

THE TATTLER

Volume 13 Issue 2
Summer 2006

Village Hall - Help needed

We are pleased to report some new activities in the hall. Tai Chi classes started recently and it is hoped that they will continue after the summer holidays. Yoga classes will also start in September, as will the Brownie Group. We have a new Keep Fit teacher and she is currently running classes on a Monday evening. Following the success of Strictly Come Dancing, there has been interest in a dance class. Moves are afoot (!) for a class in the autumn.

Also, it is hoped to start a craft group meeting one morning per month (fortnight?) to share knowledge and help with craft projects. Perhaps you know how to make rugs, do patchwork, or some other activity and would be happy to give the benefit of your experience. On the other hand, you might like to make something but have no idea where to start. If you are interested in any of the above, contact Linda Nuttall on 577315.

Following the hall's recent AGM, David Winfield has taken on the chairmanship of the committee. Unfortunately, we are about to lose 3 of our members, including our Treasurer. It is vital that replacements are found as soon as possible so that the smooth

running of the hall can continue. There are only 6 committee meetings per year, i.e. we meet every two months, for about 1½ to 2 hours, so the responsibility is not onerous! If you think you have some skills to offer us, please contact one of the committee members to find out more. In particular, we urgently need someone to look after our accounts.

We have raised the hire rates for the hall (from 1st June), mainly to cope with increased fuel costs. We know that our rates are very competitive compared to other halls and our facilities are excellent. Bookings are still through Linda Nuttall.

Editor's note

Our thanks are due to the committee members who are standing down, (due to other commitments) and we are all very grateful for the contributions they have made to make the hall and the events held there a great success. If you feel you can spare the time to be a committee member then please do contact Linda and volunteer, so we may ensure the village hall continues to flourish.

STOP PRESS -Topcliffe Parish Council

The Parish Council are looking for a new Clerk -
For full details see page 4.

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Editorial

One of the challenges which the TATtler throws up every quarter is making the copy fit the pages available. Howard Wilson does a great job when we have plenty of news and he just makes the print smaller until it all fits! (It not your eyesight that's getting worse)

When we are short of material, it's handy to have something interesting standing by and so in the last issue we published details of a short walk up Farndale. I hope some of you managed to get up there and enjoy the daffodils before everything got too muddy.

Following on from that, Gordon Hatton of Topcliffe, who is a keen walker, very kindly offered to do a regular short walk article. Your editor is not one to look a gift horse in the mouth and so in this issue we publish the first of Gordon's walks – a short circular perambulation around the Ripon/Studley area. We hope that some of you find time to enjoy a bit of the local countryside. Do please let us know how you get on – perhaps we can even start a Letters to the Editor column – assuming we have the space of course!

Asenby News by Emma McCormick

The Village Hall was the venue for a table top sale in February. Thanks to all those who contributed and supported it! The home made soup and rolls were a big hit. Unfortunately however, it wasn't as well supported as we had hoped but we still managed to raise just over £120.

will include fun for all the family and we are sure it will be another great success. Hopefully the sun will shine down on us and we will not have to shelter under the marquees (which are, incidentally, available for hire!)

We are always on the lookout for new committee members or fundraising ideas just call Jackie 578871 or any member of the committee.

Asenby BBQ - Sat 17 June

The annual Asenby barbeque will be held this year on SATURDAY 17th June. Watch out for posters and fliers with final details nearer the time. The afternoon, as always,

Asenby Website

Asenby now has its own website and it is well worth a visit.

The site has a fresh, clean look about it and there are lots of photographs of Asenby and the surrounding area. There are also details of the work of some of Asenby's artists and links to Peter Perkins Solar Van website and Thirsk website.

The site also has news of the Playing Field and lists of useful local telephone numbers.

Asenby Web Site - www.Asenby.net

Log on today and take a look – you're sure to be impressed.

**Last Copy
Date for
Autumn Issue
is 15th
August 2006**



Classics at St. Columba's

The next classical concert at St. Columba's will be on Sat 17th June in Church at 7.30pm. The programme is;

Benjamin Britten - Sonata for Cello and Piano Op. 65
Franz Schubert - Sonata in A Minor for Arpeggione (Cello) and Piano, D. 821
Johannes Brahms - Piano Trio in B Major

and we have three absolutely wonderful performers;

Matthew Lowe (Cello) , ex Scholar at the Royal College of Music and now a postgraduate at The Guildhall, who this year won the London Symphony Award to play as a member of the orchestra - he also plays regularly with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Alasdair Beaston (Piano), a graduate with highest honours from the Royal College of Music, thereafter studying at Bloomington USA with Pressler - pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio. Since his return to the UK he has won international prizes and played recitals (inc Wigmore Hall) and concertos in many parts of the world.

