



Two Christingles

Two delightful Christingle services were held in Topcliffe. One took place at St Columba's when the primary school children were the main orange and candles supervisors, whilst the second was at St Christopher's Church on Alanbrooke Barracks featuring the nursery school infants dressed up in full nativity costume, guaranteed to bring a tear to every member of the audience.



Christmas Lunch at the Bay Horse

The Senior Citizens' Club had a grand Christmas lunch at the Bay Horse in Rainton. The members exchanged Christmas gifts and those who couldn't quite manage to finish their meal, received a neat little doggie bag to take home.

The lunch was excellent and the staff, kind and attentive. The club has certainly become much more interesting and active in the last few months. If you haven't tried it already, give it a go. Meetings are in the village hall on the first Tuesday of every month. However, there isn't a meeting on January 1st, but on the 8th. Ring Judith Lowe on 577911 for more details.

Editor's note: The Bay Horse really is exceptional value for money. It's a "proper pub" serving "proper pub grub". Highly recommended!

Floods and Mud in Topcliffe

Floods of biblical proportions hit several villages and small market towns, as well as the more high-profile city of York at the beginning of October. We heard the unusual sound of police sirens and fire engines screeching down small lanes; witnessed people wading in wetsuits on what had been dry land the day before; the chaos of cars trying to get through massive puddles, getting stuck and causing tailbacks that stretched for miles. Micro-catastrophes occurred in many homes which were suddenly flooded with filthy water.

Two areas in Topcliffe were particularly devastated. The Swaleside Holiday Park where only ten, out of over sixty holiday lodges, were left unaffected, as well as Topcliffe Mill and neighbouring houses.

The converted water mill consists of ten flats and is next to the weir. Occupants of the flats struggled to place as many of their belongings as possible out of reach of the four feet of water which suddenly poured into their homes. Houses, a few metres away, were also flooded and the Emergency Services were obliged to rush to the aid of residents using rescue boats to haul them to safety. Four cats were saved with their owners. Some spotted pigs were given shelter at a nearby farm while the only fatality was thought to be one hen; the remaining poultry were offered temporary accommodation in a neighbour's bedroom.

At the moment all those made temporarily homeless have accommodation and some will be moving to empty flats in Topcliffe Mill until their homes are repaired, but there are families who have lost almost everything and have the daunting task of starting afresh.



Pilates at the Village Hall

I know, it makes you tired just reading about it:

Monday 9-9.30am
KETTLE BELL PILATES

An energetic half hour class, which combines cardiovascular workout and toning exercises.

Monday 9.30-10.30am
MAT PILATES

An hour of classic Pilates work. Core strength work and stretching.

Tuesday 9-9.30am
KETTLE BELL PILATES

As above.

Tuesday 9.30-10.30am
BALL PILATES CLASS

An hour class using gym balls. Toning exercises which help strengthen the core, improve balance and co-ordination.

Thursday 10.15-11.15am
MIXED EQUIPMENT PILATES CLASS

Certified Pilates Instructor and Sport Therapist. Please ring Nicole on 07887 581364 for more information or to book a place.

A Worthy Volunteer

You may remember in the last issue of The Tattler, we asked if anyone was interested in volunteering for the Home from Hospital scheme. This is run by the British Red Cross Health and Social Care team based at the Friarage Hospital. It provides practical support after someone returns from home, following a period in hospital or residential care. Volunteers not only help in practical ways but also give an hour or two of their time to help isolated vulnerable people.

Paula Morris, Scheme Co-ordinator, contacted the Tattler to say that she has one volunteer as a result of the advertisement which is very good news. If anyone else is interested, please give Paula a ring on 01609 764646 for a chat.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe	Asenby
Garry Key (Chairman) Cliff House, Long St. 578900	Peter Palmer (Chairman) Hilltop Farm 578057
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

Patrick's Supporters Make a Difference

After some tremendous fundraising activities the regulars of The Swan in Topcliffe presented Jo Warmington, the Fundraising Manager of the Yorkshire and Humberside district of CLIC Sargent, with a cheque for £11,630.

