

Autumn 2008

The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Volume 15 Issue 3

Saturday 13th September 2008 from 2pm
@ the playing field

TOPCLIFFE FUN DAY & BBQ

Come and join in the fun at the Topcliffe
fun day and barbeque!



rounders
splat the rat
tombola
bouncy slide
five-a-side football
face painting
games
raffle
bar



Tickets available from The Swan,
The Angel and the Shop/Post Office.

Family	£8.50 (2 adults and 2 children)
Adult	£3.50
Children	£2.00 (under 12s)
Under 2s	Free

Ticket includes entrance, bread, salad
(meat, drinks and some activities—extra)

**ALL PROCEEDS
WILL GO
TOWARDS NEW
PLAYGROUND
FACILITIES**

There will be a nominal charge of 50p per burger and 20p per sausage.

Nominal charges will also apply to a few activities

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

Anne-Marie has kindly offered to pick up prizes that people wish to donate for the tombola or raffle. She will come round to houses to collect on Thursday 11th September. If you'll be out that day, please drop prizes off at 13, Winn Lane or call Lauren on 578989 to arrange for collection.

IMPORTANT!

An important meeting for Topcliffe villagers will be held on Monday 15th September at 7pm in the village hall.
Come learn about and discuss the potential building of affordable housing in our village.

Goodbye to Howard

It is with sad faces that we inform all our readers that this will be Howard Wilson's last time helping us to get this wonderful newsletter out to the villagers of Topcliffe and Asenby.

Despite what you may have heard through that ever annoying grapevine, he isn't escaping because of the increasingly difficult demands of the editors. In fact he's locating to a job "darn south". Well, at least that's what he told us! So, we'd like to express our gratitude to you for all your help in the past, Howard. We hope you and your family enjoy your new lives. Of course it won't be as wonderful as life here in Yorkshire, but just do your best, lad.

We have been very fortunate to have been promised the help of Charles Collinson (Topcliffe's website designer) in the production of future TATtlers. Welcome to the team, Charles!

Crime Statistics for Topcliffe between May 1st and July 31st 2008

- ◆ 1 x theft of lead from Church
- ◆ 1 x damage to wooden gate
- ◆ 1 x damage to vehicle windscreen
- ◆ 1 x damage to dwelling window
- ◆ 1 x late night assault
- ◆ 1 x theft of handbag

Of them I would say all the only thing I would ask residents to look out for is the lead thefts from the church. This is a common problem over the country due to the rising value of scrap lead. If anyone sees anyone suspicious around the church area please use 999 to call the police.

Sarah Jobe, PC 97, Thirsk NPT

**Last Copy Date
for Winter issue
is
15th November
2008**

Topcliffe and Asenby Football Club

by Dave Bowman



The new season starts on the first Sunday in September. Hopefully the team can go one better this year after finishing second in the first division of the Hambleton Combination last season.

Topcliffe Snooker Club

by Dave Bowman



September 1st will be the start of the new snooker year and once again, we are looking for members. Both males and females are welcome, but you must be over 18.

At the time of going to print, the cost of membership is not known. Last year's fee was £15. Anyone joining will get their own key so they can play whenever they wish. For more details, please contact Dave Bowman on 577843

Chill Out

Yoga

Starts September

Topcliffe Village Hall

Tuesday Evenings

Ring Thirsk 577976

The yoga class will be suitable for beginners and for those with some experience

– Yoga for Everyone. Please call Barry Walmsley for full details on 01845 577976 (British Wheel of Yoga Qualified Teacher).

Attendance Allowance

If you are 65 or over, possibly living on your own, finding it difficult to get to the shops or to carry out some household tasks, you may be eligible for **Attendance Allowance**. This is a tax-free social security benefit which is not affected by savings or other money you might have coming in.

If you want general information about **Attendance Allowance**, or any other benefits you may be able to claim, ring the Benefit Enquiry Line on 0800 88 22 00.

People who need care during the day or for some time during the night will possibly be eligible for the lower rate. Anyone who needs *extra* care, both day and night, may be eligible for the higher rate.

The claim form is quite long, which can be daunting, but don't be put off. You can ring the Enquiry Line, as above, for assistance. Otherwise, contact the

Citizens Advice Bureau on 0845 1228689.

Topcliffe Parish Council News by Garry Key

The chairman and councillors welcome new member, Councillor Amanda Jameson-Allen, to the Parish Council. Amanda has thrown herself into her new role and is helping with the village Playing Field and Gala Day.

The accounts have been audited by Tony Bruce and have been sent off to the official auditors. The accounts are in good shape, with only minor adjustments to governance needed to improve procedures and accountability to the highest standards. If anyone wishes to inspect the books, please contact the parish clerk.

