

The TATtler

Volume 11, Issue 4
Winter 2004

Topcliffe Church Tower

Finished? Well almost as TATtler gets ready to go to press, and hopefully by the time this edition hits your doormat, the tower work will be finished and the scaffolding removed.

Inevitably, there were further delays in receiving the final stones from the carver, but by the beginning of November, all materials were on site, and the final adjustments had been made to the scaffolding to enable the pinnacles to be finished. This work was finally completed by the 12th November, and the top part of the scaffolding was removed to allow the protective boarding to be removed from the new roof.

After that, the plan was to remove the scaffolding progressively, completing any further work as the scaffolding came down. It was hoped that this would all be completed by 19th November and that full completion of the project and clearing the site would be achieved by 26th November. The standard of the new stone work is considered to be very good and once the completion certificate has been issued by the Architect, the applications can be submitted for the outstanding grants. By the time the next TATtler is published, we hope to confirm that the project is complete and provide information on the costs involved.

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Topcliffe Playing Field Crisis

We have just had an inspection of the playground equipment by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). Whilst most equipment is in need of only minor repair the large wooden climbing frame is beyond economical repair and will soon be removed.

The current committee feel that after many years of work, there should be some new blood on the committee particularly from those parents with children who use the playing field.

Of the current four committee members none have children of an age to play on the field and two don't even live in the village!

We are therefore looking for a new committee to run and maintain the Playing Field and to raise funds to enable new equipment to be purchased.

Help and advice, if needed, will be available from the current committee members and from the Parish Council.

We already have one volunteer and are looking for 3 or 4 more. If you would like to be part of a team that would be providing the village children with a safe and fun place to play then please contact the secretary Howard Wilson on 577039 or any member of the Parish Council (see back page).

Church Services for all the Family

Everyone is welcome to all our services, but two are especially suitable for children. The first is the lovely service of Christingle which will be held at 10.30 am on Sunday December 5th, with children from Topcliffe C.E. School taking part. Our collection will be given to aid the valuable work of the Children's Society, the charity responsible for re-introducing this ancient Moravian service.

Then, at 3.00 pm on Friday December 24th, Christmas Eve, there is a Crib Service in which we re-tell the Christmas Story in words and carols whilst gradually building the Christmas Crib. The service lasts no longer than three-quarters of an hour and provides a peaceful pause in the busy preparation for Christmas. Everyone is invited to stay for a warming glass of sherry and a mince pie afterwards (with orange squash for the children!)

David and Revd Christine wish all Tattler readers a blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Editorial

On Saturday 18th September, we had a good turnout of villagers eager to make Topcliffe a little tidier. Blessed with some decent weather, a dozen or so public spirited individuals weeded and litter-picked their way around the village to make many of our communal areas looked cared for. Our grateful thanks to all those who took part.

Thanks also are due to Steve & Liz Hall of Asenby, who have been involved with the production of the TATtler since its conception. Steve & Liz took care of the publishing and printing of the magazine from 1994 until 1999, when Howard Wilson took over the publishing. Since then, Steve has been responsible for the printing only, and we have benefited from his connections with the printing industry.

Steve unfortunately can no longer help us with printing, but will continue to take care of the distribution of the TATtler in Asenby. A special thank-you to both him and Liz for the tremendous contribution they have made to the magazine's success.

Finally, the TATtler team would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Topcliffe Players

The final performance of "The Mikado" was at Queen Mary's School in September and all those attending were treated to another great performance. The shows raised over £500 towards Church funds. If you were not lucky enough to see one of the performances, then you still have the opportunity to see not only "The Mikado" but also the "Pirates of Penzance" if you have a DVD player.

Nanki-Poo (aka Peter Perkins) has finished producing DVD's of both these much loved Gilbert & Sullivan productions and these are now available. Each DVD contains both performances of the show in question and a host of "extras" including the show programme and loads of show & rehearsal photographs.

These DVD's would make great Christmas presents and are priced at only £10 each or £15 for the two. This includes post & packing to any UK address. Proceeds from the sale of the DVD's will go to Church/Choir funds.

If you would like to order some, then please get in touch with Peter on 01845 578473 or at Stoneleigh, Asenby, Thirsk, YO7 3QN. You can also contact Peter by e-mail at ev@electricvan.fsnet.co.uk

Cheques should be made payable to "St. Columba's Church Topcliffe".



Registered Charity No 1059665
The Old Health Centre, Church Lane, Boroughbridge YO51 9BA
Telephone Number: 01423 324504

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

What is it?

This is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home, who may suffer an accident or sudden illness. The scheme ensures that essential information is readily available to the Emergency Services, who are able to identify the person and the medication they are taking, as well as having available vital next of kin or contact addresses. This saves essential time in treating the patient and time consuming fact finding enquiries about the individual.