The participants of the Swan Challenge were moved by the plight of Patrick Hooker, whose parents, Lois and Julian, are Swan regulars. Patrick was an inpatient at the Great Northern Children's Hospital and he specifically requested that the money raised should go to this worthwhile charity which supports very sick children and their families.

Tattler readers will no doubt remember that a Bank Holiday sponsored hike over the Three Peaks was followed the next day by a bike ride from Scarborough to Topcliffe. During the evening, the pub held a raffle, karaoke, bbq and auction. Many local businesses offered donations and there were some stunning prizes including a 3-course meal at the Black Bull Inn at Boroughbridge and at The Whitestonecliffe Inn as well as a game of golf with refreshments at Rockcliffe Golf Resort and a Family Day ticket to Flamingo Land. All the bidders gave generously, often more than equalling the value of the prizes.

CLIC Sargent is a children's cancer charity which aims to support not only the patient, but also parents and siblings. There is an appreciation that everyone's experience of the disease is different and the charity's commitment is to listen and understand the ways in which support can be most effective. CLIC Sargent Social Workers and nurses provide practical, clinical and emotional support. Free "home from home" accommodation close to specialist hospitals is provided for families who need to be near the young patient. Holidays, with

Animal Cruelty!

Two cats have been shot in Topcliffe recently. One of the animals was killed and was found by the vet to have ten pellets inside him. The second was badly injured as the pellet had entered his humerus, leaving him lame, possibly for the rest of his life. The police are investigating both incidents of animal cruelty.

Most of us would not want to live next door to the sort of person who carried out sadistic acts on family pets and a few names have been mentioned as possible suspects. However, if anyone does have any definite information please ring PC Pears on 101. The crime number is NYP-13102012-0248.

the support of care professionals, can give a much needed break. Financial support, including grants and benefits information, can relieve possible pressure on parents.

Jo Warmington was clearly delighted with the fantastic effort of Patrick's Old Timers as they called themselves. She said that it costs approximately £4,000 to support each family who find themselves in this distressing situation, and so The Swan had provided virtually enough funds for three families.

To donate to the children's charity or perhaps hold a fundraising event of your own, look on the website at www.clicsargent.org.uk.



Jo Warmington (front right) meets Patrick and his family with the Challenge team John Heidstrom, Lee Halshaw, Paul Taylor, Alistair Burnett, Trevor Linfoot and, Mark Watson as well as pub locals and Challenge supporters Dave Young, Chris Moores and Rob Macaulay.

Volunteers Needed

The Village Hall Committee is in need of new members to offer some fresh ideas on events and activities that would be popular in the community. Membership of the committee is far from onerous with only about four meetings a year. Creating posters and displaying them on noticeboards, organising refreshments and generally keeping the hall and grassy area tidy along with other members would also be required. If you are interested ring Judith Lowe on 577911 or Linda Nuttall on 577315.

Calling All Would-be Rainbows

1st Topcliffe Rainbows are looking for more members. Girls aged between 5-7 years old are invited to join the group where they will play games, work towards badges, create art and crafts and much more. The Rainbows meet on Wednesday evenings in the village hall. For more information contact Gemma Armstrong on 595097 or email gemmaarmstrong1@gmail.com.

Adventures of a Topcliffe Ex-Pat

Hong Kong to Topcliffe sounds like a long commute but Roy Beckwith thinks nothing of it. He's been living the life of an intermittent ex-pat since 1994 in his job as Director of the International Woolmark Company, working also in Turkey, Israel, Egypt, India and Mauritius. One thing he realised he couldn't do without, while living in Hong Kong, was a local, but fortunately he found the Junk Pub in the Wanchai district, where 80% of the regulars consist of ex-pats. Nationalities include Australian, Canadian, Swedish, French, South African, Philippino, American and German. Occupations are as diverse as plumbers, lawyers, teachers and jazz musicians, and all of them have a story to tell - or even many stories.