Eleanor Fagg (Violin), also a postgraduate at the RCM, was principal of the National Youth Orchestra, recently playing with the LSO and winner in 2005 of the 'Emily English Scholarship' awarded by the Musicians Benevolent fund to the most outstanding violinist heard at audition.

This is another very special concert and will no doubt be a real delight. Tickets are £8, concessions £6, and children £4 and are available from John Phillips on 01845 577034

There will also be a concert in Church on Monday 21st August at 7.30 pm. This will be given by "Mean Time", an ensemble of four graduate musicians from Trinity College of Music, London, specialising in work with the Recorder spanning the Mediaeval, Renaissance and Baroque periods. Their recital is entitled 'The Birds and the B's'.... a chirping, twittering and buzzing programme of Cuckoos, Nightingales, Finches and Bumble Bees, exploring birdsong, love and nature - and composers beginning with B! Including music by Bach, Couperin, Finch, Uccellini, Rore and, of course, Byrd!!

The group perform regularly in London and other parts of the country and their concerts are described as light hearted and accessible to everybody.

Please keep an eye on the notice boards nearer the time for more details.

Topcliffe Carpet Bowls Club

Why not come and try your hand at bowling on a carpet?

The club meets at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.30 and would be delighted to welcome new adult members, young or old. All the necessary equipment is provided and if you come along there is no need to commit yourself to membership.

Simply come and have a go for a few evenings and then decided whether or not you enjoy the game and the companionship of our cheerful and friendly members. You will get a warm welcome.

You can, of course, simply turn up but, if you want more information in advance, please telephone either Peter Simmerson on 578273 or Fred Tye on 577022.

TATTLER WALKS NUMBER 1.

STUDLEY PARK AND THE RIVER SKELL

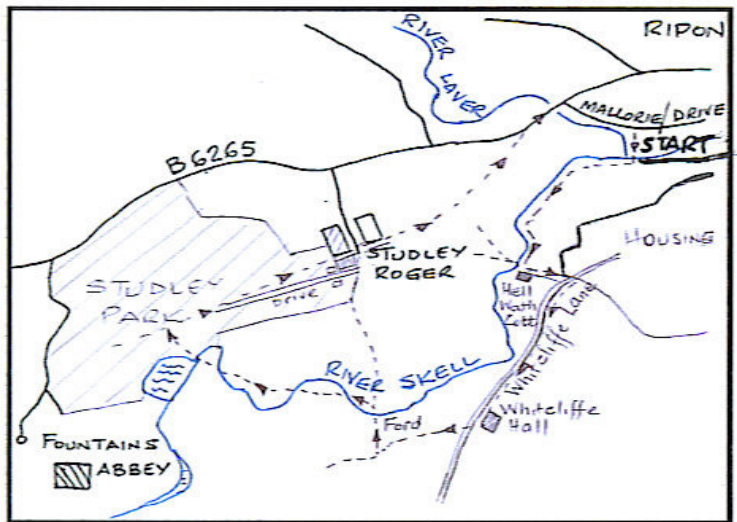
This pleasant, easy family walk passes through some familiar territory on the west side of Ripon, and is also accessible from Topcliffe and Asenby by public transport. The distance is between 5 and 6 miles [depending on route] and there are no steep hills.

If using a car, park at the roadside in Mallorie Park Drive in Ripon, near the junction with High Cleugh [avoiding the yellow lines] and walk back along the path by the River Laver to a wooden footbridge that crosses the Skell just below its confluence with the Laver, turning right after crossing the river.

For the next half mile or so, the route is through a mixture of woodland and open areas, full of birdsong in spring and pungent with the scent of wild garlic – or ‘stinking nanny’ as we called it down in the west country. Several paths wind through this area, but if you keep within the sound of the river, you will eventually emerge on to Hell Wath Lane opposite Hell Wath Cottage. This is an odd name and I’m not sure of its origin, but the word ‘Wath’ is common enough locally and usually refers to a ford across a river.

