

# THE TATTLER

Volume 11, Issue 3

Autumn 2004

## TOPCLIFFE VILLAGE TIDY-UP DAY SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER — YOUR HELP NEEDED

Following on from the success of the village litter pick last Autumn Topcliffe Parish Councillors are organising a village 'Tidy-up' day on Saturday 18th September. They are looking for volunteers to come along and help with a general tidy up of the village. We are meeting at 2pm at the village cross, outside the Post Office and plan to spend no more than 3 hours tidying up. If you would like to help to improve the appearance of **your** village please come along — you will be more than welcome. With plenty of willing helpers it should not take too long to pick up the litter, tidy the verges and generally make Topcliffe look a little neater. Please make sure you bring some personal protection such as gloves etc. You don't have to stay for the whole period. Whatever time you can spend will be appreciated. If you can't come along how about just tidying up the piece of

street immediately outside your house. It wouldn't take you more than 15 minutes. If every household did that the village would look so much tidier.

## NEW RE-CYCLING SITE FOR TOPCLIFFE

The Parish Councillors have been busy trying to find a suitable site for positioning re-cycling bins. This has been easier said than done! Eventually it was decided that the lay-by just on the Dalton Road turning may be suitable. This site will be trialled for 3 months with re-cycling bins sited there in the next few weeks (hopefully). If successful the site will become permanent and may be resurfaced with screening provided. The site will be much easier to use than having to go all the way into Thirsk. Please use it otherwise we will lose it!

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### Special points of interest:

- Topcliffe Surgery to close on Saturdays. See Report Page 2
- Topcliffe PC. Clerk Wanted. See page 3.
- THE MIKADO - Report Page 4
- Church Tower Restoration — Report Page 6



## TOPCLIFFE WEB SITE

([www.topcliffe.net](http://www.topcliffe.net))

Thanks to lots of hard work by Webmaster Peter Perkins, the Topcliffe Web Site is now up and running at <http://www.topcliffe.net>, and it really is well worth a visit.

There is plenty information about Topcliffe and the surrounding area with lots of useful links to other web sites like Police, Fire, Ambulance, NYCC,

Hambleton Council, Public Transport and the Church. There are also sections of interesting facts & figures about local history and local organisations and you can also access things like

*Children's Competition - see back page!!*

Parish Council minutes and the TATtler. If it goes on in Topcliffe and the surrounding area, you'll

*(Continued on page 7)*

## **EDITORIAL**

### **KEEPING THE GUTTERS CLEAN**

In the last issue of the TATtler, the Topcliffe Parish Council report contained a few lines requesting residents to help improve the appearance of the village by keeping the gutter-ways clean in areas not subject to roadside cleaning.

The weeds have had a great time this summer, especially with the recent rain, and there are many parts of the village where they are flourishing in the gutter-ways. As the council noted, it only takes a few minutes to put things right, and at the same time it gives the area a cared for appearance.

There is an added advantage if the roads are about to be resurfaced. Some of you may remember the national press carrying an article a



year or so ago, about a white-lining crew who continued their line around the dead badger lying at the roadside. Clearly the same mentality exists with some of the road resurfacing teams!

The road from the Swale Bridge to Asenby has recently been

resurfaced and some of you may have noticed that tar and chippings have been liberally sprayed on the soil, leaves and weeds in the bridge gutter-ways. As the accompanying photograph shows, the weeds are still doing well despite this treatment!

Clearly, we cannot expect our respective councils to do everything necessary to keep the place tidy, and from time to time we have to do a bit ourselves.

Topcliffe PC are planning a village "tidy-up" day on Saturday September 18th so hopefully there will be a good turn-out of helpers like last year, and we can all do our bit to improve the appearance of the village.

## **TOPCLIFFE SURGERY**

### **SATURDAY MORNINGS AND OUT-OF-HOURS**

From 1 October 2004, Topcliffe Surgery will no longer be open on Saturday mornings for either emergency consultations or ordering and collection of prescriptions. This change is part of the government's new contract with GPs and affects surgeries all over the country. Out-of-hours services will be extended to include Saturday mornings.

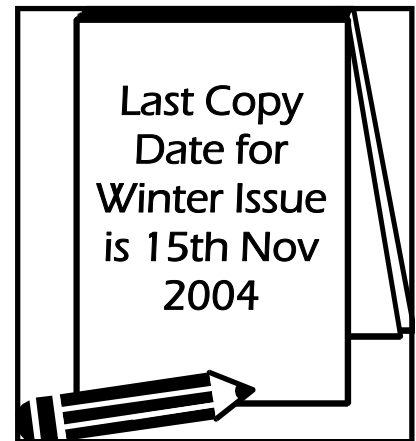
Out-of-hours services have, since 1997, been provided by North Yorkshire Emergency Doctors (NYED) which is a cooperative of

local GPs. The government's new contract also means that responsibility for out-of-hours will transfer to Hambleton and Richmondshire Primary Care Trust on 1 October. As they have chosen to use NYED, patients should not notice any change in out-of-hours services.

