



### Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall Opening Ceremony

The long-awaited renovations of Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall are at last complete and it was only right that there should be a bit of a do to celebrate. The well-known Yorkshire Vet, Peter Wright, ably assisted by Topcliffe veteran 97 year old Nellie Ascough, performed the opening ceremony by cutting the celebratory cake.



Peter entertained the gathering by recalling his happy years spent living in Topcliffe. He had been a member of Topcliffe football team, had enjoyed fishing the Swale and shared delightful memories of the various interesting characters, most of whom still live in the village, and if not them, then their descendants.



He went on to acknowledge the good efforts of the band of volunteers whose sterling efforts made the improvements possible. He also thanked the organisations who contributed grants, and whose generosity was essential to get the whole thing up and running.

A great deal of dedicated effort has gone into raising the £140,000 necessary to pay for the project, as well as the physical labour of overseeing the building work, then cleaning and organising the hall to be ready for the Big Day. The two villages owe a lot to the members of the community who gave so much of their time and energy to the restoration which will benefit everyone.

The village hall is used constantly for a myriad of activities including two different yoga classes, pilates, playgroups, boccia, indoor bowls, cubs and brownies.

The celebratory party was a great success. Many people attended and the tea flowed while the huge selection of cakes were greatly appreciated. It was one of those special events that definitely brought the community together, and long may it continue in Topcliffe and Asenby's lovely village hall.

### Attic Auction

The Attic Auction was, as usual, a resounding success - who doesn't love a bargain? The sum raised was a startling £1350 which is a lot of bargains! A dapper John Phillips conducted the auction with his customary aplomb.



## A Successful Christmas Craft Fair

The Christmas Craft Fair proved to be a cracking community event, as many people commented, with a cheery amiable atmosphere and lots of chatting over cups of tea and mince pies. Many generous raffle prizes were donated, as were some very delicious cakes and pies.



The hall was full for most of the 4 hours, with Christmas shoppers looking for something authentic and original, and there was plenty to keep everyone happy. Interest in the jewellery stalls, cards, woodcraft and hand-painted artwork proved that handmade gifts are so much more personal.



The event raised a welcome £350 towards the remaining village hall renovations and stall-holders confirmed that they too had done well. In fact, the event was so successful they asked whether another craft fair could be held in the summer.

Coming up early in the New Year, a wine-tasting event with supper to follow is in the pipeline.

## Senior Citizens Christmas Party

The Senior Citizens were recently served a delicious 4-course Christmas dinner. They started their meal with prawn cocktails, followed by roast turkey, roast potatoes, roast parsnips, carrots, sprouts and peas. Pudding was trifle or Christmas pudding with cream or custard, and to finish, they enjoyed tea/coffee and mince pies. Enough to keep everyone going till New Year.

The Master Chef was Richard Virr and the aptly-dressed waiters were Peter Lowe and Jamie Moores. A special

**The TATtler**

## Dig! Dig! Dig!

Sowerby Memorial Park will be in bloom next spring thanks to the help of 1st Topcliffe Scout Group who have assisted in planting bulbs this week. Cllr Robson, Chairman of the Parish Council, who was also on hand with a trowel, praised the attitude of the young people. "It's great that the scouts are keen to get involved in the community. We want to improve the appearance of the Memorial Park and these spring flowers will enhance it for years to come"



Dave Baker, Scout Leader, actively encourages the scouts to be involved in community projects and fundraising activities to enable their scouting experience to be as varied as possible. A recent cake stall in Thirsk market raised £205 and the group took part in the Remembrance Day parade in Sowerby and Thirsk.

Sowerby Parish Council, who are in the process of improving the Memorial Parks footpath, fencing and benches, have made a donation to the Scout Group as a thank you, which will contribute towards the cost of a banner to use when undertaking fundraising activities for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the area.

*Alexandra Little*



thank you to the busy kitchen staff - Judy Lowe, Linda Nuttall, Clare Phillips and Vicki Moores.

After the meal, the customers and staff were treated to a splendid concert given by Topcliffe School. The children performed wonderfully and looked to be having a great time.

