

THE TATTLER

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Autumn 2006

Parish Councils to pay for elections!

A message from Garry Key, chairman of Topcliffe P.C.

Dear residents,

I would first like to take the opportunity to thank Vicki Moores for her hard work during her time as Parish Clerk and to welcome Angela Hook as the new clerk.

You are no doubt aware that the Government capped HDC to a 5% rise in Council Tax last year despite HDC having one of the lowest council tax rates in the country. Since then this Government has kept up its relentless round of pointless and unnecessary initiatives for local government to enact without adequate funding following on. The upshot of this is that HDC has to raise revenue. The Parish Council has been notified that as of May 2007, HDC intend to recover the costs of holding Parish Council Elections. This could amount to anywhere between £1,000 and £4,000 spread over a four year period and funded through the parish precept which currently stands at £6,200 pa. It is likely to be closer to the former as in reality, we have not held a ballot in the last 10 years due to what seems a lack of interest from you, the public in not putting yourselves forward, but hopefully this will change.

The view of the Parish Council is that this is a poor and anti democratic approach to filling the funding gap as it in effect penalises elected councils. You will in fact be paying twice as the Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks are already paid employees of HDC. Pro rata, £1,000 over four years represents about a 4% increase in the

precept. The Parish Council will be setting next year's budget in October and we have two clear options. One, to include a hike to cover any charge or two, as we do not know as yet how much the election will cost, if at all, wait until next year. The council accounts are quite buoyant at the moment and could absorb the first year cost so I prefer option two.

The Parish Council is made up of 5 councillors and a paid clerk. To force a ballot more than five people must stand for election incurring the cost of counting votes and returning officers, etc. If five or less stand there is no ballot and those who have stood are elected with any vacancies filled through co-opting. Less than four people standing and we cannot apply for 'Quality' council status for which we qualify in every other respect except a qualified clerk. Angela is keen to qualify and the qualification process is underway.

For the Parish Council to achieve 'Quality' status, you can help by standing for election as a councillor next year. It is not an onerous task and you would be contributing to the well being of the village. I will stand next year but if more than five people put their names forward I will happily withdraw in favour of widening the franchise with new blood and of course saving money.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Asenby News	2
Topcliffe Surgery	3
Nidderdale Walk	4 & 5
Sunday School News	5
Church News	6

(Continued from page 1)

Vandalism and Anti social behaviour.

There has been a spate of this of late. If you see something untoward, do please report it to Crimestoppers (0800 555 111), Neighbourhood Watch or a Councillor (see back page for contact details) Please have some details though: - names, description(s), height, dress, hair colour, time and date, what they were doing etc. This is needed to build a wider intelligence picture.

Asenby News by Emma McCormick

The summer barbecue proved another success, aided by good weather! Thanks to all who came to support us. We raised money towards 2 new pieces of playground equipment and also a cricket net. Details of how much was raised will be in the next TATtler. We always like to know what the villagers want so if you have any ideas, please get in touch!

Asenby Web Site - www.Asenby.net

We hope to hold some more fun fundraisers this year, possibilities in the pipeline are a hair demo and a 'Pamper Chef' evening. Keep an eye out for details of these and of dates and times for committee meetings- any villager is welcome and we are always in need of more committee members!

**Last Copy
Date for
Winter issue
is 15th
November
2006**



Yoga Class at Topcliffe Village Hall



THE BRITISH WHEEL OF
YOGA

- ◆ Hatha Yoga class
Tuesday evenings
7.00 to 8.30 pm from September 19th
2006 at Topcliffe Village Hall.
- ◆ Beginners and those with some yoga
experience are all welcome.
- ◆ Gently develop your flexibility and flowing
movement.
- ◆ Experience real relaxation.
- ◆ Yoga for everyone.



For further details and class enrolment contact Barry Walmsley (British Wheel of Yoga Membership No.06/NYO/16360/ST) on 01845 577976.

Topcliffe Surgery

Those of you fortunate enough not to have to visit the surgery may not know that the practice not only has a interesting and informative newsletter, but is now also on line at www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk

The web site is really good with an abundance of information and lots of large print available for those of us who need it! It is also very easy to navigate with all options clearly laid out and no animated distractions!

When you get into the site, you will find plenty useful guidance on how to deal with health emergencies, treating yourself, caring for your condition and health checks. You will also find, that after a simple registration process, you can book an appointment with the doctor on line and that certain repeat prescriptions can also be requested on line.

The site also has other information about the practice, surgery hours and the services offered, such as travel vaccinations and other non-NHS services as well as some useful links to the websites of other health related organisations. A site visit is highly recommended, but I would suggest that you type in the full address as your internet browser may not respond to "topcliffesurgery"

Topcliffe based RAF Neptune crashes on Mull of Kintyre – 9 dead

That may well have been a headline in the D & S Times in October 1956 following the loss of the Topcliffe based Lockheed Neptune MR1 (WX545) which crashed on the Mull on the 10th of the month.

