

A Royal Message for Madeleine

When five year old Madeleine Macaulay of Manor Close heard that the Queen was in hospital recently, she was so concerned she felt she must write, saying that she hoped she would get well very soon. Happily, Her Majesty made a quick recovery and Madeleine was thrilled to receive a letter from one of her ladies-in-waiting, thanking her for her concern and saying that the Queen had been very touched by Madeleine's letter.

This caused some excitement in the Macaulay household and Lyn, Madeleine's mummy, said that the very special letter would be framed and displayed on the little girl's bedroom wall.

Don't just sit there - Join in!

Thirsk and Asenby's Senior Citizens Club has really begun to take off which is probably down to the varied activities that everyone is enjoying these days.

April's treat was a cruise (yes, a cruise) on the Tees which included a lovely roast dinner. The voyage consisted of a return journey from Yarm to Stockton and everyone particularly enjoyed the very informative commentary on the return journey.

The May meeting was great fun when the Daytones, a close harmony chorus from Wetherby, gave a sparkling performance. Not many bands are so versatile that their music covers old wartime songs, Elvis, gospel and songs from the musicals. Their ages are clearly beyond 60-something - but then isn't that true of all the best bands?

The music was wonderful and the sheer enjoyment on the faces of the singers, infectious. There was also a fair bit of banter and joking between songs and plenty of spirited good humour. Some audience participation was required but nothing too embarrassing and it was over in no time at all.

The members welcomed a group of bell ringers from Northallerton at the beginning of June. These ladies made music which sounded like the opening of a treasured musical box. Once again, the performance was varied, covering classical,



Flanders and Swan, Greensleeves and many more. With the sun streaming through the village hall windows, it was a very relaxing afternoon and a particularly well-attended meeting. Following this very gentle performance, there was an opportunity to have a go which some members did - with surprisingly proficient results.

Despite the word "Senior" everyone is very welcome. There is some thought that a new name is required to indicate the inclusiveness of the club. Suggestions will be very welcome and the usual prize of a lifetime's free subscription to The Tattler will be offered. Meetings are generally on the first Tuesday of each month. In July a trip to Masham is planned which includes a fish and chip lunch and tour of the Black Sheep Brewery. If you are interested, please ring Judith Lowe on 577911.



A Wedding in Topcliffe

The wedding of Mollie and Stretton took place on March 20 at St Columba's Church. The bride wore a beautiful long white dress and the groom was particularly smart in shirt and tie and grey waistcoat. There were many bridesmaids, possibly all Mollie's friends, while lots of ladies in the congregation appropriately sported fascinators or large-brimmed hats.



Mollie and Stretton are both pupils at Topcliffe CE School where Mollie's father, who gave the bride away, also attends. The Reverend Dan Sladden led the service and the songs were mainly sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus". A reception was held at the school which included a wedding breakfast and speeches.



The Attic Auction

St Columba's would like to thank everyone who helped with the Attic Auction earlier this year; those that kindly brought items for sale, those that kindly bought them and all the helpers who facilitated the process in any way. A phenomenal £1500 was raised. Who said there's no cash in an Attic Auction?

Pilates at the Village Hall

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Classic Pilates. Core strength work & stretching.

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David Bowman (Vice Chair) 21 East Lea 577843	Judy Lowe (Vice Chair) Green End Dairy 577911
Lynn Heidstrom 32 East Lea 577437	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
Mark Bowen 23 Manor Close 07703 040471	Grahame Marsden 8 Jamesville Way 578156
Amanda Jameson-Allen 77 Long St 07594 225254	Jacqueline Naylor Hayloft House 577059

Isobel Peters (Clerk)

Tel: 07739 258650 isobelpeters@googlemail.com

Proposal for Hydro Electric Installation River Swale at Topcliffe

The application for a licence to abstract water from the River Swale at Topcliffe is still under review with the environment Agency. Anyone who wrote to the EA regarding this proposal may expect a letter when a decision has been reached.