Turn left at the cottage for 200 yds or so to a junction of roads at the edge of the housing estate, then right into a country lane [Whitcliffe Lane] where a public brideway sign indicates your route. Walk along this quiet lane – probably accompanied by the sounds of blackbirds, dunnocks and wrens, passing two farm entrances on the left. A hundred yards or so beyond Whitcliffe Hall leave the road, turning right at a gate to take the path across a field by a line of small trees, where a sign indicates that this is part of the ‘Ripon Rowel’ route.

At the far end of the field a hand gate leads into woodland and down to a junction of tracks, where you should go downhill to the right and soon reach a fording place over the Skell. Wet feet will not be necessary as there is a footbridge to the left. Our route now turns to the left and follows the Skell upstream into Studley Park. However, if you are footsore already, you could head straight on from the ford to emerge in Studley Roger village. A deer gate allows entry to the park, then along the delightful ‘Valley of the Seven Bridges’ [I suggest you count them]. Please observe notices about keeping dogs on leads as the park has several hundred deer.



In dry periods the Skell disappears altogether here as it sinks into the Magnesian limestone. Once you reach the ornamental lake there are a variety of options. At the far end is the café and toilets, whilst you are free to wander at will in the park maybe calling in at the ornate Victorian church or viewing the deer, which number approximately 60 sika and around 450 red and fallow [roughly 60/40 red to fallow]. In June you might be lucky enough to see newly born fawns in quieter parts of the park. If you do, then please do not touch and keep dogs well away. In autumn the red stags are busy with the rut, roaring impressively and covering themselves with a fragrant ‘after shave’ mix of mud and urine to attract the hinds. At this time it

is advisable not to get too close to stags as they can be aggressive.

Once you have completed your wanderings, head down the main drive towards the east gate, noting how the drive was designed to line up perfectly with Ripon Minster. Before reaching the lodges, bear left to a point about 200 yds along the wall to where a gate and path lead directly into Studley Roger village.

To complete the walk, cross the road, go down a drive past April Cottage, then along a well maintained path that leads directly back to the B6265 close to the edge of Ripon and Mallorie Park Drive. Allow a minimum of 3 hours + extra time for wandering through the park, visiting the café, feeding the ducks etc.

Note: If using the bus, you will need to add 1½ miles to the walk for the extra bit to and from the city centre.

Topcliffe Parish Council

Wanted - Clerk to Topcliffe Parish Council

Topcliffe Parish Council is seeking to appoint a Clerk commencing July 2006. The council is considering applying for 'Quality Council Status' as it meets every criteria for this status apart from a 'Qualified Clerk' and 80% elected councillors.

The position is part time, currently 14 hours per month and attracts a current salary of over £5 per hour. This however, will be reviewed through qualification to the YLCA recommended level of over £7ph post qualification. Non qualified applicants who wish to apply there are funds available to undertake the AQA qualification course with the University of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Applicants will be required to take minutes of meetings, draft and respond to correspondence to and from the council, make telephone enquiries, undertake basic book keeping and demonstrate a keen desire to develop knowledge of local council administration and above all, a willingness to serve the local community.

If you are interested in the above post or would like more details then contact:

Cllr Garry Key

Cliff House, Long Street, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire YO7 3RW or call him for an informal chat on 01845 578900 or contact any member of the Council.

Applications should be received by 19 June.

Village Events

The Parish Council has money available to help fund a village event, e.g. BBQ, Fun day, club / group fund raising etc. If you, or a group of you, would like to organise such an event or wish to discuss your ideas then contact the Parish Council Chairman, Garry Key on 578900 or any member of the Parish Council.

St. Columba's Attic Auction

The Attic Auction held in May netted £950 or thereabouts for St Columba's restoration fund which was a great achievement. Once again a most enjoyable and entertaining village occasion and as always our thanks to those who made the Sale possible with their kind donations.

St Columba's Church Services

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

Churchwardens: Linda Carver 578014 & Margaret Gimblett 577882				
June	Sunday	4th	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	11th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	18th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	25th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
July	Sunday	2nd	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	5th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	9th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	16th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	23rd	Confirmation with Holy Communion	10.30 am
			at Baldersby St. James with the	
			Rt. Rev'd Robert Ladds, Bishop of Whitby	
	Sunday	30th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	10.30 am
August	Sunday	6th	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Sunday	13th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
Note: No mid-week Holy Communion during August				
			Creche/Sunday School in Church Hall	
	Sunday	27th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
September	Sunday	3rd	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	6th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am

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.

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