



Dr Shaw Retires after 25 Years at Topcliffe Surgery

Dr Christine Shaw is to retire on the 1st April after 25 years at Topcliffe. We have worked together for over 17 years and she has always been very supportive and interested in all of us in the surgery. She has been the backbone of the surgery, making patient care her priority and we will miss her greatly. She has always been forward looking, introducing computing to the surgery, designing the website from scratch and leading us through the constant changes involved in the new General Practice Contract first introduced 5 years ago. Her commitment has been unshakeable. Her husband, Brian, retired last year and they are looking forward to pursuing their two great hobbies, skiing and mountain walks. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Dr Shaw for all she has done for the surgery, patients, staff and especially for me.



Dr Christine Shaw - Dr Charles Parker

I am pleased to announce that I have been successful in attracting two new doctors to join the team at Topcliffe Surgery. One is Dr Elizabeth Chappelow. She has lived and worked in the Northallerton area and has the experience of being

a GP partner before in Middlesbrough. The other is Dr Mark Kent. He completed his General Practice training 5 years ago at Northallerton. Since then he has been working in Darlington as a Salaried GP and is now ready to take on the role of partner.

Together we will offer the same level of access to GPs and will aim to improve it. We will be looking for ways to expand the services we offer in-house to improve treatment times and reduce referrals. Both Dr Shaw and I have always appreciated the kind remarks and support we receive from you all, and I hope we can make Dr Chappelow and Dr Kent feel as welcome.

To mark Dr Shaw's retirement we thought we would open a "Book of Appreciation" for patients to write in. This will be available in dispensary should you wish to add a memory or a thank-you. We will also be starting a collection for a leaving present should you wish to contribute.

Dr Charles Parker

Cream of the Crop Still at the Top!

Topcliffe Playgroup looks forward to another successful year after celebrating a 'Good' outcome with 'Outstanding Features' from Ofsted, as well as being awarded 'Highly Effective Setting' by North Yorkshire County Council. Playgroup leader, Jessica Robertson said, "We had a fantastic 2009 and the children's Christmas party finished it off so well. Here's to another great year!"

We kicked off 2010 by raising £200 with a successful bake sale at Thirsk market on Saturday 6th February. We would like to send out our thanks to everyone who donated and purchased all the yummy baking.

This year Topcliffe Playgroup will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Throughout the year we have some

special activities in the pipe-line to mark this momentous occasion. A playgroup reunion is being organised for the summer and we would like to hear from the many children, staff and parents who have attended the setting since 1980. If you would like to get in touch, either contact the playgroup on: 578959 or drop us an email at topcliffeplayschool@btconnect.com. We would love to hear from you!

Some of the parents have put together a recipe book, which can be purchased for £2, with all proceeds going to the playgroup.

Contact me at nicola.knowles3@btinternet.com if you would like a copy.



MARTIN SPEAKE
and
COLIN OXLEY
present



THE INTIMACY OF JAZZ

At: The Village Hall, Topcliffe
On: Sat. 27 March, 7.30pm
Tickets: £6 Tel: 01845 577315

Two of Britain's finest jazz musicians, alto saxophonist Martin Speake and guitarist Colin Oxley perform music composed or associated with Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Johnny Green and many others.

The intimacy of the duo allows for close, improvised interplay that is melodic, lyrical and infused with a harmonic richness. The result is a performance of unique, personal interpretations of some of the greatest music in the jazz repertoire.

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"..one of the most original and interesting jazz saxophonists on the British scene" TIME OUT magazine

"I listen again to Colin Oxley's glorious guitar, responding with both masterly chording and joyful single notes to every mood" Humphrey Littleton

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Young Musicians

Every year local school children are given the opportunity to make music under the guidance of a professional musician as part of the Music for Life scheme. This year James Stretton brought along a wide selection of brass instruments for some of the youngsters to experiment with, and ran workshops throughout the day, finally encouraging the young musicians to perform a concert for their friends.



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Photo Calendar?

During the Winter lots of TATTLERians were spotted out with their cameras taking photos of the beautiful snowy scenery. I wondered whether there was any interest in producing a calendar for 2011 of pictures taken by Topcliffe and Asenby residents? The photos could reflect the changing seasons around the two villages and local landmarks for instance. Perhaps a local business might be prepared to sponsor the calendar production? Any profits could be donated to local good causes.

