

# TATtler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

## Time for a Rest !!!

Just over nine years ago, I suggested to the Topcliffe Parish Council that the people of Topcliffe might appreciate a Parish newsletter. 'Fine', they said, 'you can be the Editor and get it going'. They also donated £25 towards the cost. I contacted Steve and Liz. Hall in Asenby and together we launched TATtler with another £25 donated by Asenby Parish Council. I have been the Editor ever since, ably assisted by Steve & Liz. to start with, and later by Howard Wilson, all of who have taken care of the production and printing side.

Last month, I celebrated (if that is the right word) my 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, and the years having taken their toll, I feel it is time to hand over to someone younger and more energetic.

In this we have been fortunate in finding just the person for the job – David Pilgrim. David has been helping for some time by delivering the TATtler in Long Street, but is anxious to be of further service to the Community. He is fully aware of what is involved so I have no qualms in handing over to him, and wishing him well.

In writing this 'goodbye' to our readers, I must thank the various contributors who have provided the contents of each issue, and the nine stalwarts who come rain or shine, have delivered the 280 copies of TATtler it takes every three months, for everyone in the villages to have a copy. Nor must we forget the local traders who throughout have regularly taken advertising space, enabling us to be self-financing. The help of all these good people has been invaluable, and I hope they will give the same loyalty to David that

they have given to me.

I shall, of course, wait for my copy of future editions with considerable interest, to see if and how it develops.

John Walter

### CHARITY AUCTION



There's always a warm welcome from Ann & Russell at "The Swan", and especially on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, when they will be hosting a Harvest Home Auction in aid of local charities.

But, they need you to help by donating items suitable for auction. Van Gogh's and Rembrandt's will be gratefully accepted (provided they're genuine of course!) and anything else you may have to go under the hammer. Please make sure that your donations are there before the start time of 8.00 pm.

There will also be a Buffet Supper available at £3 per head, and again all the proceeds are for charity. Your support of this worthwhile event will be appreciated.

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### Beware - Bogus Callers

During the summer there have been instances of callers posing as utility workers e.g. gas board, water board etc attempting to gain entry to peoples homes. These bogus callers often work in pairs and whilst one distracts the householder the other will attempt to steal valuables. Those on their own, particularly the elderly, are especially vulnerable. If you are not certain of someone's identity do not let them into your house. Inform the Police, your Neighbourhood Watch volunteer or one of your Parish Councillors.

**Crime Survey - Please complete the form on page 3**

## Editorial—A tough act to follow

I have no illusions about the effort that will be required to maintain the example set by John, during his time as Editor of the TATtler. To take on such a task at the tender age of 84 years required great courage, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his tenacity and editorial skills. His high standards have helped to make the magazine a credit to the community and it is difficult to imagine how, without it, everyone could keep track of all the events that take place.

I'm sure that all TATtler readers would like to wish him and Molly, a happy 'retirement'. For my part, I only hope that the TATtler of the future will meet with his approval!

David Pilgrim (E-mail: [tattlereditor@aol.com](mailto:tattlereditor@aol.com))



## ACTIVITIES for YOUNG PEOPLE

The end of the school holidays seems a good time to remind both parents and children of regular village activities. More information can be obtained from the contact person for each group.

Group	Who	When & Where	Contact
Toddlers	Babies & toddlers with parents/carers	Friday 9.15 – 11.15 am . Village Hall	Isabelle Peters Tel 578663
Playgroup	2 yrs. to School age	School mornings. School	Jessica Robertson Tel 578959
Brownies	Girls 7 – 10 yrs.	Thursdays 5.00 – 6.15 pm. Village Hall	Mrs. Peacock Tel. 01765 692418
Beavers	Boys 5¾ - 8	Thursdays 6.00 – 7.00 pm. Scout Hut	Helen Hopkins Tel. 567455
Cubs	Boys 8 - 10½	Wednesdays 6.30 – 8.00 pm Scout Hut	Ros Richardson Tel. 01765 676252
Scouts	Boys 10½ - 14+	Fridays 7.00 – 9.00 pm Scout Hut	David Kitching Tel. 07942 713877

## Wand'ring Minstrels required for The Town of Titipu!

Gilbert & Sullivan are returning during 2004 by popular demand in "The Mikado"

After the success of "The Pirates Of Penzance" performed in February this year at Queen Mary's School, we are now looking to attract members for the next production. Rehearsals for "The Mikado" will start at 6.30 pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October at St Columba's Church and all are welcome to attend as no experience or chorus audition is required. The only thing we want is enthusiasm!

Auditions for principal parts will be held at 6.30 pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September at the church. If you want to audition, come along on the above date. You will be asked to sing a short song of your own choice (bring your music), and read an extract of dialogue from the show.