At the time of writing there has been no application for planning permission to Harrogate Borough Council.

The original objections to the proposal are still very much to the fore of our minds. With this in mind a meeting was organised in March 2013 with the owners of the bank side, Leeds and District Angers Club, at their social club in Leeds. Only a small group attended, 3 people from Topcliffe Mill and Garry Key as Chair of Topcliffe Parish Council. It was intended to be an informal meeting between local residents and the fishing club, so that we might expand each others perspective on the topic. However on arriving, 2 directors of UK Hydro Ltd were in attendance equipped with Power Point presentation and drawings.

We were able to ask questions and raise many of the points of objection but it was not the meeting we were expecting and had we been aware of the presence of the Hydro Company we would have increased our number and invited other interested parties, or suggested a local meeting for all interested parties to attend. This may yet happen but probably at the planning application stage.

We will put information into Topcliffe and Asenby as soon as we have anything further but in the meantime you may choose be included in our emailing list by writing to topcliffeweir@gmail.com or follow on Twitter @TopcliffeWeir

If you would like to write with any comments or questions please do so.

Topcliffe Mill Residents

Asenby News

Many thanks to those of you who joined us for The St George quiz night at The Lamb Inn. It was another success, raising £219 and it was great to see more of you there! This money will continue to allow us to mow and upkeep the recreation ground as well as filling the flower basket.

By the time the Tattler comes out, we will hopefully have enjoyed a sun filled day at the Asenby BBQ on 22nd June. It will be hard to beat the jubilee celebrations of last year but hopefully the Pimms will still have flowed!
Enjoy the sun!

Asenby institute - www.Asenby.net

Topcliffe Parish Council

At the Parish Council Annual Meeting, the members agreed to continue with the current Parish Council in place. Finances are in good order. The playing field grass cutting contract is going well, although we have requested additional cuts for the play areas. We have suffered a little damage to benches, although the last concrete one has been removed for safety reasons and is unlikely to be repaired cost effectively. We have also commenced enquiries to cut back and raise the crowns of the trees in the cemetery but this will have to wait until after the nesting season. We are still awaiting the outcome of the obstruction licence for the Mill race but the process has a long way to go, if at all. Traffic calming measures remain effective during entry and departure periods. There is a children's activity set for July on the playing field. Look out for notices and some youth engagement awareness from North Yorkshire Youth.

Have a great Summer (we live in hope)

*Garry Key
Topcliffe Parish Council Chairman*

The Topcliffe Educational Foundation

This charity makes small grants to students who have recently left school and are now in, or are about to start, university education or the equivalent, for the purchase of books. To be eligible the student must live in the old parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area now covered together with Marton le Moor.

Applications are sought in September/October and the Trustees meet in December to approve grants. Students who have received grants in previous years will receive an application to apply for 2013 automatically. Anyone seeking further information, wishing to apply or questioning eligibility should ring Geoff Hall on 578324.



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Getting Hot With Cold Callers

Elderly residents of Topcliffe and Asenby are being warned to be on guard against possible abuses of the Government's Green Deal scheme. The Green Deal is designed to enable homeowners and businesses to improve the energy efficiency of their property with little or no upfront cost. Measures approved under the scheme cover areas such as insulation, heating and glazing.

But councillors are concerned that elderly people could be at risk of mis-selling and other problems because of the cold calling that is to be permitted to sell the scheme. And concerns have been raised with the county council's Trading Standards service.

The Government is permitting cold calling to allow "people who might not otherwise be reached to be made aware of the opportunities to benefit from the Green Deal". However, Green Deal providers must respect "no cold calling requests", whether face to face, by phone, electronic communication or if "no cold calling" stickers are displayed.

Cold callers cannot carry out a Green Deal assessment on the day of the cold call, unless asked to by the consumer and given written consent. Otherwise, there must be a cooling-off period of at least one day.