If you are interested in the idea, please get in touch so that I can gauge support.

Many thanks.

Carole Ford (577718)

email: carole@dunnockhouse.freemove.co.uk



You wouldn't want to take this on the bus.

James studied at Trinity College of Music in London and the University of Texas, USA. He is a professional trumpeter and has worked with a range of orchestras. He has also been a teacher and this was very apparent in the way he engaged so easily with the children.

Sowerby Music, which is a registered charity, organises Music for Life, and has proved to be a very popular scheme with local schools.

So you think you can Strictly Come Ballroom Dance

Who would have guessed that Topcliffe and Asenby were blessed with so many light-footed dancers. There was a wide range of age and ability but everyone seemed to be putting their best feet forward (even if they'd only got left ones) and dancing as if it were Saturday night. Disappointingly, sequins weren't greatly in evidence but the mood was

relaxed and friendly and no-one need fear feeling clumsy or graceless.

The classes take place every Friday night from 7-8pm and each lesson costs £5.50. For more information, contact Judy Lowe on 577911.



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Freecycle is a non-profit organisation with over 6 million members around the world. Joining requires nothing apart from your details, i.e. name and area where you live. The philosophy of the members is to give away something that you no longer need, rather than sell it or throw it away. This applies not only to philanthropists but also to people interested in green issues, as it saves on landfill. It is usual to advertise within the boundaries of your own town.

All the groups are moderated by a local volunteer, so unsuitable adverts are removed before being released to the network. Electrical goods, household items, clothing, baby items and just about all other items are acceptable, including foodstuffs which are still within the "Sell-by date".

To find your local freecycle group go to www.uk.freecycle.org

Have fun and meet like-minded people with this truly terrific organisation.

Neil Lambert

tinyurl.com/recycleTopcliffe

tinyurl.com/RecycleGroupTopcliffe

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The Big Lottery

The Big Lottery funded Rural Voice project has provided a specialist Rural Network Officer in your area. They will be offering a FREE advisory service to help groups access support for their service and training needs. They will also be listening to your views and passing them onto policy makers to ensure that voluntary and community groups in Hambleton are represented both locally and regionally.

To find out more in Hambleton District, contact your Rural Network Officer, Kathryn Chapman on 01609 780458 kathryn.chapman@ndvsa.co.uk

For Harrogate Borough contact your Rural Network Officer, Cath Calvert on 01765 603631 cath@riponcvcs.co.uk.

Barking Mad and Dangerous to Know

Archie arrived in Topcliffe last September. He was an unexpected 60th birthday present so came at the same time as my pension, rail card and invitation to send samples of a personal nature to some very unfortunate NHS worker. Yes, that was a day full of surprises. He's a black Labrador puppy, and will remain a puppy, so everyone tells me, until he grows to be a lardy lab shuffling arthritically around the mean streets. There's apparently a window of about ten minutes when he's a reasonable, amenable, useful dog.

He pulls, he yanks, he drags me suicidally and murderously into the road with his superhuman strength. We've been to three trainers so far and at the latest we were made to work in a remote corner with our very own teaching assistant. All the other dogs were nice small tidy dogs; mine just lurched at their personal bits with lots of slurpy sound effects. I'm expecting an exclusion letter any minute.

Am I fitter? Well perhaps one side of my body is; the other side is wrenched and wrecked from being vigorously pulled when out walking him. If I was x-rayed I'm sure the result would show a left thumb lurking next to my liver, and my knee protruding from a shoulder. To paraphrase Eric Morecambe, there are all the right parts, but not necessarily in the right places.

Contrary to expectations, I haven't made more friends since walking Archie because everyone runs a mile when they see us coming, and I can't say I blame them. Archie doesn't understand why people aren't thrilled to have their clothes covered

in his enormous muddy paws and doggie dribble, but seems tragically and mistakenly resigned to the Ali G theory that it's because he is black!

VM



Police News

I am the new dedicated officer for Topcliffe and surrounding villages. I have been on the Safer Neighbourhood Team for 3 1/2 years but have, in the past, dealt with the Whitehorse and Whitestonecliffe wards. I am the wildlife officer for Thirsk and Easingwold and also the liaison officer for the Country Watch scheme. All my details can be found on the North Yorkshire Police website together with details of how to contact me personally.