If you don't like acting or singing come along anyway and please help with the costumes, scenery, lighting or host of other things that go into making a great show!

If you saw last year's show you will have seen what fun it was, well we can guarantee that you'll have a laugh, make new friends and impress your relatives if you join in!

Want further details?

Contact Peter or Sarah Perkins on Thirsk 01845 578473 or by e-mail at [webmaster@st-columba.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@st-columba.fsnet.co.uk).



## ASENBY INSTITUTE PLAYING FIELD

What a summer!! The field has again proved extremely popular as a leisure facility with countless children walking or cycling there to enjoy the football pitch, play park or simply to make the most of the wide-open spaces. All is in excellent order; the grass is still green and thanks to those volunteer mowers, always looks like a bowling green!

The spring planting of shrubs and plants at the entrance to the field is now well established, although the early spell of very dry weather necessitated some essential watering. Grateful thanks to Martin Scholes who had the unenviable task of digging over and weeding the patch, he continues to keep an eye on the weed population!

A further three picnic benches have been purchased as well as a large container for housing various items. Thanks are due to Carl Avison for his time and energies in positioning the container.

The annual Asenby Barbeque took place on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The field looked very festive with parasols, stalls and lots of happy faces. The sun shone all afternoon and the final proceeds amounted to £485.00, which was a fine total. Thank you to all who came and supported, do come again next year!

Whilst on fund raising matters, we would like to invite you to a “*Casino Royale*” evening on Sat. 27th September 2003, to be held in Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall. This is a different and fun evening where you have the opportunity to try your luck at the roulette wheel, black jack and other casino pursuits!! It won’t cost you a fortune either. You purchase paper money for £5.00 and end up with thousands of “pounds” with which to play the tables!! The most successful male and female players win a prize at the end of the evening. Tickets will be available shortly and will include a complimentary drink and home cooked supper. A pay bar will be available. Tickets from Julia Campbell, Jacqui Avison, Siobhan Gifford, Sharon Hutchinson and Clare Phillips. Why not get a party together and book a table?

*Our Christmas jolly with mulled wine, mince pies and Grand Christmas Raffle will take place in December.* Date and venue to be fixed but as always we would be ever grateful for prizes on a festive theme, so please do think ahead and put something aside for the Playing Field. We are always most grateful for ALL your support and know that

*(Continued on page 4)*

### **Crime Survey - 2003**

You will be aware that the village has suffered a spate of crime recently - 13 car thefts, break ins and walk ins. I am also concerned, as are the neighbourhood watch, that the police seem to have resolved few if any crimes and their ring round scheme is ineffective. I wish to gather evidence and would appreciate it if as many people as possible could complete the form below.

Please respond to any Parish Council members or neighbourhood watch representative. (see back page for details). **With Thanks - Gary Key (Chairman Topcliffe Parish Council)**

Q1. Have you been the victim of crime since 01 Jan 2000. Y/N

Q2. If yes what was the nature of crime. ....

Q3. What was the date of the crime (Time Day Month year) ...

Q4. Was the crime reported to the police Y/N.

Q5. If yes what was the outcome. No action/in progress/ Solved

Q6. Have you witnessed a crime. Y/N

Q7. If yes did you report it to the police Y/N

Q8. If yes describe any response. ....

Q9. Any Other Comments?



## St. Columba's Tower Appeal

.... And now we have lift off!

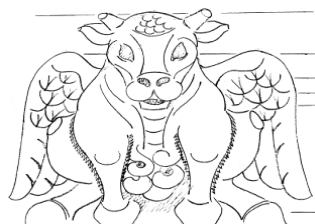
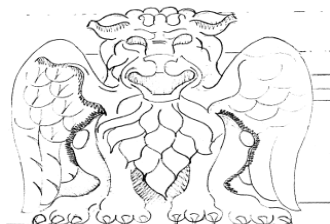
The scaffolding is now complete and the "lifting off" of the pinnacles and parapet down to the stringing course interspersed with those little grotesque faces has now begun. Many, many thanks to everyone whose support has brought us so far and, barring unforeseen problems, we now have sufficient funding to complete this part of the project – hopefully by Christmas.

However, it has been suggested, that some people might like the opportunity to sponsor, in part or in full, some of the decorative stonework, which will need to be specially carved for the tower.

Did you know that there are twenty-four grotesques in the band below the parapet of which fifteen need to be replaced? These, individual works of art in their own right, will each be a unique example of the traditional stone carvers' art. And the cost? £475 each.



At the centre of every new wall a new gargoyle will be fitted to carry rainwater well away from the tower. These will be carved to represent the four Evangelists - a man for Matthew, a Lion for Mark, an Ox for Luke and an Eagle for John. The figure of Matthew will also hold the cross of St. Columba in recognition of the Church's dedication. These cost £2,155 each.