The Message in a Bottle scheme is supported by:

North Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Police, Fire & Rescue Services, Emergency Doctors, Voluntary Sector.

How does it work?

A simple form is completed which will contain important information and it is kept in a plastic container in the fridge, where the emergency services will expect to find it once they have seen the identification labels which are placed on the inside of the front door or main entrance to the home and on the door of the fridge. This is deemed the safest place in case of fire.

The scheme is simple to operate and is free to all individuals. The bottles are being distributed in this area by Boroughbridge Lions (Alison Ireland – 01423 325345) and Boroughbridge & District Community Care (David Allon – 01423 324504).

If you would like more information on the scheme, please call Alison or David who will be happy to assist in any way.

David Allon, Project Worker, Boroughbridge & District Community Care

Village Hall

The concert by Maire Ni Chathasaigh & Chris Newman on 15th October was a tremendous success. Maire has rightly been named as one of the best Celtic harpists ever. With her virtuoso playing and singing, and a terrific accompaniment and witty interjections by Chris Newman, everyone had a wonderful evening. We must give our thanks to Rural Arts North Yorkshire for their generous help in promoting these shows as well as our thanks to the committee members who gave up their time to make sure everything went well on the night.

The next event, on Friday 3rd December, is by the well-liked Newton Singers, who return by popular demand to give us not only a concert of "Songs from the Shows" (which they did so successfully on their last visit) but also, songs with a Christmas flavour, where the audience will be invited to participate. So we have the opportunity to start the Christmas

celebrations with a high quality concert and a chance to let your hair down if you so wish!

Tickets will be £5.00 each (with concessions for children) and are available from Lewis Rudge on 01845 578644 or at the door on the night. The concert will start at 7.30 pm. Proceeds will be in aid of the Village Hall funds, which need building up to pay for the renewal of the front wall which is expected to cost around £5,000. Your support will be appreciated and we promise you a good night out.

There will also be a Church fundraising event in the hall on the 4th January when the North Country Theatre will present "The Confession of Brother Wormwood". For more details of this event, please see the item on Church Fundraisers (page 6).

Lewis Rudge

Doorstep Selling

Doorstep selling continues to be a problem in North Yorkshire, with traders charging extortionate rates for inferior services. Bogus callers also continue to target the elderly and vulnerable members of our community, gaining access to properties to steal cash and valuables.

Don't be a Victim

Know your rights. With doorstep selling if the goods and services you buy cost more than £35, and you did not invite the seller to call, then you can generally have seven days to change your mind and cancel the contract. Even if the seller rings you up and asks if he or she can visit, you still have the right to cancel within seven days.

The best advice is to buy nothing at your doorstep, no matter how sorry you may feel for the seller. Doorstep sellers can be extremely persuasive and if you invite them into your home, they rarely go away empty handed.

Bogus callers often work in pairs, although you may only see one at your door. Claiming to be a council or utilities worker, they will have a convincing reason for gaining access to your home, and then whilst your back is turned, their partner in crime will slip in and steal your valuables.

A few simple rules will prevent YOU from being a victim:

- Keep front and back doors LOCKED, even whilst in the house
- Fit a door bar/chain - and USE it
- Only deal with callers by APPOINTMENT

- ALWAYS ask for an identity card and CHECK it carefully. (put your specs on!)
- DO NOT keep large sums of money at home.

Remember, genuine callers will be happy to stand at your door whilst YOU check their credentials. Take your time, make sure and if in doubt, KEEP THEM OUT.

We now have so many different utility suppliers, that keeping up to date with contact details can be a real problem. If you need to check with any of your suppliers that they really have sent one of their employees to your house, then the following numbers may be helpful.

Accuread	0800 393 499
British Gas/Scottish Gas	
Sales representative	0800 300 100
Meter readers	0800 393 499
BT	0800 321 999
Meter Plus Reading services	0800 073 0030
Northumbrian Water	0847 717 1100
nPower	0800 073 3000
Powergen	01159 066 000
Transco	0845 605 6677
Yorkshire Water	0845 124 2424
Yorkshire Water Meter readers	0800 073 0030
Scottish & Southern Energy	0800 300 000
Virgin Home Energy	0800 085 0000
Siemens Energy Services	0115 906 6000

Please also report doorstep sellers and suspected bogus callers to the Trading Standards hotline on

Topcliffe C of E Primary School

Harvest Festival

A big thank you to all those people who supported our Harvest Festival at the end of last half term. We raised a staggering £123.50 for Food Aid and have already received a certificate and a letter of thanks from the charity for our cheque, which will go towards supporting some of the poorest people in the developing world. Thanks to all the children who bought food to make up class hampers and we are grateful to Mrs Sherwood for her artistic flair in their presentation.