We are currently regenerating Neighbourhood Watch in Thirsk and villages. We are encouraging residents to become members of Neighbourhood Watch and need volunteers to become co-ordinators. Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent way of watching out for your neighbours and property. We send regular updates of local crimes, suspicious activities and updates using the ringmaster system. We have information packs available at Thirsk Police Station or you can telephone and request one.

If you need my help with anything else, please let me know.

Thanks.
PC1835 Clare Mayes
Thirsk SNT



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**Just a reminder that
dogs are NOT allowed
on the playing fields
in Asenby and Topcliffe!**



Asenby Needs You!

Want to check out the re-vamped Asenby website? Take a look at www.asenby.net and feast your eyes. Webmaster David Stringer has worked hard to update the site but he needs your help. Please let him know of upcoming village events or anything else of local interest. If you don't have anything for the website, just let him know what you would like to see included on the site.

David also offers a free advert on the site to all those local artisans living in Asenby. There are very few times you'll see something being given away for nothing, so take advantage and do let him know if you are interested in the FREE advert.

Carols round the Tree

The night of Topcliffe School's Christmas concert might have been cold, however the children's delightful voices and smiling faces soon filled with the room with warmth. Talented youngsters played musical instruments, adding to the audience's enjoyment of this special evening. Many thanks to everyone who participated.



Millie meets Santa

CARERS SUPPORT

Hambleton and Richmondshire Sitting Scheme for Families and Children with Special Needs

Could you volunteer to sit with a child with special needs?

Volunteers are needed to cover Hambleton and Richmondshire Towns and Villages

Further information please contact: Gill Burn

Carers Support Co-ordinator, 14a Market Place,
Thirsk: 01845 523115

Office Hours: Weds. 10am - 1pm

Another Hot Burns Night

Great fun was had at the recent Burns Night event in Topcliffe Village Hall. There was traditional haggis and bagpipes, poetry and singing; men in kilts were abundant and there were lots of happy encounters with friends and acquaintances old and new. The dancing, of course, was the highlight of the evening and what participants lacked in skill, they more than made up for in enthusiasm.



The night was a great success, with £600 being raised altogether. Proceeds will be shared between Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Jennyruth Workshops and the village hall.

Thanks to everyone who attended and most of all to Judith Lowe and Linda Nuttall for all their hard work.

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New at the Village Hall

Following another very successful water colour workshop, there is much interest in running a regular daytime art class with Mike Dobson. If you are interested, whatever your level, even if you didn't come to the workshops, please ring Linda on 577315.

Befriending Scheme Can you help?

The Alzheimer's Society is seeking volunteers across the Hambleton and Richmondshire area.

Anne Brown, Befriending Manager
01748 825817 or 07545 207029
Anne.brown@alzheimers.org.uk
www.alzheimers.org.uk

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St. Columba's Church News

New vicar Robin Davill has been very busy getting to know the parish and meeting as many people as possible. He is establishing an office in the vestry in Baldersby St. James Church. He will be in the office twice weekly:-

Monday 9.30 – 10.45am and Friday 1.30 – 2.30pm

Office tel. 01765 641827
Home tel. 01347 823472

We are advised the church is in good condition structurally and, as funds become available, we will be pressing on with the restoration.

Sadly, the Sunday school has been temporarily suspended because of lack of numbers. We are compensating for this by making the family service even more user-friendly and by bringing in the village school whenever possible. Mothering Sunday on 14th March is one such occasion and we would love to see as many of you as possible joining us for this special service.

If there is anyone out there who has any of the skills required, and a desire to help Topcliffe scouts, cubs or beavers, please contact the churchwardens.

Lent Lunches

Starting on Wednesday 24th March and continuing every Wednesday for five weeks, the Lent Lunches are to be held in the village hall. The lunches consist of homemade soup with French bread and tea or coffee. They are free and all are welcome. If anyone would like to help by making soup or providing ingredients, please contact Jenny Roberts at Plum Tree House, Front Street, Tel. 577895.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

To be held on Monday 26th April in the church hall at 8.00 pm, this meeting is open to anyone who lives in the parish. The churchwardens and the other members of the Parochial Church Council are elected at this meeting. If you live in the parish, you may vote. All are welcome and we promise you a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Mark the afternoon of Sunday 12th December 2010 on your calendar!