One day, the Australian landlord, Paul Watt realised that the combined adventures of his regulars would make fascinating reading, and finding a writer in Canadian John Cairns, an online publishing company was established. The result is an illustrated book, "All Aboard! Planet Expat" which explains, with a great deal of humour, "why

dedicated expatriates seldom go home." It is sold in hard copy overseas and has been named Dymocks Hong Kong Book of the Month.

Topcliffe's own Roy Beckwith, has his own chapter where he relates his experiences with overly-exotic food; his surprise confrontation with a cobra while playing golf; and a near-death adventure on a flight to Goa. His life has been extraordinary and varied, and retirement and settling down is not on the horizon despite his sixty eight years. Clearly he couldn't imagine leaving the Junk Pub but does say that The Swan in Topcliffe has many similarities. "There is the same atmosphere and something is always going on." Whether adventures in Topcliffe are quite as exciting as Hong Kong adventures is doubtful but it does provide a home-from-home feel for this seasoned traveller.

A Country Childhood

An evening that stirred a few memories took place in Topcliffe Village Hall recently. Zeke Deighton performed "A Country Life," which was a pleasant and humorous mixture of words and songs describing growing up in the village of Follifoot near Harrogate. He reminisced about days filled with simple pleasures, of scrumping for apples, harvest time, rationing, playing in the fields and spending school holidays in fields and woods. Main roads hadn't come to the village then, nor had heavy farming machinery or televisions. He drew a picture for the audience of living on the cusp of change when the 60s brought about new buildings, more vehicles and, inevitably, the outside world.

Zeke's own memories were interspersed with readings from evocative books such as "Cider with Rosie", "A Kestrel for a Knave" and "As I walked out one Midsummer Morning". He was also an accomplished folk singer and guitarist, his music adding to the variety of his performance.

The nostalgic evening was in aid of ME Research and village hall funds. £99 for each charity was raised and it seemed a very enjoyable way to raise money for two worthy causes.



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Vic Rawlings

Topcliffe lost a well-respected and popular figure when Vic Rawlings died in October, leaving his wife Dora, four children, Christine, Sally, Bill and Lucy, as well as six grandchildren.

Originally from Sheringham in Norfolk, he joined the RAF straight from school in 1942, trained as a pilot in Rhodesia, and during the war, flew Spitfires, Tempests and Hurricanes in Kuala Lumpur. Vic went on to train as a secondary school teacher at St John's College, York, having already gained some experience at a primary school in Sheringham. He decided to make Yorkshire his home, initially in Whitby, but then settling in Thirsk in 1957. He eventually became Head of PE at the secondary school.

While teaching at Thirsk, he was instrumental in using the old school at Farndale as an outward bound centre where children would spend a week, enjoying a variety of bracing outdoor activities. To raise funds for the minibus which would take the children to Farndale, he held sponsored walks. Indeed, he was an expert at fundraising and was deeply involved in raising money for the building of Thirsk swimming pool.



The Appointments System

The appointments system at the surgery is now well underway. For anyone not up to speed on how the system works, Dr Parker has given some details:

How will the system work?

The idea is to make sure there is a good mix of pre-bookable and same-day bookable appointments. Both doctors on duty will have a mixture of appointments so you can choose which doctor to see as they are both available to book ahead morning and afternoon, rather than one or the other. We will keep at least half of the surgery time for same day appointments, more when a doctor is on holiday, to ensure where necessary you can be seen the same day.

The majority of people already ring up to see which doctor is available before coming, so we anticipated only a slight rise in telephone calls. Our recent change to requests for repeat medications to the more secure online ordering or completing the request slips has also helped. It is still possible to book several weeks ahead to allow full choice of doctor, day and time of the appointment.

I do not want to make it harder to see a doctor, but I do want you to wait for less time in greater comfort.

The main point to remember is you **MUST RING IN** before attending. It is also possible to use the on-line booking service (if interested please ask reception for details).

