

THE TATTLER

Volume 13 Issue 4
Winter 2006

Christmas & Epiphany Services at St. Columba's

Everyone is welcome at all of our Christmas services, but two of them are particularly suitable for children.

On Christmas Eve, there is a Crib Service when we sing carols and listen to the Christmas story, whilst building up the Christmas crib. Even the youngest children can enter into the wonder of Jesus' birth, and the service is followed by sherry, or squash and mince pies.

On Christmas morning, we join with the



Methodists at Topcliffe

Chapel for festive family worship. For those who like something more traditional, "Nine Lessons and Carols" on December 17th is a beautiful service led by Topcliffe Church Choir. Please note the earlier starting time of 4.00 pm.

The ever popular service of Christingle has not been forgotten. This time around it will be held after Christmas to fit in to the season of Epiphany, on January 14th. Children from Topcliffe School and from the Sunday school will be taking part.

**Rev'd. Christine and David Haddon-Reece wish everyone
a happy and blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.**

Burns' Night

Get your kilt aired - tickets for the Burns' Night Supper celebration in the village hall are as rare as hen's teeth and by the time you get this TATtler, they may well be all sold. However, if you fancy a great night out on Friday 26th January 2007, complete with haggis, neeps and tatties, then give Linda Nuttall a ring on 01845 577315 and book your seats. As usual there will be all the trimmings; piper, poetry and dancing. Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis, so waste no time – book today!

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Editorial**It's your TATtler!**

The start of a New Year seems a good time to take a fresh look at the TATtler and make plans for the future. Great progress has been made in computers and communications since John Walter founded the TATtler over a decade ago and in these days of the internet, broadband, mobile 'phones and "texting", it is a lot easier for everyone to stay in touch and be aware of all the activities going on in Asenby, Topcliffe and the surrounding areas.

So what is the future for the TATtler? With only four issues a year, it is often not the best vehicle to keep residents informed about events taking place and many of your activities are planned and held between issues of the TATtler. Modern communications and the ease of producing notices and flyers have in many cases, made the TATtler surplus to requirements when it comes to passing the word.

It has become apparent over the last few years that many articles need to be less "immediate" and contain more general interest relevant to the locality. During the last year each issue has included a local walk, which we hope some of you have found time to enjoy. The walk in this issue is a nice gentle stroll, very suitable for Boxing Day to walk off some of that Christmas lunch!

Perhaps during that walk or whilst you have a moment over the coming holidays you can find time to think about what you would like to see in the TATtler and pass your thoughts and ideas on to me. Let's see if we can make the 2007 TATtler really yours.

Seasons Greetings and a Merry Christmas to you all,

David

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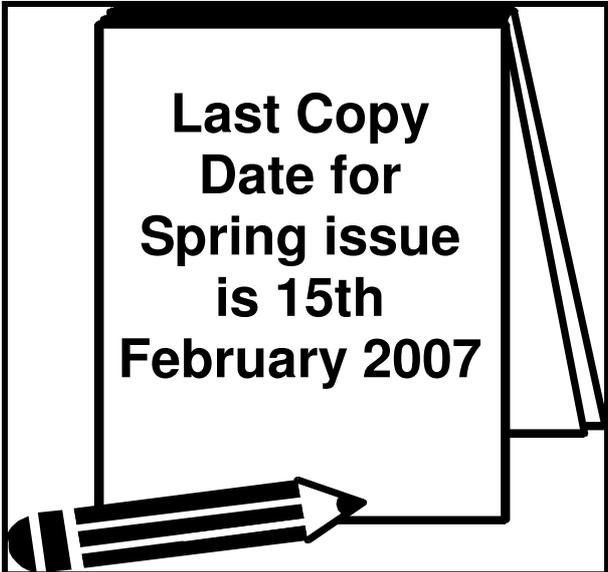
Bin Collection Dates -Topcliffe Village

Green Bin - Last Collection Thurs 7th Dec
Next Collection Thurs 8th Feb 07

Black Bin: Thurs 14th Dec, 21st Dec, Fri 5th Jan,
Thurs 11th, 18th, 25th Jan, 1st Feb, then fortnightly.

NB There is no collection between Christmas and New Year.

First collection in New Year is on a Friday.