The aircraft had left Topcliffe in early October with six other Neptunes from No. 36 Squadron, and the aircraft were temporarily attached to the Joint Anti-Submarine School at RAF Ballykelly in Northern Ireland. Whisky X-ray, with 9 crew on board, was participating in exercises over the North Channel when the accident took place. Eye-witnesses recalled seeing the aircraft circling the lighthouse on the Mull of Kintyre as if trying to pin-point its position before landing back at Ballykelly. Weather conditions at the time were poor and there was thick fog in the vicinity of the Mull.

An RAF Mountain Rescue team travelled through the night from their base at RAF Leuchars and arrived at the crash scene the following day to find that the aircraft had disintegrated on impact. There were no survivors.

The coast of Kintyre has always had a reputation for freak weather conditions and low level flying has often been a dangerous activity in the area. Many of you will recall the loss of an RAF Chinook helicopter on a flight from Aldergrove to Inverness in June 1994 with many senior police and intelligence officers on board. On that occasion all 29 on board lost their lives as the aircraft flew into the same hillside of Beinn na Lice in poor visibility. The Chinook went down less than a kilometre from the crash site of the Neptune.

Each year, on the Sunday nearest to the date of the crash, the crew of the Neptune are remembered during the service at St Columba's. This year, the 50th anniversary of the crash, there will be a special Memorial Service, led by the Rev'd Roy Muttram and with RAFA members participating. Please do make the effort to come to St. Columba's at 1030am on Sun 8th October to give them your support and remember the ultimate sacrifice of the Neptune crew members.

TATTLER WALKS NUMBER 2.

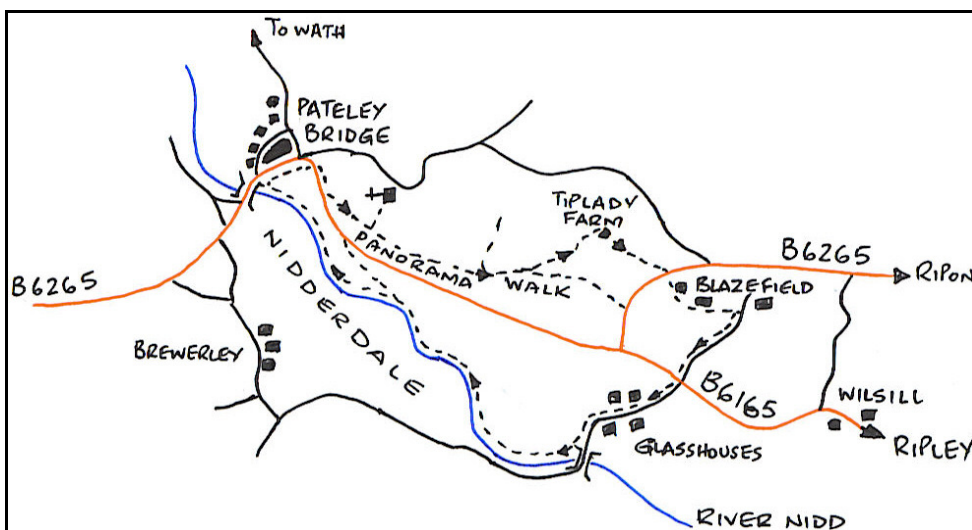
RIVERSIDE AND HILLSIDE AT PATELEY BRIDGE

Pateley Bridge, the 'capital' of Nidderdale is a pleasant place to visit, although at weekends it can become busy. This short walk soon escapes from the crowds and takes you through some fine scenery only a short way from the little town. There are plenty of car parks in Pateley Bridge, so find a place, then start the walk from the bottom of the High Street.

Our walk takes us up the High Street passing many temptations in the way of shops, cafes and pubs, but you had better save those until the end of the walk. At the top of the main street bear right to follow the Harrogate road for a short way, passing the Methodist church on the right, then turning off to the left just before the bus stop and up a short flight of steps by a sign for 'Panorama Walk'. This climbs uphill [not very steeply – and this is the only climb of the day] to reach the cemetery gates, after which turn left into a narrow walled pathway which leads to the old church on the hillside.

This attractive old ruin is set amongst yew trees and some finely carved headstones in the graveyard. The church of St Mary the Virgin was the medieval parish church, being first mentioned in 1320 and acquiring a new tower in 1691. By the late 18th century, the expanding town had outgrown the church [which was also in an inconvenient position up a steep hill], so eventually St Cuthbert's was built in 1827 and the old church abandoned. Leave the churchyard by the SE corner and follow a path across 2 fields passing a barn to your right. Go over a stile to rejoin the Panorama Walk lane and bear left up the hill.

On your right a little further on is a cast iron gate giving access to a fine viewpoint set on a rock outcrop and looking out over Nidderdale towards Guisecliffe and the folly of 'Two Stoops', erected in 1810 by labourers working for John Yorke of Bewerley Hall, though the two stoops were originally three. The Panorama Walk was a Victorian scheme to attract tourists using the branch railway from Harrogate, which was already a fashionable spa, though the lane itself is much older, and is probably on the line of one of the old packhorse routes leading towards Fountains Abbey, which owned large areas of land and lead mines in Nidderdale. A little further down the dale is the hamlet of Smelthouses on the site of an iron smelter belonging to the abbey.



