

**SATURDAY APRIL 20th 2019**



**AN EVENING OF  
SIDE-SPLITTING  
ENTERTAINMENT  
INCLUDING A  
3 COURSE DINNER**

**£39.93**

**'Ideal Christmas Present!'**  
tickets now on sale at The Angel

**EVERY FRIDAY 5-9pm**  
**2 STEAKS, 2 FISH OR 1 OF EACH**  
with a **BOTTLE of WINE £28.95**

**WEST PARK INNS GIFT VOUCHERS**  
FOOD | DRINK | ENTERTAINMENT | ROOMS

*The Perfect Christmas Gift!*



## Celebrate NEW YEAR'S EVE

**DINE WITH US**

**IN THE GRILL**

**3 COURSE DINNER**

**£34.95pp**

**BOOKINGS ONLY**

**PARTY WITH US**

**BRING IN 2019  
WITH  
DJ IN THE BAR  
FROM 9PM**

**ALL WELCOME!**

*The Angel*

**01845 578 000**



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

For further information please call 01845 578 000 or visit [www.theangelatopcliffe.co.uk](http://www.theangelatopcliffe.co.uk)

Editorial: Alexandra Ventress - Tel. 595070 - Doug Allan - Tel. 578526

Production: Charles Collinson - Alexandra Ventress - Tel. 578464