**Last Copy
Date for
Spring issue
is 15th
February 2007**

ASNEBY PARISH COUNCIL**Job Vacancy**

Asenby Parish Council has a vacancy for a new Clerk to the council. If you think you have the skills required and would be interested in this prestigious post, then please contact any member of the Parish Council.

Chris Milross	577961
Jackie Avison	578871
Dave Allon	595080
Peter Dale	577373
Steve Hall	578379

and

A Date for Your Diary

Following last year's successful event, a St. George's Day supper will be held on

Friday 20th April 2007

Look out! – There's a thief about

Long dark nights and grey days make wonderful opportunities for thieves to relieve you of your property. This is a great time of year for burglars; they like to celebrate Christmas too but prefer to do their shopping in your home. Even the insurance companies recognise the fact that with many break-ins, the thief is looking for Christmas presents and accordingly increase your contents insurance by 10% over the Christmas period to allow for possible thefts.

However, it's not all gloom and doom and some simple measures can help protect you, your family and your home from opportunist thieves. The more obstacles you put in the thief's way, the less likely he is to target your property. Make sure that you take these simple precautions.

- Remember to set the burglar alarm whenever you are out.
- Keep all downstairs doors & windows locked, and upstairs windows closed, even when you're at home.
- Arrange for table lights to come on in the late afternoon if you arrive home after dark. This is not only more welcoming for you but will also make the house look "lived in" and deter a thief. A simple timer and a low energy bulb will minimise the cost of this precaution.
- Fit a movement activated security lamp, especially if you have large dark areas outside. Thieves hate being in the spotlight! Also available are low energy bulbs which will switch on at dusk and switch off at dawn – these are ideal for lights at front doors.
- Keep all valuables, especially Christmas presents, out of sight from downstairs windows.
- Keep all garages, sheds and other outbuildings locked and make sure there are no tools lying about which could help a thief break in.
- Consider fitting an alarm in your garden shed if you have valuable tools there.
- Keep ladders in the garage or securely locked up so they cannot be used for a break-in.
- Check your house contents insurance policy and make sure you have the cover you need.

And if you are at home, do be aware of bogus callers who will often be working in pairs at this time of year, with one distracting you whilst the other does the stealing. They will often claim to be from the water, gas or electricity services or the council. Unless the appointment has been pre-arranged and they have the correct identification badges, don't let them in until you've 'phoned to check.

If in doubt, keep 'em out! Don't let the thieves spoil your Christmas.

If you see something untoward, do please report it to Crimestoppers (0800 555 111), Neighbourhood Watch or a Councillor (see back page for contact details) Please have some details though: - names, description(s), height, dress, hair colour, time and date, what they were doing etc. This is needed to build a wider intelligence picture.

Yoga Wednesdays 2007

Yoga Class at Topcliffe Village Hall



- ◆ **Yoga class Wednesday evenings 7.00 to 8.30 pm from January 10th 2007 at Topcliffe Village Hall near Thirsk.**
- ◆ **Beginners and those with some yoga experience are all welcome.**
- ◆ **Gently develop your flexibility and flowing movement.**
- ◆ **Experience real relaxation.**
- ◆ **Yoga for everyone.**

**For further details and enrolment contact
Barry Walmsley
(British Wheel of Yoga
Member No.06/NYO/16360/ST)
on 01845 577976**