Surgeries during the week will continue as at present. As we usually operate a combination of walk-in surgeries and appointments, during the week patients can still see a doctor or

nurse on the day of their choice.

Please remember that the Surgery will be closed on Saturday when ordering and collecting prescriptions. To collect prescriptions on a Monday morning, prescriptions need to have been ordered by 12.30 pm Thursday lunchtime.



## **THE MILLENNIUM BOOK OF TOPCLIFFE**

People keep asking if there are any copies of the Millennium Book of Topcliffe left. The answer is usually, to their surprise, yes, because the Parish Council have a rolling programme of reprinting twelve copies of this book at a time. As soon as one set of twelve is sold out, another set is ordered. Since the Millennium there has been a steady demand for this history of Topcliffe and it continues to be sold by the Parish Council at its cost price from the printer of £20. The printer has held this price for the last four years.

If you would like a copy, then please contact John Graham at Poppleton House, Front Street, Topcliffe. (Tel: 01845 577188)

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Two concerts are planned for Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall between now and Christmas.

On Friday October 15<sup>th</sup>, Maire ni Chathasagh & Chris Newman will entertain with Irish harp and guitar supported by Maire's singing. Maire was voted Traditional Musician of the Year in 2001, and with Chris's witty comments they make a superb evenings entertainment. The concert starts at 7.30 pm and tickets are available from Lewis Rudge (Tel: 01845 578644) at £5.00 each or at the door on the night. Please come along and support not only the artistes, but also your village hall funds.

Later in the year, (the date is yet to be finalised), we will welcome back the Newton Singers who entertained us so well, back in March. They are returning with a new repertoire which will include festive songs to start the Christmas celebrations. Audience participation will be invited!! Everyone who attended the Newton Singers last concert had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, so why not come along for another excellent evening. Tickets will be £5.00 each and are available once again from Lewis or at the door on the night. The concert will start at 7.30 pm., but please keep an eye on the notice boards for the date of the event.

## TOPCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New goal posts for the playing field were ordered & supplied in June, and have been well used. Unfortunately they have also been well abused and are now in need of repair. The council is appealing to anyone who sees this sort of vandalism taking place to either intervene to prevent it, (keeping your personal safety in mind) or report the persons involved to either the Parish Council or the Playing Field Committee. Vandalism of this nature will only be prevented if the community as a whole takes ownership of the issue.

The last quarter has been a busy time for planning applications with several plans being submitted for new developments and re-development. New houses are proposed for East Lea and Station Road next to the school, but the PC had reservations on these and some of the other smaller proposals. We shall now have to await the views of Hambleton Planning Committee.

### WANTED

**Clerk for Topcliffe Parish Council**  
Approx. 14 hours per month  
With some evening working for meetings.

Would suit someone who has administration experience or knowledge of local government  
Must have space to work from home  
Computer available.

For further details contact: Helen Fothergill  
(current clerk) 01845 578982 or Garry Key  
(Chairman) 01845 578900.

## UPDATE ON TOLL BOOTH PROJECT AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Modernisation of the ground floor of the Toll Booth continues. As might be expected, there has been considerable delay in progressing the upgrade of electricity supplies due to the need to obtain listed building planning consent. However, this is now with the local authority and is being pursued in conjunction with changes to windows to provide better security and weather proofing. The internal vertical timbers have been treated and brought back to life and plan drawings for creating the intranet have been done. Despite these minor setbacks which can be frustrating for some, the building is still being well used by the village youth.

As part of the plan to widen engagement, it is proposed to seek sponsorship from individuals and organisations whose names will be recorded for posterity on a benefactors board and who will be invited to participate in a subsequent publicity. Heading the list will be Dr Shaw and Dr Parker whose generous donation has helped stimulate and provide confidence in this project. Anyone interested in finding out more on this project please contact Garry Key 01845 578900 or write to the Parish Council.

## POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

When the 'Cop Shop' opened in Thirsk at the beginning of the year, we reported that the telephone number of the new office was 01609 789737, but that this 'phone would only be answered during office hours, 11 am to 7 pm, Monday to Saturday inclusive.

The TATtler has since learned that residents have had difficulty in getting through to this number and often end up listening to an answering machine. After making enquiries we have been advised that the Police preferred number for non-emergencies is **01609 783131**, which should put you through to the Control Room at Newby Wiske. However, at busy times, *you could wait for up to 20 minutes before getting a reply.*

Many of us do not wish to call 999, but do need to speak to the Police on a fairly urgent basis, particularly if we are concerned about bogus callers in the area. However, a twenty minute wait could well be too long, and it seems that in many cases there may be little option other than to call 999. The choice is yours!