## The Elm Gallery

How time flies! The gallery has been open for a whole year now. We can remember what a mad rush it was last year to try and be open in time for Christmas. We've really enjoyed our first year and have got to know so many lovely people in Topcliffe and Asenby, as well as people from further afield. We've been delighted that so many of our longstanding customers from our previous gallery have been regular visitors too. We are gradually getting busier as more people find out we are here.

We'd like to say a big thank you to all of you who came to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on October 5th. We raised a magnificent total of £563.50! Thank you also to all those who helped in any way, either by baking, washing up or donating raffle prizes. We raised far more than we expected to and it was really worthwhile. The weather was kind to us too, which always helps.

Did you know that we sell vouchers for the gallery? We print them to order and if you'd like to order one, either pop in to the gallery or give us a ring on 577316 and we'll print one off for you to collect. They're also available to buy online at [www.the-elm-gallery.co.uk/gs\\_vr.html](http://www.the-elm-gallery.co.uk/gs_vr.html). Vouchers can be spent on anything in the gallery and are valid for one year.



We will be open up to and including Christmas Eve (we'll be stuffing the turkey in between serving customers) then we'll re-open on Wednesday 28th of December till the 31st. After that we revert to our normal opening hours which are on the home page of our website.

We'd like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support and friendship over the past year. We wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2017.

*Liz, Dave and Rocky*

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## Finders Keepers Seek The Village Hall!!

Our recent Christmas Fair attracted considerably more interest than we'd anticipated when Jeremy and Jericho of Radio York fame turned up the day before the fair, following clues for the programme Finders Keepers.

The programme airs for 3 hours on Saturday mornings. It involves Jeremy and Jericho travelling round Yorkshire in a bid to find 6 destinations of specific interest. On this occasion, Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall was chosen because of our Christmas Fair scheduled for the following day.



A clue is given to listeners for each destination then callers to the programme aim to solve the clues for the two men. They also give them directions to their next stopping place by phoning into the studio and talking to Clare Frisby, who hosts the whole programme and communicates with the boys, and also with the voluntary sleuths.

We were the third destination of the morning, following Rural Arts in Thirsk. The clue for our village hall was "Face painted Clive topped around the hall mumbling about the Yarlestre hundred losing the Christmas gifts after indulging in refreshments". This was not an easy clue at all and neither were the directions they were given to get here. Hardly surprising that our one-way system caused them to take an interesting diversion! However, they eventually appeared and chatted about the Christmas Fair, and then were moved onto the next place. The clue we had to give them was 'Head home for a vintage performance popping up at Cukewald Hall'. Any guesses as to where they were headed?

The following day we held a very successful Christmas Fair in our newly refurbished village hall. Although it was run by the Village Hall Committee it was brought together and organised by Kristina who has her own little shop in Thirsk Arcade, selling Fair Trade and locally produced gifts and crafts. We had 12 interesting, good quality stalls selling Christmas gifts, decorations and treats and certainly everybody had a good time.

Watch out for the repeat event next year with or without Jeremy and Jericho!

*Jane Graham*

*Village Hall Committee Member*

## Topcliffe Church of England Primary School

On Monday, 10th October, Topcliffe School received 'the phone call': they would be having their Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools later that week. A SIAMS is an important event, ranking alongside and Ofsted inspection. It is rigorous and thorough, a framework that provides a process for evaluating the extent to which church schools are 'distinctively and recognisably Christian institutions'.

- 1 Distinctiveness must include a wholehearted commitment to putting faith and spiritual development at the heart of the curriculum.
- 2 The Christian ethos must permeate the whole educational experience.
- 3 The importance of clearly ascribed Christian values and their outworking in the life of schools is widely accepted.
- 4 High quality religious education and collective worship should continue to make major contributions to the church school's Christian ethos.
- 5 Pupils should be enabled to engage seriously with and develop an understanding of the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 6 Every child should be enabled to flourish in their potential as a child of God, as a sign and expression of the Kingdom. This is at the heart of the Church's distinctive mission.