The council is very pleased to see the village gala and barbecue getting underway again, and is underwriting recoupable start-up costs. Many thanks to all those involved, especially Newby Foods Ltd, who have kindly agreed to sponsor some of the food. The council is considering the purchase of a couple of marquee type tents to support village events and for hire at a modest charge. Your views would be appreciated, again via the clerk please.

The council has also agreed, after consultation with the school governors and head teacher, to purchase a large polycarbonate greenhouse for the school. This project is intended to encourage the uptake of gardening skills, food awareness and as a bonus, provide a useful garden fresh supplement to the school meals. The greenhouse should be installed during the autumn term and be ready for next year's planting season. This will tie in nicely with a planned refurbishment of the school kitchen. The

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council believes that this project should deliver exceptional value for money, benefiting hundreds of children over many years. Severfield Reeve Projects Ltd has once again shown its support to the village and kindly offered to install the base as required.

The playing field committee is searching for new members. Volunteers are needed to help the football club cut the grass. There has been a delay in procuring the replacement swing set, as the council is determined to get the best value for your money. This will happen at the earliest opportunity.

The fishing club is looking for new members and for some assistance in maintaining the riverbank at the sheepwash.

On a less pleasant note, there has been another spate of wanton vandalism. One of the heavy-duty picnic benches in the playing field has been taken apart, no mean feat in itself, adding further to cost. Repair and/or replacement will take the bill for vandalism this year to £1000, representing almost one sixth of the parish precept – your money. If you see damage taking place, intervene if you feel you can, if not make a note of who, when and where and report it either to the police or to a councillor or the clerk. Also, please note that Winn Lane is a bridle way and not a racetrack for motorbikes!

In summary, the council is always seeking to improve the amenity by working and co-operating with County and District Councils and other organisations to undertake value for money, targeted projects and to this end is open to your suggestions. Come along to the council meetings, see how your village is managed on your behalf and get involved – you might even enjoy it!

A Village with Two Pubs

The Good People of Topcliffe are now fortunate to have two pubs, both under new management and both completely different.

The Angel is now owned by Deborah and Steve McGargle and managed by Sharon Davy. The new owners have concentrated on refurbishing the bar, taking on a new Head Chef, David Donnelly, and employing some new young faces front of house and in the kitchen. They are proud to be involved with the Campaign for Real Ales and are building up a range of authentic beers to please discerning drinkers.

The brasserie continues to be popular with reasonably priced bar meals, while a more sophisticated menu is available in the restaurant. Senior Citizens can enjoy a special deal on Mondays when a choice of five meals is offered. Sunday night is Quiz Night, beginning at 8.30, and new teams are always welcome.

Deborah, Steve and Sharon are keen to promote their pub as a perfect venue for weddings, functions and private parties and, to this end, are holding a Wedding Fair on Sunday September 28 from 12-5pm. Visitors will be invited to look round the Topley Suite, and the Garden Room will be laid out for a Civil Ceremony. Some of the fifteen bedrooms will be on display, including the newly refurbished Bridal Suite. The manager is keen to emphasise that, should prospective couples have any particular requirements, The Angel will do their best to accommodate them. A prize draw will be held on the day for a free Sunday lunch for two any time till June 2009.

Please contact Sharon on 577237 with any questions.

Are You a Priority Customer?

Are you medically dependant on electricity? Alternatively, are you elderly, infirm, or do you have a condition non-dependant upon your electricity supply?

If you fall into any of these categories, you may be classed as being vulnerable and therefore a Priority Customer, as far as a loss of electrical power is concerned.

Should a Priority Customer report a loss of power, attempts will be made to go that extra mile to assist.

If you would benefit from joining the register, or know of anybody who would, contact Steve Keeney on 0845 456 3677, (0191) 229 4628 or write to Customer Relations, Manor House., Station Road, Penshaw, DH4 7LA

Meanwhile, at the top of Front Street, **The Swan** provides Topcliffe with an authentic local pub. Local builder and parish councillor, John Heidstrom, and his partner Carrie-Ann Roberts, have taken over an empty dreary building and given it a lease of life no-one would have thought possible, attracting customers from far and wide – well the other end of Thirsk at least. Bingo on Monday night, Pub Quiz on Sunday, karaoke at any given opportunity, Topcliffe suddenly has a night life! The Swan is sponsoring the Topcliffe Football Team and also intends providing bar snacks for its in the near future.

The pub is presently open from 7pm onwards Monday – Thursday, from teatime till late on Friday, and from lunchtime till late on Saturday and Sunday. With pool on Tuesday, poker on Thursdays, two television sets with separate Sky channels – what's not to like?

If you have any suggestions, ring John on 578174.