TATTLER WINTER WALK

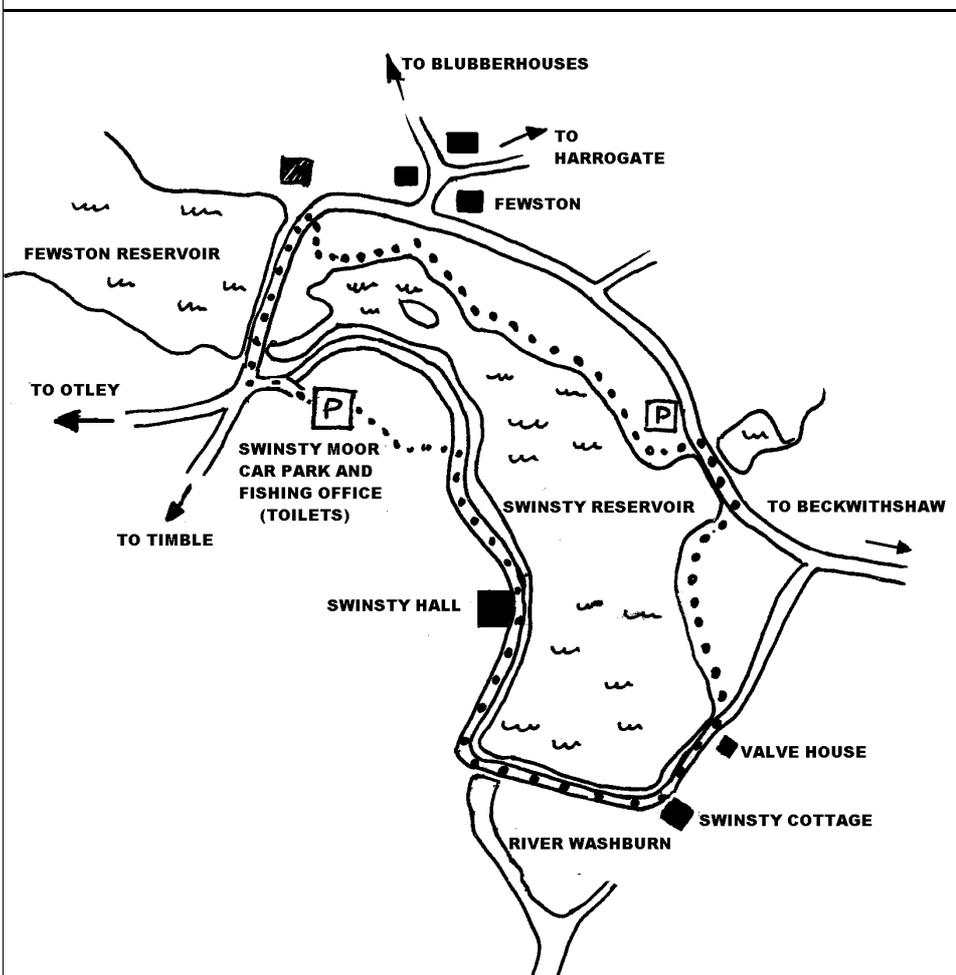
SWINSTY RESERVOIR

The water closet was invented in the 18th century, some say much earlier, but it was really Yorkshire born Thomas Crapper who carried the technology forward in the 1860's and as a result, is often incorrectly credited with the invention of the flushing toilet.

In Leeds by 1856 there were about 1000 flushing toilets in the city. This number grew to about 6000 by 1870 with a dramatic increase in water requirements for the city. Leeds had Parliamentary approval to extract up to 6 million gallons of water a day from the River Wharfe at Arlington, but by 1870 over 4½ million gallons/day were required and with the increase in demand for water being experienced, the City Engineer recommended that reservoirs be built in the valley of the River Washburn, some 15 miles to the north of Leeds.

These reservoirs were built at Fewston, Swinsty and Lindley Wood, and the reservoir at Swinsty is the location of our walk. This is really a nice gentle 3 mile stroll, very suitable for walking off that Christmas over-indulgence. The entire walk is on made up paths or roads and the gradients are quite easy.

Swinsty is a little to the south and east of Blubberhouses on the A59 road from Harrogate to Skipton. Turn left off the A59 after Menworth Hill, (signposted Fewston) about 2 miles before Blubberhouses and follow the road through Fewston and on to Swinsty Moor where you can park your car in the Fishing Office car park on the left. The Fishing Office also has very clean toilets which are open all year round.



SWINSTY RESERVOIR

From the car park, take the track which heads off to the right behind the Fishing Office through woodland towards the reservoir. After about ¼ mile, you will come to a fork in the track. Take the left hand path and head downhill towards the reservoir. When you near the reservoir, turn right on to the track and continue along it keeping the reservoir on your left hand side. After a short distance you will pass Swinsty Hall on your right.

Swinsty Hall was built by an individual call Robinson who lived in the Washburn valley in the 16th century. He travelled to London at the time of the Black Plague and spent his time there robbing the dead and looting the houses of plague victims.

He amassed a considerable collection of gold, silver, jewellery and other valuables and returned to Yorkshire with his loot loaded on wagons. On arriving back in the Washburn he found the locals were frightened of catching plague and would have nothing to do with him. He ended up living in a barn and eventually bought land and built Swinsty Hall, a monument to his pillaging activities.