The biggest items are the corner pinnacles, which stand 12 feet above the parapet. These are made in sections, which, from the top down are: Finial (£600) Shaft (£2,700), Gablet (£2,900) and the plain base Die-stone (£250). And there is the parapet itself with each Merlon – the moulded stone capping every castellation – costing £265.

As said before, we already have the funds for this work, but if an individual, family or group would like to sponsor a particular, identifiable and possibly uniquely decorative part of the Tower, they would then release funds for the next phase, the Tower roof.

We are delighted to report that a local family has already sponsored the north –eastern pinnacle in memory of a much-loved mother and grandmother.

If you would like to sponsor or part sponsor any of these items or would like to find out more, please do talk to the Vicar (577939), John Graham (577188) or John Phillips (577034); and remember, your gift can be increased by nearly 30% through Gift Aid or even 67% if from an estate where inheritance tax is payable.

*(Continued from page 3) Asenby Institute Playing Field*

without you the venture would not be as successful.

During the course of the year one of our committee, Mel Wolfe, stepped down and we would like to publicly thank him for all his efforts and hard work, particularly in the purchasing and planting of the copious bulbs and trees, which have benefited the field enormously.

Finally, why not come and join the committee, we would really welcome any new members and or ideas to keep those necessary funds rolling in. See you at the Casino!!

## Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall (Registered Charity No. 10038303)

Enquiries/Bookings: Lois Hooker 17 Manor Close Topcliffe YO7 3RH Tel: 01845 578007

A treat in store – hugely popular on the rural touring network, **Sheena Davies** will be appearing at Topcliffe in October. She is the 2001 winner of the British Gas “Tomorrows People Award” and considered by many to be one of the finest singers that Britain has produced.

Sheena has a strong reputation among jazz enthusiasts and with her selection of popular songs, she has made the performance accessible for a broad range of audiences. With her backing band of double bass, piano and drums, it will be an evening of truly dynamic entertainment.

**Note the date – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October.** For ticket sales contact 578644 or 577315

### **Do your bit for the Community:**

The Village Hall committee are looking for a "Minutes Secretary" to take minutes at the village hall committee meetings. They take place approximately every two months. If you would like to help please contact the Chairman Alan Nuttall Tel: 577315.

## TOPCLIFFE FEOFFEEES

Something for nothing! An offer we don't get very often these days, but here is an opportunity for local Students to get a little financial help with their studies. The Feoffees are the trustees of the local charities mentioned below. You are unlikely to find the word 'Feoffee' in your dictionary, but if you wish to learn more about them and the funds they administer, then you need to read Chapter 2 of "The Millennium Book of Topcliffe"

One of the component funds within the Consolidated Charities of Topcliffe is The Topcliffe Educational Foundation. This fund originally provided for the Topcliffe Grammar School behind the Church. The fund now provides small grants to Students in University or other Tertiary education to help with the purchase of books. If you are a student at university or expecting to go this year and you live in Topcliffe, Skipton, Marton le Moor, Baldersby, Asenby, Rainton, Dalton, Dishforth or Eldmire/Crakehill and would like to be considered for a grant, please contact Mr Geoffrey Hall, Secretary of the Consolidated Charities of Topcliffe on 01845 578324.

Mr Hall has been Secretary of the Feoffees for some years now and he has indicated that he would like to retire from the position. If there is anyone in any of the above villages who is interested in taking over the position please get in touch with him on the above telephone number.

## **BROADBAND COMES TO TOPCLIFFE!**

Well almost – but **YOU** can make it happen!

Many of you will be aware of the great advantages of Broadband access to the Internet. Data can be downloaded up to 10 times faster and you can use the telephone whilst you are on line. Just think, no more missed calls whilst the kids are surfing the net.

About 70% of the country is already able to enjoy Broadband, but older, mostly rural exchanges need to be modified and the work is expensive. BT need to know they will have sufficient consumers subscribing to Broadband to justify this work, and have set trigger levels for these exchanges. Enough subscribers need to register their interest in Broadband to trigger the conversion of the exchange.

Subscribers on the Thirsk exchange have been able to enjoy the benefits since 14<sup>th</sup> May this year, following their highly successful, nationally acclaimed campaign to bring Broadband to the town. The enthusiasm and experience of the Thirsk campaign team is still being put to good use as they are actively lobbying BT to bring Broadband to the outlying exchanges, But they need your support and can't achieve success without enough people registering their interest in Broadband.