Trading Standards officers are concerned that the complexity of the scheme means there are opportunities for people to be sold measures that are not needed, not properly installed, overpriced or unsuitable. There is also concern that unscrupulous callers will imply that work is compulsory to meet requirements for homes to have an energy performance certificate (EPC). In fact, an EPC is only needed if a property is to be sold or rented.

Anyone wanting "no cold calling" stickers can contact the county council's customer service centre at customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk or on 08458 727374.

Lent Lunches 2013

It has become a tradition among a group of charitable Topcliffe residents to provide free soup ad rolls for anyone who drops into the village hall on Wednesday lunchtimes during Lent. Even the housebound haven't been excluded, as they can expect a home delivery.

The weekly lunches are greatly appreciated by everyone, and even more so now that Year 6 pupils from Topcliffe School act as waiting staff.

The photograph shows the lovely ladies who lay on lunch with their very smart helpers, notebooks and pencils at the ready.



From left to right: Jenny Roberts, Helen Ashworth, Emma Benoit, Linda Carver, Julie Shepherd and Isobel Peters.

Newsletter from Baldersby St James School

This has proved to be a fabulous year which will be rounded off by an action-packed final six weeks. The first week after half term, the year 5 & 6 children stayed for a week at East Barnby for their activity week. They learned some excellent new skills such as climbing and water sports, and for many, learning how to cope without parents for the first time.

On June 10 a garden party was planned to commemorate D-Day. The children had been studying the Second World War and were particularly interested in the evacuation of children from Gateshead to this area. A 40s-inspired lunch was planned which included egg and bacon flan, followed by jelly and trifle. The music was the jitterbug and big band sounds. The following day there were going to be more 40s activities, with a trip to Eden Camp near Malton.

Toddler group is held on Monday mornings from 9-11am.

Mark Lawn, Headteacher

www.Asenby.net

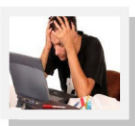
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A Most Memorable Heritage Weekend

Topcliffe Church celebrated St Columba's Day by holding a Heritage Weekend which proved to be very enjoyable as well as thought-provoking.

A tour of the graveyard by Steve Yates was fascinating. Many of the headstones had an interesting, though often mysterious, story to tell. There were the inevitable sad indications of numerous infant deaths in the 19th century and clusters of fatalities round certain dates which revealed deadly outbreaks of cholera or typhoid. Families were often buried together or had adjoining graves. One in particular was of special interest, belonging to a woman called Jane Meek, wife of John and mother of ten children, aged 37 years. She had died in March 1824 and her headstone was engraved with a short verse taken from the Book of Psalms:

*My life was but a span
A cypher sum'd my years
And every one in best estate
But vanity appears.*

The greatly-improved condition of the graveyard is largely thanks to the wonderful efforts of the Community Pay Back team. They have worked incredibly hard to clear the ivy and creepers which had completely hidden some of the graves, not to mention all the digging and piecing together of old stones. The men themselves have reason to be proud of their achievements. Hopefully, the work they have done will benefit them as well as our Church.

Chris Hewlett gave tours of the tower during the course of the day with informative visits to the clock and bell chambers on the way to the long ladder which gives access to the roof with its spectacular 360 degree views of the north Vale of York. This was certainly the most popular part of the day as it's so rarely possible to open the tower, particularly the roof area, to the public.

John Phillips talked about the interior of the church, giving a history from its foundation pre-650 AD to the present day building of 1855 (by railway architect GT Andrews, perhaps more famous for York Station). The talk was illustrated with reference to the church's historical artifacts accumulated along the way; from the late Saxon carved stone crow's head, through the mid-14th century monumental Flemish palimpsest brass of Sir Thomas de Topcliffe and his wife Mabel, to the 19th century stained glass, especially that by Sir Edward Burne Jones depicting the Annunciation.