The principal objective of the inspection is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school so to ensure that learners' academic, personal and spiritual needs are being met.

A church school's self-evaluation, verified by inspection, seeks to judge how well the school's distinctive Christian character and values ensure the development and achievement of the whole child or young person.

Towards this objective, the Inspector sought answers to four core questions:

- 1 How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- 2 What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- 3 How effective is the Religious Education?
- 4 How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

During the inspection, staff, pupils, governors and parents were interviewed, and documentation scrutinized, in order to answer these questions. We are delighted to report that the final judgement of the SIAMS Inspector was that:

### Topcliffe Church of England School is Outstanding



## Get Involved (It isn't painful, honest)

The last year has been a particularly busy one for the volunteers who make life much more pleasant for the residents of Topcliffe and Asenby. I'm sure we all have a pretty good idea of who the volunteers are, and are glad to know that the Senior Citizens are able to enjoy Boccia club on Tuesday afternoons; the village hall is fantastically bright and clean and well-equipped; that there's someone to pester the council about speeding limits, and there are people who'll spend their own time picking up litter left by others.

Most of us use the village hall occasionally or regularly. Whether it's Beavers or Cubs, or adults taking part in pilates or yoga classes. We expect that the timetable will run smoothly and the hall will be clean and available when our sessions are due to take place. It doesn't happen by magic. It takes a lot of organising and no-one gets paid for it.

It's easy to take these hardworking volunteers for granted, and perhaps if more people would lend a hand it would lighten the burden a little. It can be quite rewarding, fun even, but as most of the volunteers are in their 50s, 60s and beyond, it might be a good time to get some experience now before they're all past it. (They do still look pretty lively, mind.)

### [www.Topcliffe.net](http://www.Topcliffe.net) & [www.Asenby.net](http://www.Asenby.net)

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, a electronic version of The TATtler and all the pictures of Topcliffe, Asenby and the surrounding area, as well as the online version of the Millennium Book of Topcliffe.



Village	Hall	Events
Monday Morning	Pilates	N. Brule Walker 07887 581364
Monday Evening	Yoga	B. Walmsley 577976
Tuesday Afternoon	Boccia/Tues club	J. Lowe 577911
Tuesday Afternoon	Book Exchange	L. Nuttall 577315
Tuesday Evening	Footloose Dance	E. Jakeman 07912 147386
Wednesday Morning	Daisychain	N. Fox 577739
Wednesday Afternoon	Hatha Yoga 2 - 3:15pm	Yvonne Lovatt 07944 436718 Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> Onwards
Wednesday Evening	Beavers & Cubs	
Thursday Morning	Pilates	
Thursday Afternoon	Brownies	K. Roberts 577177
Thursday Evening	Indoor Carpet Bowls	D. Arkley 578728
Friday Morning (monthly)	Toddlers	A. Binks 577304

## Village Hall Committee News

Few can have missed the change to the look of our village hall. I hope you will agree that the front aspect has been transformed from a somewhat dated utility structure to an attractive and welcoming building that enhances the village appeal. And the improvements don't stop there. We now have greatly improved toilet facilities for ladies and gents, a new kitchen full of modern appliances, new cutlery, improved invalid access, a hearing 'loop' system, new sound system along with a large screen and video projector, new entrance hall and internal doors, and to top it all the interior has had a total face-lift.

Well almost. Paul Thompson and his building team have done a superb job on the renovations and have given the village hall a very generous discount to enable us to get the works completed close to budget. Paul also very kindly donated the new village hall sign. We have spent over £140,000, much of the money having been provided through grants, and the remainder raised by your very generous donations to "The Brick in The Hall", as well as raffles and numerous fund-raising functions. However, the money has now run out and we still need new curtains, handrails at the front of the village hall, and a completed weather canopy over the front door.