Dr Charles Parker

As an extremely keen and accomplished golfer, he was President of the Harrogate Union and Captain of Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club. He was also happy to train juniors and his legacy survives as many of his protégés are still keen golfers to this day.

Vic was also a Parish Councillor and he always claimed that his finest hour was in the 1960's when he instigated a demonstration for a much-needed bypass at a time when heavy traffic was continuously streaming through Topcliffe. He formed an action committee and joined protestors as they brought traffic to a halt, constantly crossing Long Street in single file, wielding placards.

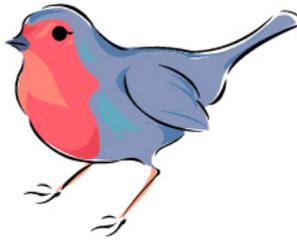
A man with many interests who was enthusiastic about education, he continued in his role as school governor at Alanbrooke and Topcliffe Primary Schools in his retirement. He made a huge difference to life in Topcliffe and Thirsk with his fundraising, teaching, golf-coaching and Parish Council work. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts go out to his wife and family.

RSPB: Big Garden Birdwatch North Yorkshire district

Do you like watching the birds in your garden? Then take part in the world's biggest wildlife survey - the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

This is the conservation charity's most important event of the year. It is when people across the country look out of their window and spend an hour of their weekend recording how many birds they see.

Last year, over half a million people counted more than nine million garden birds. The information from this survey helps the RSPB form a comprehensive picture of how well - or not so well - each species is doing.



Over the past three decades, participants have helped the RSPB discover that populations of house sparrows and starlings have declined while the numbers of blue tits and goldfinches in gardens have increased.

Doing the Big Garden Birdwatch not only helps the RSPB track the ups and downs of garden birds, but gives you the perfect excuse to sit down with a cup of tea and enjoy the wildlife in your garden.

Taking part is very simple. Over the weekend of the 26-27 January, spend one hour counting the largest number of each bird species you see at a time in your garden. Then give your results through our website www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or by post.

You can get loads more information about the Big Garden Birdwatch and a free pack by going on our website or calling the hotline 0300 456 8330.



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Chris Brown

Chris Brown, our local representative on Harrogate Borough Council, retired at the last local elections after representing the constituency, including Asenby, for 29 years. In honour of his service to the Harrogate Borough Council, Chris was recently appointed an Honorary Alderman of Harrogate.

Asenby Parish Council would like to thank Chris on behalf of the residents of Asenby for his tireless work in representing the interests of the village.

Bernard Bateman is to be congratulated on being elected to represent the Wathvale Ward, which includes Asenby, at the May elections. He will have a hard act to follow.

Peter Palmer (Chairman Asenby Parish Council)

Snooker Club seeks new members

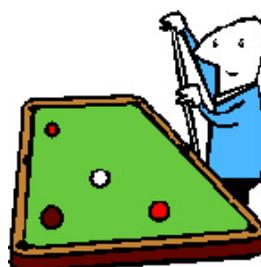
With the 2012 UK Snooker Championships just ending in York there's been quite a lot of interest in the sport this month...and some locals have been desperately trying to emulate their professional heroes on the green baize at Topcliffe's own Snooker Club.

Of course, our local lads and lasses can only live in some sort of dream world of snooker glory - maybe thrashing their mates on a Saturday night or taking the honours in the twice-yearly needle matches against the best players from Carlton Husthwaite.

Either way, it's great to have the opportunity to play a game of snooker - or even the now less popular Billiards - on our own doorstep. There aren't many villages that can boast such a great facility - an excellent room with both a full and a half size table.

But the snooker club only survives because local people take up membership, play the tables and help raise the funds to pay the bills. In recent years the number of players has fluctuated, but the trend is downwards, making it more difficult each year to cover costs.

The club needs about thirty members playing regularly to make ends meet. This year, so far, just twenty have paid their fees, so the club needs a few more to join and enjoy the game.



This year, the membership fee is £20. If you are interested in playing snooker and helping to ensure we keep this popular table sport in Topcliffe, please contact David Bowman on 577843.