Message from John Heidstrom

To all TATtler readers and to all the residents of Front Street and Church Street, as landlord of the Swan Inn, I offer my sincere apologies for the noise which was created on the 11th of July and the 1st of August, by karaoke evenings held at the Swan. Both events were well attended by the people of Topcliffe. My aim is not to upset residents in Topcliffe, but to bring the community together with this sort of entertainment. We welcome your support of local pubs, as mentioned in the last edition of the Tattler. Both Topcliffe pubs hosted very successful karaoke evenings within the same week. If there are to be any future events, the residents of Front St and Church St will be notified well in advance.

In conclusion, I apologise once again and ask for your support of both village pubs. We have provided a good service for many years to all residents. If you wish to contact me, I would welcome a chat over a drink or please feel free to ring me on 578174.

Many thanks, John Heidstrom

Hey kids!

Want to learn how to make your own birdbox? Free classes, taught by Garry Key, will be held in the tollbooth in autumn. Further information will be posted in the tollbooth window.



Robin Hood Sets Forth

Topcliffe School presented parents and friends with a colourful and lively production of Robin Hood. An athletic Robin, a graceful Marian, a jovial Friar Tuck and that evil duo, the Sheriff of Nottingham and his right-hand man, Guy of Gisborne, led the accomplished cast in an entertaining musical interpretation which varied from medieval to very humorous rap. Everyone had clearly been working hard; the costumes and scenery were proof of an



impressive amount of backstage work by parents and staff. A

barbecue was held following the show to celebrate the end of the school year and to give the leavers a fond and happy farewell.

Living History

The children of Class 3 at Topcliffe CE School recently invited parents to share with them a Merry Day of Feasting and Dancing.

The day began with a Tudor-themed assembly with the pupils performing dances of the era dressed in Tudor costumes. They went on to enjoy a banquet, cooking and tasting authentic Tudor food such as pottage, apple pie and gingerbread. Servants, travellers, merchants and William Shakespeare happily spent the day mingling with Queen Elizabeth 1.



The photograph shows Katy Thornton dressed as Elizabeth.

A Long Walk for Little Legs

Babies and toddlers from Alanbrooke Barracks Nursery put their best feet or pram wheels forward to raise money for play equipment. The enthusiastic group, accompanied by staff, hiked from the Nursery building to the stables.



News from St Columba's Church

The news that we are to lose our vicar and reader at the end of October has saddened us at St. Columba's, but at the same time we are very pleased for Christine and David Haddon-Reece because for them it is clearly the right move at the right time. Christine will be taking over a group of four parish churches on the northern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors; that includes Grosmont and Egton. They will be very much missed by all of us at St. Columba's but most particularly by the churchwardens, who have benefitted enormously from the help and advice they have received from them.

This means a period without a vicar for a while but all those involved at St. Columba's will do their utmost to ensure that during this period, things run as smoothly as possible and that the progress we are making in many areas, particularly in the refurbishment of the church, will be maintained. We are indebted to all who attend and support St. Columba's on a regular basis, and look forward to that continuing. The good news is that Christine and David will be with us to the end of October.

Forthcoming events

Saturday, 6th September. "A Concert with St. Columba's Church Choir", under the direction of Linda Hewlett, with Matthew Atherton on the organ, promises to be an exceptional evening's entertainment. Tickets are available from Linda Carver on 578014, Margaret Gimblett 577882, Jane Goddard 577982, and John Phillips 577034. Prices are Adults £8, Children and Senior Citizens

(Continued on page 6)

St Columba's Church Services

Vicar: Revd Christine Haddon-Reece. Tel: 01845 577939 Reader: David Haddon-Reece

Churchwardens: Linda Carver, 578014, and Margaret Gimblett, 577882

Sep	Sun	7th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	8.00 am
			Family Worship	10.45
	Sun	14th	Holy Communion	10.45
			Crêche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	21st	Holy Communion (Modern)	10.45
			Crêche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	28th	Matins	10.45
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
Oct	Sun	5th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	8.00 am
			Family Worship	10.45
	Sun	12th	Holy Communion	10.45
			Crêche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	19th	Holy Communion (Modern)	10.45
			Crêche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	26th	Matins	10.45
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
Nov	Sun	2nd	Prayer Book Holy Communion	8.00 am
			Family Worship	10.45
	Sun	9th	Service of Remembrance	10.45
			Crêche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	
	Sun	16th	Holy Communion (Modern)	10.45
			Crêche / Sunday School in the Church Hall	

(Continued from page 5)

£6, to include light refreshments. All proceeds to the roof fund.