BT has set the trigger level for Topcliffe exchange at 150. Registrations to date amount to about 100, so another 50 or so are required to make it take off. The benefits to the businesses at Dalton and the community in general will be tremendous, so if you have not already done so, you need to register your interest. We only need another 20% of TATtler readers to register to bring Topcliffe exchange into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Do this with your ISP (Internet Service Provider). Most of them will have a section on Broadband, usually displayed when you log on. All you need to do is enter your telephone number and confirm your interest. Your ISP will do the rest.

For more information on the Thirsk campaign and news on the outlying villages, see [www.thirskbroadband.co.uk](http://www.thirskbroadband.co.uk). or contact your local Topcliffe Broadband co-ordinator, Peter Perkins at [peter@thirskbroadband.co.uk](mailto:peter@thirskbroadband.co.uk). The TATtler will, of course, keep you informed of progress.

## St. Columba's Church Services (Vicar Revd. Christine Haddon-Reece. Tel 577939)

(Visit the Church website at [www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk))

<b>Sep</b>	Sun	7th	Benefice Family Service with Baptism	10.30 am
	Wed	10th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun	14th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	21st	Holy Communion and Harvest Thanksgiving	10.30 am
	Sun	28th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	28th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
<b>Oct</b>	Sun	5th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	8th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun	12th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	19th	Holy Communion with Memorial for the crew of RAF Neptune	10.30 am
	Sun	26th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	26th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
<b>Nov</b>	Sun	2nd	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	5th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun	9th	Joint Holy Communion for Remembrance Day	10.30 am
	Sun	16th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	23rd	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	23rd	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sun	30th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	10.30 am

## CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

Some dates for your diary - events worth attending in the coming months.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** 7.30 pm at St. Columba's

'*Goodbye for now*' - a farewell concert presented by Matthew Atherton, with the Choirs of St. Columba's. Admission is free. Programmes £1 and a retiring collection in aid of the Church Bells.

**Weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September at Asenby Hall Barn.**

'*Harvest Barn Dance*' - music by John Graham. Exact date and time to be advised. Proceeds in aid of the Church Tower fund.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** 7.30 pm at St. Columba's

'*Classics at St. Columba's*' - presenting the 'Europa Piano Trio'. The programme will include Mendelssohn's D minor Piano Trio, Op. 49. Tickets a £8, £6 or £4 to include refreshments. Proceeds in aid of the Church Tower fund.

### PRIZE BINGO

**Where?** Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

**When?** Every Wednesday evening

**Starts?** 7.30pm,

Books on Sale

7.00pm

**Cost?** 50p per book



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# Your Parish Councillors

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the councillors below should you have any issue that should be brought to the attention of the Council.

## Topcliffe

**Gary Key (Chair)**  
Cliffe House, Long St.  
Tel 578900

**Howard Wilson (Vice Chair)**  
Eldmire House, Long St. Tel 577039

**Russell Smith**  
The Swan, Front Street, Tel 577239

**Tracey Brown**  
Sandtoft, Church Street. Tel 577623

**Vic Rawlings**  
Hawthorn Cottage, Long St. Tel 577697

## Asenby

**Chris Millross (Chair)**  
Topcliffe House  
Tel 577961

**Jackie Avison (Vice Chair)**  
2 Orchard Cottages Tel 578871

**Peter Dale** The Warren  
Tel 577373

**Steve Hall** Orchard End  
Tel 578379

**John Sharp** 16 Cundall Road  
Tel 578406

### Topcliffe Parish Council - Neighbourhood Watch - Co-Ordinator List

Co-Ordinator	Address	Tel:	Area Covered
Dave Bowman	21 East Lee	577843	East Lea
Lynn Heidstrom	32 East Lee	577437	East Lea
Linda Carver	Green Acres	578014	1 - 12 East Lea
Ian Roberts	13 Winn Lane	578181	Winn Lane
Grant Pryce	Little Beeches, Long St.	578235	Back Lane & Long St east of Back Lane
John Key	Cliff House Cottage, Long St.	577072	Long St west of Back Lane
Mrs Acaster	4 Swaleview	578036	Swaleview
Jenny Trollope	Kenilworth, Church St.	577397	Church St.
Peter Brown	Ashleigh, Front St.	577594	Front St.
Doug Allen	7 Dovecote Mews	578526	Dovecote Mews
Pauline Hindmarch	Moot Hall, Dean Square	577508	Dean Square
Sandra McGrail	Kyber House, Station Road	577675	Station Road

### Useful Telephone Numbers

Topcliffe Surgery	577297	Friarage Hosp.	01609 779911	Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Police	01609 783131	Hambleton DC	01609 779977	Harrogate BC	01423 568954

Hambleton District Councillor (Topcliffe Ward) - Neville Huxtable 01845 501068

**The TATtler  
Team**

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