Of course, no educational event would be complete without tea and cake, and Betty's could not have

surpassed the afternoon refreshments that were supplied by several very kind - and capable - parishioners. Many thanks to them.

On Sunday the choir sang a Mass in celebration of the feast of St Columba, after which the choir and congregation duly feasted at a barbecue in the church hall and surrounding graveyard.

John Phillips kindly provided the facts and history for The Tattler.



A lady died, was buried and came back to earth as a tree.



The tower clock made by the famous firm of T Cooke of York and installed in 1858. It is No 4 and is the earliest turret clock by this maker that survives; numbers 1-3 no longer exist for various reasons! No 3 for instance was installed at St Martin le Grand, Coney St, York but was destroyed by a bomb during World War 1!

Stop Press from Broadacres!

Big plans for Topcliffe allotments.
Watch this space!

Tattler editors

Are you preparing to Show off?

This year's Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show will be held on Saturday 31 August in the Village Hall. Here is the complete list of categories and classes. The show organisers hope that you enjoy preparing your entries and look forward to seeing you on the day. Please read the Produce Show Rules carefully (available on the Asenby and Topcliffe websites) to ensure your entries conform to the regulations. All enquiries should be made to the Produce Show Secretary, Judith Lowe, on 577911.

Category 1: Horticulture

- Class 1 3 Red potatoes
- Class 2 3 White potatoes
- Class 3 3 White onions (flat shaped)
- Class 4 3 White onions (global shaped)
- Class 5 The heaviest single onion (in sound & clean condition - no stalk or leaves)
- Class 6 3 Red onions
- Class 7 3 Shallots
- Class 8 3 Pods of peas (one to be open)
- Class 9 3 Runner beans
- Class 10 3 French beans
- Class 11 3 Courgettes
- Class 12 2 Sweetcorn
- Class 13 1 Marrow
- Class 14 1 Pumpkin
- Class 15 3 Parsnips - with 8cm stalks
- Class 16 3 Carrots - with 8cm stalks
- Class 17 1 White cabbage
- Class 18 1 Red cabbage
- Class 19 3 Capsicum Peppers (sweet/ hot varieties)
- Class 20 3 Beetroot
- Class 21 3 Leeks
- Class 22 Any other vegetable not listed above
- Class 23 4 different veg (4 families of veg displayed on plain white dinner plate)
- Class 24 Funniest shaped vegetable
- Class 25 1 Cucumber
- Class 26 Tomatoes on the vine (must be ripened)
- Class 27 3 Beef tomatoes
- Class 28 3 Regular red tomatoes
- Class 29 3 Regular yellow tomatoes
- Class 30 5 Red cherry tomatoes
- Class 31 5 Yellow cherry tomatoes
- Class 32 3 of any other type of tomato (including plum varieties)
- Class 33 3 Sticks of rhubarb (to include sheaf and 8cm of leaf only)
- Class 34 3 Eating apples
- Class 35 3 Cooking apples
- Class 36 3 pears
- Class 37 3 Plums
- Class 38 6 Blackberries
- Class 39 6 Raspberries

- Class 40 Any other fruit
- Class 41 4 different fruits (4 families of fruit displayed on plain white dinner plate)
- Class 42 Funniest shaped fruit

Category 2: Baking and home produce

- Class 43 Victoria Sandwich using 3 eggs, 6oz each of sugar, flour and butter
- Class 44 Decorated homemade chocolate cake
- Class 45 Own choice of home-baked cake
- Class 46 Savoury flan (maximum 21cm tin)
- Class 47 Sweet flan (maximum 21 cm tin)
- Class 48 3 Plain scones
- Class 49 3 Fruit scones
- Class 50 3 Cheese scones
- Class 51 3 Sausage rolls using short-crust pastry
- Class 52 3 Biscuits
- Class 53 1lb Loaf of bread (not using a bread-maker)
- Class 54 1lb Jar of jam - any home grown fruit
- Class 55 1lb Jar of lemon curd
- Class 56 1lb Jar of marmalade
- Class 57 Jar of chutney
- Class 58 Jar of Piccalilli