For more information, look in the upcoming summer Tattler.

Have Your Say...

Dear Editor,

Asenby thanks.....

John Slater, who can regularly be seen picking up litter from the roadside verges around the village. Most of the litter consists of discarded drinks and food containers thrown from passing vehicles. Thank you John for your community spirit!!

tattler@topcliffe.net

CAROL SINGING

Thank you to those who generously gave to the MacMillan Nurses through their support of the carol singers.

£93 was raised in Topcliffe on Monday December 21 and £147 was raised in Asenby the following evening. So together, the nurses received an impressive total of £240.

Clare Phillips

Asenby Parish Council

We are about to find ourselves without a parish clerk.

The job requires -

- working from home only 7 hours a month
- attending one meeting every two months
- preferably being computer literate

Salary of £345 plus expenses, payable every six months

If interested, please call Judith Lowe at 577911

Flipping Good Pancakes

There was great fun at the village hall on Shrove Tuesday, and there was a seriously huge amount of pancakes. Lots of people arrived to enjoy the event from 3.30 until 6pm and the good ladies who slaved away in the kitchen, and waited on the many families and groups of friends, were kept extremely busy. In between pancake-scoffing, and syrup and sugar dolloping, there were games to play, with a quiz for the adults and colouring-in for the youngsters.

Very many thanks to all those who provided such a pleasant afternoon for their neighbours.

The Ventress and Cox families were very appreciative of the standard of cuisine.

Topcliffe and District Carpet Bowls Club

The Bowls Club held its Annual Dinner at The Carpenters Arms, Felixkirk, this year and a very good evening was had by everyone.

We are now seeking new members so if you would care to try something different, something interesting, and, at the same time, enjoy some very good company, why not come and join us?

We hold our bowls meetings every Thursday evening in the village hall, between 7.30-10pm. No special clothing or footwear is required and the club supplies the woods.

We can guarantee you a very warm welcome and I am sure you would enjoy the evening.

For further information contact either Peter Boothroyd on 595022 or Peter Simmerson on 578273.

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- Treasurer needed urgently
- Committee members wanted



Please contact Linda at 577315 if you can help.



St. Columba's Church

07/03/10			No Service
14/03/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Mothering Sunday service with the children of Topcliffe Church of England School.
21/03/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Holy Communion (CW Modern)
28/03/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Palm Sunday service with distribution of Palms
02/04/10	11.00am	Topcliffe Methodist Chapel	Good Friday - Ecumenical Service
03/04/10	7.30pm	Topcliffe	Easter Eve Easter vigil and First Mass of Easter
04/04/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Easter Day Holy Communion (CW Traditional)
11/04/10	10.45am	Topcliffe	Low Sunday Benefice service

After this date there may be some changes in the service arrangements. These will be clearly indicated in the Parish magazine and on the Church notice board.

Special Events for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Lent Course

St. Columba's and the Methodist Chapel are jointly running an Ecumenical Lent Course in the Methodist Chapel starting on Monday February 22nd at 7.30pm and continuing each Monday throughout March - 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Everyone is welcome.

Compline

Compline Services will be held throughout the Benefice, which includes Topcliffe on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, on the following dates: March 10th at St. Johns Skipton, March 17th at Baldersby St. James, and March 24th at St. Columba's, Topcliffe. All are welcome at all these services.

Visit of the Bishop of Whitby on March 3rd

The new Bishop of Whitby the Rt. Revd. Martin Warner visits the Deanery of Mowbray (which includes Topcliffe) and all lay people are invited to meet him at 7.30pm in Northallerton Methodist Church.

Snooker Club

We are still looking for members, new and old. Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Due to increasing costs, membership may have to be raised from its current price of £15 per year.



Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

Topcliffe Surgery - 577297
www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk

Friarage Hospital - 01609 779911
www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies - 0800 111 999
www.nationalgrid.com/uk

Police - 0845 60 60 24 7
www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Hambleton DC - 01609 779977
www.hambleton.gov.uk

Harrogate BC - 01423 568954
www.harrogate.gov.uk

HDC Cllr Neville Huxtable 01845 501068
Cllr.neville.huxtable@hambleton.gov.uk

HBC Cllr Chris Brown 01765 640398
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