Balloon Launch and Open Evening

We had a successful evening on September 24th to celebrate our grand hall and classroom extension, raising £1000 towards funding our Early Years Play area. The balloon launch was a dramatic sight with labels being returned from as far away as France. Thank you to all who supported us, I am sure you will agree the facilities are a great improvement and the

children love PE in their new hall.

Forthcoming events

Preparations are underway for the Christmas period of festivities, and we will have had our Christmas Fayre in late November by the time you receive this TATtler. We hoped to have a variety of craft stalls, a raffle, tombola, refreshments, carol singing and even an opportunity to visit Santa in his Grotto! To those of you who supported the event, our grateful thanks.

The Christmas Nativity service will take place at St Columba's on Tuesday 14th December at 6:30pm. The children will be performing a short play entitled "The star that couldn't twinkle" and rehearsals are well underway. We look forward to welcoming you to the Church on the night.



Topcliffe Green / Black bins

Please note that between Mon Dec 6th and Mon 7th Feb inclusive there will be no green bin collection. Instead black bins will be collected on a weekly basis .

There will be no collections between Monday 27th December and Friday 31st December

Revised collection dates for the first week in January as follows:

<u>Normal Day</u>	<u>Revised Day</u>
Monday 3 Jan	Tuesday 4 Jan
Tuesday 4 Jan	Wednesday 5 Jan
Wednesday 5 Jan	Thursday 6 Jan
Thursday 6 Jan	Friday 7 Jan
Friday 7 Jan	Saturday 8 Jan

Volunteer/s required

The Parish Council has a number of wooden and metal benches around the village, some of which are in need of refurbishment. If anyone possesses the necessary skills and would like to volunteer to carry out such a job, (on one or any number) please contact any member of the council (numbers on back page).

Christmas Trees

Hambleton District Council will be collecting old Christmas trees for chipping from 31st Dec to 16th Jan. Watch out for details on notice board as to where to leave them for collection.

Police Phone Numbers

This seems to be becoming a regular news item, but we have yet another phone number change to report, which many of you will already know about. This looks likely to be the last change for a while!

The new number for contacting North Yorkshire Police for all non-emergency calls is:

0845 60 60 24 7

People with hearing difficulties should dial 18001 before using the above number. All calls will be charged at the local rate.

Each year the police receive over 80,000 calls to 999, and a further 850,000 calls on non-999 matters.

The police aim to answer all non-urgent calls to the new number within 20 seconds and the operators will decide if your call requires an immediate response. This would be considered necessary if:

- Someone's life is in danger
- Someone is at risk of violence, or property is about to be damaged
- A serious offence is in progress
- A suspect is at the scene or an early arrest is likely
- A serious disruption to the public is likely

Where an immediate response is required, the intention

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Topcliffe Bonfire - A night to remember

On Saturday 6th November there was another fine bonfire and super firework display, even the weather was calm and mild this year. Nearly 300 people thronged Barningham's field down Winn Lane and what a treat they had! A spectacular firework display, a huge bonfire with guy, and excellent food and good company. Many thanks to **EVERYONE** who helped or contributed to make this event a great success.

Just over £300 was collected as voluntary contributions on the gate. Clearly this money is only a fraction of the £1500 actual cost of the fireworks which give such a wonderful display. So, if you would like the voluntary team to continue putting on the



display some fund raising will need to be organised in the coming year. (Initial contact Malc Morley on 01845 577426). Or you might consider a small regular donation, perhaps via a standing order, to spread the costs?

So it's "**DO, DONATE or DIE**" time. **DO** help us with fund raising, consider **DONATING**, or the event will **DIE**.

Help us provide a safe, well organised bonfire spectacular and ensure none of our young people are at risk of injury. Prove we are a caring, fun loving community.

Asenby Recreation Ground

October saw a successful and thoroughly enjoyable 'Call My Bluff' wine and cheese evening at the village hall. Many thanks have to go to the fantastic hosts who would easily put Jilly and Oz out of jobs! Many of us who thought we knew a little about wine were soon proved wrong, as guessing the type and price of the wine we tasted was not so easy.

This event raised just over £220 towards the upkeep and improvement of Asenby Playing Field so a huge thank you to everyone who supported, and hopefully enjoyed the evening.

Our next gathering is the annual MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIE evening. It will be held on Sunday

12th December from 6.30-8 pm. This year it will be held by kind invitation of Claire and John Phillips at Asenby Hall. Tickets will cost £2. This will include your first glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, further glasses will cost £1. Children are very welcome, and their ticket will cost £1. There will be a Christmas Grand raffle, and any contributions to this will be appreciated. Tickets can be bought from any member of the committee.