Doug Allan, our amazing co-opted committee member, has been the person who has raised the majority of the funds we needed to complete this ambitious project, and he is again working hard applying for further grants toward the final outstanding items. As always we, as the village hall users, are required to raise our own funds in order to be eligible for these grants, so please support the various functions and events that are taking place over the next few months (and beyond) to facilitate the completion of the refurbishment project. It will be well worth it, and I sincerely hope that many of you will make use of, and enjoy, the new facilities the village hall has to offer.

In mid-October Peter Wright (of Yorkshire Vet fame) and Nellie Ascough (the longest living member of our community) jointly opened the refurbished village hall while members of the two villages happily listened to the speeches whilst eating cake and drinking tea. Does life get any better?

Lastly my thanks go to all the committee members who have worked tirelessly over the past year to help improve the village hall and give its users the best possible facility, whilst enabling the hall to continue functioning as the great village community centre that it has become.

We would like to recruit new members to the committee, so if the new look and facilities have inspired you to get involved, please contact any of the present committee members. You will be more than welcome. Finally, please keep supporting our fundraising. We're almost there!

Have a very happy and prosperous New Year.

*Andrew Eckersley*  
Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

## Mulled Wine Boost for Asenby

The annual Mulled Wine and Mince Pie evening has become an Asenby tradition and this year Clare and John Phillips generously offered their house as the venue for the event which raised an impressive £533.



Thanks to West Park Inns, the owner of the Lucky Number Entry Ticket won £50 in vouchers to be used at one of the Inns. A Pick the Lucky Box Competition gave one fortunate Asenbyte the opportunity to win a bottle of beer a week for a year from Hambleton Ales while other raffle prizes included a fantastic wire hen and splendid raku pot by Asenby artists Chris and Eric Moss, vouchers for Huttons florists in Northallerton and for the Elm Gallery in Topcliffe, an intricate painted plate from the paintbrush of Pauline Milross as well as a myriad of other donated gifts. Children were kept busy with a Christmas version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey - Pinning the Red Nose on Rudolph the Reindeer!

*Siobhan Gifford*

## Job Vacancy

Amanda Jamieson-Allen has resigned from Topcliffe Parish Council which now leaves a vacancy. If interested, please call Garry Key on 578900.



*Alanbrooke Nursery held a Butterflies and Caterpillars Christmas concert. This was not an exhibition of unseasonal insects but a sing-song given by the adorable tiny children from the toddler classes.*

## Christmas Services at St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Carol Service Sunday 18th December 6.30pm  
Nativity Service Saturday 24th December 2.30pm  
Midnight Mass Saturday 24th December 11.30pm  
Christmas Morning 25th December 9.00am  
(service led by Rev'd Kathie Heathcoat, according to the Methodist tradition, all welcome)

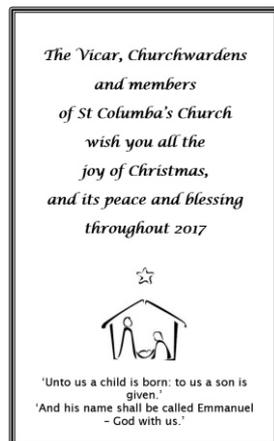
A warm welcome awaits you at all the services.

Details of services at the other churches (Baldersby St James, Dalton and Skipton) can be found in the parish magazine, Cross Talk, available at the back of any of the churches, or on any of the church noticeboards, or via the various websites (see [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com))

What will be the highlight of your Christmas?

For some, it may be chance to be with family and friends, to enjoy some time together, relaxing and having fun, catching up with people you don't see very often; for others it may be time off work, chance to let your hair down, party and then have a rest; and for others it may be the excitement of seeing what Father Christmas has brought. For some of you, the highlight of Christmas may be simply that you've got through it - particularly if you've had a difficult year: if relationships haven't been easy, or someone dear to you has died, ill-health is causing concern or financial pressures are acute.

Whatever situation you find yourself in this Christmas, I hope that you will take a moment to allow yourself to receive the greatest gift - the gift of knowing that you are very precious to God. At this time of year we celebrate Emmanuel, which simply means 'God with us' - God with us, as Jesus, because he loves each one of us.



May you know the joy and blessing of the Christ-child, and the presence of God with you. May that transform your life - and transformed together, may we bring peace in a troubled world.