Doug Allan

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Term time

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9.00am – 3.00pm

Lunch Club everyday

(Packed lunch or cooked school dinner)

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Topcliffe Playgroup, The Portacabin, Topcliffe C of E School,
School Lane, Topcliffe, Thirsk YO7 3RG

Thirsk and Sowerby Children's Centre

We offer a range of services for all families with children under 5.

This includes access to child and family health services from Antenatal support to Baby Clinics and Speech and language. Some of the other sessions we offer are: First Aid, Crafty Ideas, Young Parents and Music and Movement.

We also have Childminder drop-ins and a monthly Saturday session for families with a child with additional needs.

1:1 support is available for families through our Parent Support Advisers. The majority of our sessions are free but places are limited.

If you would like more information on the above please contact Thirsk Children's Centre :-

Telephone 01609 533068 or
e-mail:- thirskCC@northyorks.gov.uk

Asenby Parish Council

Asenby parish council are seeking a new parish clerk. The position pays an annual salary of £692.32 paid in bimonthly installments and requires approximately 7 hours work per month.

Please contact Peter Palmer on 578057 if interested.

Baldersby St James CE Primary

Here we are again in December! The children are excitedly getting ready for the busiest time in the school calendar. We were lucky to have a West End workshop in school to show us how to write and produce our own Panto which took place on Wednesday 5th December. The Nativity and Carol Service is on Friday 21st December, St James' Church 1.15pm. Everyone is welcome to join us to celebrate this joyous time of year. We are also looking forward to welcoming Father Christmas to our school party and enjoying our traditional Christmas Dinner!

Last month we took part in fundraising for Children in Need and raised £173.82 which will go towards helping children in the UK so thank-you to all who came along to our coffee afternoon and took part in the fun and games.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in bringing in vouchers from the various supermarket promotions - they really do make a big difference to the children. I would also like to remind people that we are continuing to collect Nestle Cereal Box Tops, they can be used to buy new books for the classrooms and library.

So as 2012 draws to a close, on behalf of everyone at Baldersby St James CE Primary School, I would like to wish everyone in Topcliffe a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2013.

Mark Lawn
Headteacher
01765 640277

admin@baldersby-st-james.n-yorks.sch.uk
www.baldersby-st-james.n-yorks.sch.uk



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



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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

Beginners' French Class Parlez-vous français?

Having successfully launched an Intermediate French Class last year, Clare Phillips will be starting a Beginner's Group in January 2013. The start date and time are to be finalised but the class will take place during the day. The aims of the class will be to encourage speaking and understanding through use of different materials and mediums including a course book, simple videos, listening activities and other stimuli. As the group will be small (I would anticipate no more than 8 members) there will be lots of opportunity to talk and make good progress! The cost will be no more than £10 per session, perhaps less depending on the uptake, which lasts for 1.5 hours. We would work in blocks of four weeks which will allow for flexibility. Lessons at Asenby Hall.



Please do contact Clare on 577034 (Asenby) clareaphillips@gmail.com

Christmas Starts at the Crab & Lobster

The recent festive Mince Pie and Mulled Wine evening at the Crab and Lobster raised £250 for the playing field. Many thanks to the Crab for allowing everyone to use their lovely conservatory.

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Winn Lane Allotments

It is evident that this has been a difficult year for the allotments with many plots being neglected; the problem has been worsened by the recent flooding. Inevitably, because of the heavy rainfall, the landlords, Broadacres Housing Association, have had more pressing problems to deal with.

However, Ms Christine Norman is shortly to take over responsibility for the allotments and it is hoped that in the New Year people who are currently on the waiting list will be allocated unworked/vacant plots which will greatly improve the general appearance of the area.

Ms Norman can be contacted on 0800 5875291 if anyone would like to make enquiries.

Wendy Jamieson

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

HDC Cllr Neville Huxtable 01845 501068

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HBC Cllr Bernard Bateman 01765 640362

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