Continue along the easily graded and surfaced path until you reach a group of houses at the end of a tarmac road. Follow the road for a short way, but bear left into a grassy lane instead of going downhill on the tarmac. Look out for a green sign on the left indicating a path to Blazefield, which passes between gorse bushes before contouring the hillside through 3 meadows to reach a stile into a sunken lane. Cross this to enter another field and contour round again to a metal gate and a path into Tiplady Farm via an old turnstile [a penny for the slot is not required]. Pass through the farmyard with the farmhouse to your left and cottages to your right, then along the farm road to reach the B6265. Cross carefully, going right for a few yards, then left along the front of terraced cottages and newer bungalows.

A track [part of the Nidderdale Way] leads to the next road [Sandy Lane] passing Rock House on the left – which really is built into the face of a huge rock. Drop down the road to enter the village of Glasshouses where you meet, and must cross the main road. The sharp eyed [and the thirsty] will have spotted the Birch Tree Inn just a couple of hundred yards off route, so a short diversion is allowed in an

emergency. The route continues down the minor road through the village until you reach the river. Don't cross the bridge, but take the track that turns to the right just before the bridge. You might also notice the large mill building on the left which now houses [amongst other things] Yorkshire Country Wines and a tea shop.

The lane soon brings you to the side of Glasshouses Dam, which must be one of the largest mill ponds in the dales and is now popular with canoeing groups from the nearby outdoor centre at Bewerley Park. There's also a flotilla of hungry looking wildfowl [brought any crumbs?] and large numbers of easily seen fish [I'm guessing trout, but I'm no fisherman]. From here back to Pateley Bridge one just carries on along the good path that follows the riverbank all the way. It's an attractive route, popular with locals and tourists, and one can enjoy the sights and sounds of nature until the fleshpots of Pateley Bridge come into view. Now was it an ice cream or a pint first?

Distance – about 4 miles. Recommended map – Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer series number 298. This walk is suitable for trainers in dry summer conditions, but expect some mud around Tiplady Farm.

Sunday School at St. Columba's

As many will be aware, St Columba's Sunday School was started in January this year and there has been an excellent response from local families. There are more than 20 children who regularly attend with around 12-15 taking part for each session.

Each week a Bible story is read or enacted with lots of participation from all the children, followed by songs, games, various creative activities and prayers, all of which highlight the meaning of the story, and enable the children to understand a little more about Christianity. It's a lot of fun for everyone involved, as is evidenced by the noise that seems to be generated from the Church Hall when Sunday School takes place. The children have also performed songs and stories in church, and even managed to get the whole congregation joining in with the actions on Easter Day!

The Sunday School takes place on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month with the dates between now and the end of the year being:

September 10th & 17th, October 8th & 15th, November 12th & 19th, December 10th & 17th. It starts at 10.30am and takes place in the Church Hall next to the Church (also used as the Scouting hut). Children of all ages are more than welcome at any time, and for families that also have babies or toddlers, changing facilities and toddler toys are provided (as long as mothers stay to look after their under 3's, most parents leave those over 3 to attend the service, although parents are more than welcome to stay also if they wish).

If you would like any further details, please contact Claire Cadogan on 577 238 or Jenny Roberts on 577 895.

You may also be interested to know that there is a Family Service at the Church on the first Sunday of every month. This service is very much aimed at children, with family hymns, readings from the Children's Bible and a talk that encourages participation from the younger members of the congregation. The service lasts around 40 minutes in total.

Topcliffe Carpet Bowls Club

May we remind you that the club will warmly welcome new members. We meet in the Topcliffe and Asenby village hall at 7.30 every Thursday evening. No equipment is needed as everything is provided by the club. If you would be interested to see what happens just come along. There is no need to commit yourself to membership, just try a few evenings and see if you would enjoy being part of our friendly group. Autumn evenings are on the way and one evening a week is great fun. More information from **Peter Simmerson - 01845 578 273** or **Fred Tye - 01845 577 022**.

St Columba's Church Services

Vicar: the Revd Christine Haddon-Reece. Tel: 01845 577939

Churchwardens: Linda Carver 578014 & Margaret Gimblett 577882				
September	Sunday	3rd	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	6th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	10th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	17th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	24th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
October	Sunday	1st	Family Harvest Thanksgiving	10.30 am
	Wednesday	4th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	8th	RAFA Neptune	10.30 am
			50th Anniversary Memorial Service.	
			Preacher: Rev'd Roy Muttram	
	Sunday	15th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	22nd	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sunday	29th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
November	Sunday	5th	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	8th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	12th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sunday	19th	Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	26th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation is a charity which makes small grants for the purchase of books, to students who have recently left school and are in their first degree course at University or the equivalent. To be eligible, the student must live in the parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area covered by the parish as now constituted together with Marton le Moor.

The Charity's income is fixed and limited, therefore the value of any single grant will depend not only on the funds available to distribute but also on the number of successful applications.

Applications are sought in September/October and the Trustees meet in December to approve grants. Students who have received grants in previous years will automatically receive an invitation to apply for 2006/7.

Anyone seeking further information, wishing to apply or questioning their eligibility to apply should ring Geoff Hall on 01845 578324.