It is all change in the Asenby Recreation Ground Committee. After years of hard work and dedication, both Julie Campbell and Claire Phillips have decided to leave the team. We

thank them for everything they have done to see the field and play area turn into such an asset for the village. The positions of Chair person and Treasurer have been kindly stepped into by Heather Holt and Nikki Fox respectively. We always welcome any new members to the committee so if you would like to play a part in developing our recreation ground further, give us a call.

If you would like to buy tickets for the mulled wine evening, donate a raffle prize or join our committee, call Jackie Avison on 578871.

Emma McCormick

Police Phone Numbers (Continued from page 4)

is to have a police officer at the incident within 15 minutes in urban areas and within 20 minutes in rural locations. If the incident is of a non-urgent nature, then your call will be transferred to the appropriate member of staff who will deal with it as required.

These much needed changes represent a firm commitment by NYP to improve the service to the public, and correctly used, should free up the 999 service for real emergencies whilst still ensuring a positive response to other urgent matters. Please help the police by making sure you call the right number for the circumstances.

More details of these changes and ways of getting in touch with NYP are contained in the leaflet "Contacting the Police" which is available from any police station.

St. Columba's Church Services

Vicar: the Revd Christine Haddon-Reece, Tel: 577939

Dec 04	5th	10.30 am	Christingle
	8th	9.30 am	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel
	12th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	19th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	19th	6.30 pm	Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve - 24th		3.00 pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service
Christmas Eve - 24th		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass of the Nativity
Christmas Day - 25th		10.30 am	Joint Family Service at the Methodist Chapel
Boxing Day - 26th		9.15 am	Holy Communion AT SKIPTON-ON-SWALE.
Jan 05	2nd	10.30 am	Benefice Family Service
	5th	9.30 am	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel
	9th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	16th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	23rd	10.30 am	Matins. <i>Preacher: Margaret Stevenson</i>
	23rd	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
	30th	10.30 am	Prayer Book Holy Communion
Feb 05	6th	10.30 am	Benefice Family Service
	9th	9.30 am	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel
	13th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	20th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	27th	10.30 am	Matins
	27th	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Church Fundraisers

Several events will be held at St. Columba's and in the Village Hall over the festive season to raise funds, not only for the Church, but for some of the charities that the Church supports.

We can promise you an eclectic mix of entertainment, so do make a note in your diary and come along for some excellent events.

On Sunday 5th December, in St. Columba's at 7.45 pm, the children of the church choir will perform the "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. This is a fairly short work, but the music is spectacular and a performance by candlelight will make this a very special occasion. We are delighted that the young harpist Alice French of Ampleforth will be accompanying the choir.

There is no charge for this event, but there will be a retiring collection. Proceeds will go towards the work

of the Baptist Church in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and the work of the pastors, James & Carolyn Kirk, who use music making to bring life and some security to the local street children. They need to provide instruments (usually recorders) and our help last year furnished them with a number of tenor recorders for the older children. Please come and support this event and give generously at this time of year when we have so much, and they have so little.

On Wednesday 22nd December at 11.00 am, fans of Matthew Atherton will be in Church to enjoy a short organ recital featuring many old favourites and a Christmas medley! Tea, coffee and mince pies will follow. Again this is a free concert, with a retiring collection in aid of Candlelighters,

the children's cancer charity based in Yorkshire.

This year's service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 19th December at 6.30 pm.

Into the New Year, on Tuesday 4th January in the Village Hall, the Richmond based North Country Theatre will present "The Confession of Brother Wormwood", a medieval tale of murder, miracles and dirty habits! This promises to be a hilarious evening and a spot of live theatre should make a welcome change after overdosing on TV during the holidays. The show starts at 7.30 pm, refreshments will be available and tickets at £10 each (Concessions £7) can be obtained from Kit & Roz Norris (01765 609939) or from John Phillips. (Tel 01845 577034) Any proceeds from this event will go towards the

Fed up with unwanted Telephone Sales calls?

As Michael Caine says, not many people know this, but you can stop unwanted telephone sales calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Service. And it really does work.

The service is free and it takes about 28 days for it to take effect after registering. You may do this by calling the registration line on 0845 070 0707 and leave your name and address and the telephone number you wish to register. Registering can also be done on line at www.tpsonline.org.uk or just e-mail them at tps@dma.org.uk

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	0845 60 60 24 7	Hambleton DC	01609 779977	Harrogate BC	01423 568954
Hambleton District Councillor (Topcliffe Ward) - Neville Huxtable 01845 501068 (E-mail NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk)					

**The TAttler
Team**

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