Saturday, 13th September is "The Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride and Stride" event. Anyone may enter. You can walk, cycle, ride, or even drive to as many (or as few) churches as you wish, or even just sit in the church to welcome the more active. Half the money you raise will go to YHCT and half to a church of your choice. We would be happy to be the recipient at St. Columba's but the Methodist Chapel would no doubt also be happy to receive additional funds.

You can do the event individually or, if you wish, join the communal walk, which the church is hoping to organise. We hope that children will be able to join in, as we plan to walk partly across fields. If you are interested, please contact Linda Carver or Margaret Gimblett.

For those unaware of the work of the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust, the following facts may be helpful. The Trust was formed in 1988 and to date it has awarded grants of over £2 million for repairs and maintenance to Yorkshire churches and chapels. Funds come mainly from the Annual Sponsored Ride and Stride, the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, Donations and Legacies.

This year St. Columba's received a grant of £7,500 towards the cost of the roof and masonry repairs.

Margaret Gimblett and Linda Carver

Harvest Festival

A Harvest Festival Service will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday October 10th when the Speaker will be Bob Baker. On Sunday October 12th, the Reverend Roy Newall will conduct the service.

Angel Inn Hog Roast

Come enjoy a sumptuous dinner of Hog Roast and Pud (with veg option) for only £10 at the Angel Inn on October 25th. Entertainment to be provided by Topcliffe's own Paul Bumby. For both table and individual bookings call Jacky Avison on 578871, Sharon Hutchinson on 577071, Nicki Fox on 577739 or Sue Newton on 578604

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Topcliffe Church Cemetery, Winn Lane

Churchyards are a valuable heritage, as well as the earthly resting place of the mortal remains of our loved ones. They often provide a sanctuary for wildlife and should be a quiet haven for those who visit.

The cemetery at Winn Lane is the extension of St Columba's churchyard and, unlike municipal cemeteries, is controlled by strict regulations laid down by the Chancellor of the Diocese of York. Whilst the Vicar and PCC wish to be as accommodating and sympathetic as possible to personal wishes concerning memorials, decorations, the placing of flowers on individual graves, etc, we also have to abide by the rules. In recent months certain irregularities have begun to creep into the churchyard for which permission has not been sought.

The Tattler offers an opportune means of reiterating certain of the Diocesan Memorial Rules. A full copy of the Rules is available from the Vicar or from www.denisontill.com/ecclesiastical/facultymatters.htm.

' THE GENERAL LEGAL POSITION

- 1.2 Care must be taken to see that new memorials harmonise with their surroundings. Advice about suitable stones, appropriate designs and the composition of inscriptions may be obtained from the Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary (via the Vicar).
- 1.3 It is important to note that the next of kin of the deceased do not own the land in which a body is buried ("the grave"). The grave is part of the churchyard. The family has no proprietary rights over the land and may not mark the grave by kerbs, chains, verge stones, railings or fences.

Items which are not allowed to be placed on a grave include angel or dove statuettes, garden ornaments, bird baths, pictures, textiles, clothes or artificial flowers (other than silk flowers in good condition). Personal belongings or memorabilia belonging to or associated with the deceased may not be placed on the grave.

The family is the owner of any memorial stone erected or placed on the grave and is responsible for its repair: lawful authority (permission under these Rules or a Faculty from the Chancellor) must first be obtained before a memorial is put in position.

FLOWERS

2. Cut flowers may be laid on the grave.

Where it is desired to have a container in which flowers may stand in water the design of a memorial may include an integral flower receptacle, but the receptacle must comply with [certain rules]. Where there is no receptacle flowers may be placed in a removable

container. This container must be recessed completely into the ground, so that when not in use there is no obstruction to churchyard maintenance. A separate free standing flower vase or container standing on the surface of or near the grave is not permitted.

Flowers must be removed as soon as they start to wither.

Flower bulbs may be placed in the soil of any grave. Trees, bushes, planted flowers and shrubs including annuals and perennials are not permitted. A grave should not take on a cultivated or garden appearance.

Traditional Easter and Christmas wreaths and Remembrance Day poppies are permitted. These must be removed after a period of not more than two months. Silk flowers are permitted but must be removed when they become faded, dirty, dishevelled or discoloured. Otherwise no artificial flowers are allowed to be laid on the grave or placed in containers in the grave. '

Revd Christine Haddon-Reece, Vicar

Topcliffe Craft Group

This beautiful quilt was made by members of the Tuesday afternoon Craft Group who have been meeting at the village hall over the past year. Each member made a block of the quilt, which is being donated to the charity Project Linus. This charity gives hand-made quilts to children who are seriously ill in hospital or who have suffered emotional or physical abuse.

The Craft Group has been given the opportunity to sample different crafts and acquire new skills - with varying degrees of success!

Many thanks to Linda Nuttall for organising the group.

Carole Ford