## THE MIKADO - A WONDERFUL SHOW.

The Topcliffe Players put on a colourful and spirited performance of "The Mikado" at Cundall School on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Proceeds from the evening were in aid of St. Columba's fabric fund, and whilst the Church benefited, the audience were well entertained with some excellent singing, accompanied by Matthew Atherton on piano



and ably directed by Linda Hewlett; Stage Direction was in the capable hands of Peter & Sarah Perkins.

Members of the cast must forgive us for not mentioning them all by name, but to single any one person out would be to do the others a great disservice as the entire cast deserve praise. It was however, particularly good to see so many young people taking part and obviously enjoying the experience. There are some talented youngsters coming along and the Players should have no difficulty in filling the principal parts in future productions.

But don't just take our word for it, see for yourself. There will be another performance at Queen Mary's School on September 11<sup>th</sup>. You won't be disappointed!

## JOHN WALTER RETIRES – AGAIN!

For 15 years, John has been the Darlington & Stockton Times Correspondent for Asenby, Dalton and Topcliffe. Now, having reached the age of 94, and finding it more and more difficult to get around, John has decided to hang up his trilby & press card and retire. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for keeping the area "in the news" over the years and hope that he and Molly will enjoy many more happy years together.

News items for the three villages which you would like to have included in the newspaper, should now be sent direct to the local D & S office at Barclays Bank Chambers, 41 Market Place, Thirsk,

## YOUR LAST CHANCE! - THE MIKADO Treat yourselves to a great show.

The second and (possibly) final performance of "The Mikado" will be at Queen Mary's School on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.45 pm. Tickets for Adults @ £5.00 and for children under 16 and OAP's @ £3.00 may be bought in advance from either:

Kit Norris (01765 640283) or Peter Perkins (01845 578473) - addresses as in the last TATtler, or at the door if there are any left!! Cheques should be made payable to "St. Columba's Church" and postal applications must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. Proceeds will be in aid of St. Columba's fabric fund.





**Thirsk  
Regeneration Initiative**  
A MARKET TOWNS INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

## Are you interested in improving your village?

Why not attend the following events:

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2004**  
**9.30am – 11am**  
**Dalton Village Hall**

Introduction to Thirsk Regeneration Initiative and what support is available

*Presentations from Yorkshire Rural Community Council  
Hillside village partnership  
Hambleton District Council*

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2004**  
**9.30am – 11am**  
**Dalton Village Hall**

How to make your project ideas a reality

*Workshops to develop project ideas*

*Refreshments will be provided*

## SNOOKER CLUB



The Snooker Club meets upstairs at the Toll Booth and is always on the lookout for new members from Topcliffe and Asenby. The Membership is currently £12 covering from September to September. Members must be 18 or over, but under 18s are allowed in with members. The Club has two tables, one full size and one ¾ size. The light meter costs only 10p for 8 minutes. The Club is no longer in a league. Anyone interested in joining should contact David Bowman on 577843.

## BBC—THE PEOPLE'S WAR

Thirsk Community Care Bureau (TCCB) in conjunction with Thirsk Community School, are taking part in the BBC's project on 'The People's War'. This is a countrywide project, through a web site link with the BBC. It is inviting people to share their personal experiences in Britain during World War 2. Our links will enable people to go to the School, at designated times, to re-live their experiences with young people, who will submit the information upon the web site.

If you are interested in telling **your** story please contact TCCB, Sue Lee or Chris Hall on 01845 523115 – transport may be available for people experiencing difficulties with travel.

## ASENBY RECREATION GROUND

Just a brief report this time!

**New goalpost** has arrived, is now in situ and with all the good weather has been well used especially throughout the longer summer evenings and the school holidays.

**The mowing rota** has been very effective with the field being cut every week. Whenever it's my turn to mow, I find the one and a half hours it involves passes by in a rather hazy, mesmerising way!! Not an unpleasant way to do a bit of thinking and dreaming and also very satisfying to see all those grassy "stripes" appearing as one trundles round the field on the trusty ride-on mower!!

### **Village Barbeque**

The field looked splendid for this annual event on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Stalls bedecked with jolly balloons, toddlers play area, "welly" throwing, bouncy castle and greasy pole, tombola and raffle as well as the bar, butcher's shop and actual barbeque. Thank you to all who came and for your wonderfully phlegmatic attitude to the VERY English weather!! A very British sight indeed as we ate our barbequed food under umbrellas! In any event a most encouraging sum of about £520.00 was raised and if you produced any of the delicious salads THANK YOU!