Category 3: Floral

- Class 59 Arrangement in unusual container
- Class 60 Vase of garden flowers
- Class 61 Houseplant

Category 4: Hobbies(items must have been created between Sept 12 and Aug 13)

- Class 62 An item of embroidery
- Class 63 A hand kitted or crocheted item
- Class 64 An item of textile craft
- Class 65 A scenic photograph
- Class 66 A person or people photograph
- Class 67 A watercolour painting
- Class 68 An oil painting
- Class 69 Pencil, pen, charcoal or pastel sketch
- Class 70 A handmade greetings card
- Class 71 Any other handicraft item not specified above

Category 5: Children's section

- Class 72 A painting or drawing
- Class 73 A model of a creature using vegetables and/or fruit
- Class 74 The best photograph I've taken in the past 12 months
- Class 75 3 jam tarts
- Class 76 3 biscuits

Snooker Club

We are still looking for members, new and old.

Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Membership is due to be paid on September 1st.



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Local Hero

This is a photo of the Young family, who are probably known to most people in Topcliffe and Asenby, taken when Kev collected his MBE from the Queen. They had a fabulous and unforgettable couple of days in London, celebrating Kev's fantastic achievement. His family and friends are extremely proud of him, knowing how hard he has worked, often in punishing circumstances, for the last 37 years.



Faster Broadband's Coming

Topcliffe is one of seven towns and villages in this part of North Yorkshire to benefit from the first stage of the county's high-speed fibre broadband roll-out.

The multi-million pound programme is expected to create jobs and boost the district's economy by helping to increase the competitiveness of local firms...but it will also be of tremendous advantage to local residents.

Topcliffe's services are to be upgraded by the end of summer 2013, according to Superfast North Yorkshire, the partnership between North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and BT responsible for the roll-out.

Superfast North Yorkshire builds on BT's own commercial roll-out of fibre broadband in the county and aims to provide 90 per cent of North Yorkshire's homes and businesses with access to fibre broadband - most with speeds of at least 25Mbps - by the end of 2014.

NYCC councillor Carl Les, chairman of Superfast North Yorkshire, called fast, sophisticated communications "the cornerstone of a successful community" and said: "We are pleased with the pace of the roll-out which is bringing this exciting technology to more challenging areas in the county."

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Dalton Ladies' Club

Dalton Ladies' Club seems to be very successful judging by the regular updates from Rosemary Waller. And they're always happy to welcome new members. Here is what they got up to in May:

For the May meeting Paula Rowntree, from the famous chocolate shop in Northallerton, demonstrated how to wrap presents adding finishing touches to make them special. She also showed us how to make a small bag from wrapping paper to hold chocolates etc. She was a very amusing speaker and kept everyone entertained all evening and, best of all, she also brought some lovely chocolate samples from her shop.

There will not be a meeting in June as an outing is planned.

www.Topcliffe.net & www.Asenby.net

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, a colour version of The TATTler and all the pictures of Topcliffe and the surrounding area.

THE TATTLER NEEDS YOU!

People are needed to help deliver the Tattler to homes in Topcliffe. If you can spare a few hours to help us every 3 months, please phone 578076

Church Concert

The St Columba's Church choir and soloists will be giving a concert of choral music, songs and solo instrumental items in the church on Friday July 5th. The programme will include "The Lost Chord" by Sullivan, "The Holy City" and Gilbert and Sullivan songs, as well as familiar anthems and arrangements of popular songs by Cole Porter and other composers of the 1920s.

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The school's recent Pyjama Day was in aid of the purchase of new laptops but the traditional art of reading with children and grandchildren was celebrated.

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 - 101 Textphone 18001 101

www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Hambleton DC - 01609 779977

www.hambleton.gov.uk

Harrogate BC - 01423 568954

www.harrogate.gov.uk

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