A little further on from the hall, turn left and cross the dam at Swinsty Embankment. There is a house ahead on your right – Swinsty Cottage. Pass the cottage, cross over the bridge and follow the road straight on past the Valve House on your right. After about 200 yards, bear left onto the footpath which runs alongside the reservoir. Follow this path up to a gate and then turn left onto the road, which forms a causeway over a small inlet of the reservoir to your right. At the end of the causeway there is a car park and picnic area. Bear left again here, and follow the path alongside the edge of the reservoir.

After following this path for almost 1 mile, pass through a gate and join the road from Fewston to Swinsty. Turn left here and follow the road across the top of Fewston Dam until you arrive back at Swinsty Moor car park. There are fine views along the Washburn valley, with Swinsty Reservoir on your left and Fewston reservoir on your right.

Although there are no tea rooms on this walk, if the Christmas spirit is upon you, you may like to consider returning home via Fewston, Beckwithshaw and the B6162 into Harrogate. This latter road very conveniently brings you past the R.H.S. Gardens at Harlow Carr where you can get a cup of tea and a very high class bun at Betty's. Go on! – spoil yourselves!

Further excellent details and a great map are available on the Yorkshire Water web site (<http://www.yorkshirewater.com>) where you will also find many other walks on YW land. Maps for this walk are OS Explorer No. 297 (Otley & Harrogate) or Landranger 104 (Leeds & Bradford.)

Asenby Recreation Ground News

A 'Pampered Chef' fundraiser was held in the Village Hall in November. Many thanks to all those who came to support it. Hopefully the drink and (beautifully decorated!!!) slice of delicious cheesecake made it worthwhile!

Thank you to all of you who have helped mow the grass this year and have persevered with the mower!! Your help is, as ever, very much appreciated!

Our next gathering is the annual MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIE evening. It will be held on **Sunday 10th December** from 6pm. This year it will be held by kind invitation of the Lowes at Green End Dairies. Tickets will be on sale soon and will include your first glass of mulled wine and a mince pie; further glasses will cost £1. There will be a Christmas Grand raffle, and any contributions to this will be appreciated. Tickets can be bought from any member of the committee.

Please Help

Asenby Institute needs new committee members!! The institute was set up to look after and raise funds for the recreation area in Asenby. We really need new members to help us plan and carry out improvements to the recreation area and playground and to help with the fundraising such as the summer barbeque and mulled wine events. We meet 4-6 times a year and would love to see new faces. .

Upkeep of the play area and recreation ground

We are looking for an occasional (paid) 'Odd Job' person to help with the upkeep of the play area, small repairs and general maintenance.

If you are interested in this or being a member of the committee, see any of us at the mulled wine event or call 578871 or 577119

On behalf of the Asenby Recreation Ground Committee, Merry Christmas!

Emma McCormick

St Columba's Church Services

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

Churchwardens: Linda Carver 578014 & Margaret Gimblett 577882

December	Sunday	3rd	Benefice Family Worship for Advent	10.30 am
	Wednesday	6th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	10th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	17th	Holy Communion with Baptism	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
			Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols	4.00 pm
	Sunday	24th	Advent Morning Prayer	10.30 am
			Crib Service	3.00 pm
			Midnight Mass of the Nativity	11.30 pm
	Sunday	31st	Benefice Holy Communion at Dalton.	9.15 am
			(N.B. No service at St. Columba's)	
January	Sunday	7th	Benefice Family Worship	10.30 am
	Wednesday	10th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	14th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
			Christingle	3.00 pm
	Sunday	21st	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	28th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
February	Wednesday	7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sunday	11th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	18th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
			Creche/Sunday School in the Church hall	
	Sunday	25th	Matins	10.30 am
			Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

St. Columba's Churchyard Damage

We welcome everyone to walk in the churchyard and enjoy its tranquillity. It should be a place for people to find peace and quiet and it is a very important haven for local wildlife. It is also set apart for the community to honour and respect its dead. Many visitors and village people have ancestors buried here, so it will hold a special personal association for them.

Recently, however, considerable damage has been done to stone walls and to some very large laurel bushes that are an attractive feature of the areas. It has cost us a lot to make good the damage to the trees and repairing the walls will also be expensive.

We are concerned that children and teenagers are using the churchyard to congregate and play. It is not a playground and if misused, could become hazardous. We would be grateful if parents and other villagers would ensure that the churchyard is not used for play.

If anyone has any view or positive ideas about any matters relating to the church or the churchyard, then we would be please to hear from you.

Margaret Gimblett & Linda Carver (Churchwardens)