### **Garden area**

The committee spent an energetic and muscle building Sunday morning barrowing and spreading a HUGE pile of bark chippings which now cover the garden area at the entrance to the field. We are delighted with how well this area has matured and Martin Scholes

must be thanked and appreciated for his expertise in helping us bring this project to fruition.

**Call my Bluff "Wine Extravaganza"**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall at 7.30pm**  
**Tickets £6.00 from Jacqui Avison Tel: 578871 or Clare Phillips Tel: 577034**

Already lots of people asking for tickets but plenty still available. A wonderful opportunity to taste lots of different wines, soak it all up with complementary bread and cheese and have fun listening to the panel who will try and persuade us that their description of the wine being tasted is the correct one!! You know the Radio 4 word game "Call my Bluff", well this is the oenophile equivalent!! We look forward to seeing you then.

Clare Phillips

## St. Columba's Church Services Vicar: the Revd Christine Haddon-Reece, Tel: 01845 577939

<b>Sept</b>	Sun 5th	Benefice Confirmation 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	10.30 am
	Sun 26th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 26th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
<b>Oct</b>	Sun 3rd	Family Harvest Thanksgiving Service	10.30am
	Wed 6th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun 10th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 17th	Holy Communion & Neptune R.A.F.A. Memorial	10.30 am
	Sun 24th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 24th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sun 31st	Prayer Book Holy Communion	10.30 am
<b>Nov</b>	Sun 7th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed 10th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun 14th	Remembrance Day Joint Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 21st	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 28th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 28th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

## CHURCH NEWS

### CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

Two concerts at St. Columba's for your diary.

At 8.00pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the long awaited Hermitage Ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia, will be appearing. This male voice ensemble will present a concert of unaccompanied music, including sacred Orthodox hymns and Russian folk songs.

Founded in 1994, this group of professional singers perform as soloists at the Opera and Philharmonic in St. Petersburg and also sing in church choirs. They have recently toured in Germany, Denmark and Switzerland as well as the U.K.

Tickets for their concert will be £7.50/£5.00 and are obtainable from John Phillips. (Tel 01845 577034)

There will also be a concert by St. Columba's Children's Choir and Orchestra one Sunday afternoon in October, but the date and time had not been finalised as the TATtler went to print. Please keep an eye on the Church and other notice boards for this event and give the children your support on the day.

### CHURCH TOWER NEWS

Back in March TATtler reported that the Church Tower work should be completed by early July, 2004, and here we are in early September and it still looks as though there's a bit of work to finish.

Well progress is being made but it's slow and there have been some unforeseeable delays. Most of the remaining work is on the pinnacles, which as many of you will have noted, are slowly being put in place. Clearly the wet & windy weather did not help in August, (although this did not delay progress) but an earlier

problem with "shallow beds" at the quarry, meant that the large pieces of stone required for the pinnacles were simply not there to be quarried. Eventually, as quarrying progressed, larger pieces of stone became available and work could continue, but each piece of stone has to be transported to Rugby for cutting and carving and it all takes time. Just to make matters worse, the carver broke his wrist!

So when will it be finished? Well, possibly by the end of September, but we certainly hope that the December edition of the TATtler can report that all the work is complete!

One unexpected contribution for the tower restoration recently came from Topcliffe Show. The last show was held at Baldersby Park in July 1967. There was a little money left in the kitty when the books were balanced and this has been languishing in a bank account ever since. The money has now been donated to the Clock Fund which is now healthier to the tune of £155.56. A most welcome gift!

## TOPCLIFFE WEB SITE - COMPETITION



(Continued from page 1)

find it on the Website.. If you would like something included on the site then contact the Webmaster or one of the Parish Councillors.

There is one small problem however; the webmaster needs a logo for the site, and he wants some help from local children (age under 17) to design one. So there will be a competition to design a logo, with entries required, via e-mail before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004. A mystery prize will be awarded for the best design. Full details are available of the web site so why not log on right now at <http://www.topcliffe.net> and get details of the competition in the Kids Stuff section.

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

#### Topcliffe

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

**Howard Wilson (Vice Chairman)**  
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 (Chairman)**  
Topcliffe House  
Tel 577961

**Jackie Avison (Vice Chairwoman)**  
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		East Lea
Linda Carver	Green Acres		1 - 12 East Lea
Julie Clayton	Manor Close		Winn Lane / Manor Close
John Key	Cliff House Cottage, Long St.		Back Lane & Long St east of Back Lane
Mrs Acaster	4 Swaleview		Long St west of Back Lane
Jenny Trollope	Kenilworth, Church St.		Swaleview
David Pilgrim	Mill Rise, Front Street		Church St.
Doug Allen	7 Dovecote Mews		Front St.
Pauline Hindmarch	Moot Hall, Dean Square		Dovecote Mews
Sandra McGrail	Kyber House, Station Road		Dean Square
			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 (E-mail [NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk))

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