*Susanne Jukes, Vicar*

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## Community Space Plans

A superbly Christmassy afternoon at Asenby Hall on Sunday 11 December raised a magnificent £533 for Asenby Community Space.

Asenby Community Space, at the bottom of Jamesville Way, was first developed 16 years ago and a small playpark was built there. The large field gives children of the village an opportunity for a good kickaround game of footie but the new committee hopes to build on these foundations in 2017 developing the site into an area that feels welcoming to all sectors of the village – seniors as well as juniors! Fund-raising is a vital part of these plans and the committee would like to thank everyone who came to the event, those that donated prizes, those that bought tickets even if they weren't able to come on the night, and the Phillips', for all their support for this worthwhile cause. The committee coffers were almost running on empty so this has been a tremendous boost to our plans.

The New Year will see the committee carrying out a door-to-door survey in the village to find out exactly what residents would like to see happen to this valuable community space. Meanwhile anyone who would like to either help out on the committee or put forward their own ideas for the area is welcome to get in touch by email at [asenby.community.space@hotmail.com](mailto:asenby.community.space@hotmail.com). You can find us on Facebook – search for Asenby Institute Community Space – and on the website [www.asenby.net](http://www.asenby.net). There are also plans afoot for a series of fund-raising events throughout 2017 so watch this space.....

*Chairman: Siobhan Gifford. Tel: 578300*

## Santa Stops at the Angel at Topcliffe

On Sunday 4th of December, Santa visited The Angel at Topcliffe for a festive Sunday Lunch with the Children of Topcliffe and Asenby.

The staff at The Angel had prepared a warm welcome for Santa, creating him his very own Christmas Grotto in The Plaza Suite. Local children were delighted to have a chance to meet Father Christmas and tell him all about what they'd like to receive for Christmas this year, whilst their parents had a chance to relax and enjoy a traditional Angel Sunday Roast - much appreciated at this busy time of year!

Feedback from the event was incredibly positive with lots of the parents asking if Santa would be able to visit again next year. Greg, the Manager at The Angel said, "It's always such a lovely event welcoming Santa to The Angel and it's one of the things our staff look forward to all year and we're certainly looking to repeat the event next year, look out for more details when we announce our Christmas events next summer!"





## Christingle Service Sunday 27th November



It was a joy to be able to hold our annual Christingle Service in the newly re-furnished Village Hall as this enabled us to have a 'Messy' Christingle this year. Through the fun of playing 'Pass the Parcel' we amassed the various elements that go to make up a Christingle, and the children, very impressively, explained to the adults in their group what each part of the symbol represented. There was fun and laughter - and a lot of noise ... and mess. But at the end it all came together as all seventy-five of us stood in a big circle round the edge of the hall, Christingles complete, and in the darkened room, lit only by the candles of the Christingles, we quietly remembered children who are particularly vulnerable, who are frightened or unhappy. Remembering that Jesus is the Light of the World, we prayed for them, and collected money to support the work of the Children's Society.

Thank you to all who attended, or helped in any way. We raised just short of £100 for the Children's Society.

*Susanne Jukes, Vicar*

### Christmas Film Show

The film, Arthur Christmas, will be shown in the village hall on Saturday December 17 at 4pm. Entry is £2 per child and £4 per adult. All are welcome to this trial show.

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<b>Lynn Wallis (Vice Chair)</b> 32 East Lea	<b>Judy Lowe (Vice Chair)</b> Green End Dairy
<b>David Bowman</b> 21 East Lea	<b>Mel Arkley</b> Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville
<b>Anne-Marie Barningham</b>	<b>Peter Dale</b>
<b>Alex Little (Clerk) 578702</b>	<b>Don Compton</b>
	<b>Jayne Molyneux (Clerk)</b>

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Peter Bardon  
524060

Bernard Bateman  
01765 640362

HDC Cllr Garry Key 578900 [cldr.garry.key@hambleton.gov](mailto:cldr.garry.key@hambleton.gov)

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