

# TATtler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

## First Stage of Church Tower Restoration to proceed

Topcliffe Church Churchwarden John Phillips is delighted to report that they have now instructed the builders to proceed with the first stage of the Tower Restoration. The project had unfortunately been delayed by



many months as it became apparent that initial advice as to costs had been overly optimistic. However, with increased Grants from English Heritage and the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust, continuing imaginative fund-raising, and generous support from individuals both within the Parish and further afield, they are now in a position to proceed with the most essential works to the tower. This will leave the roof and intermediate pinnacles to be restored as a follow-up phase for which further grants and fund-raising will be

*(Continued on page 6)*

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### Topcliffe Parish Council Elections

Thursday 1st May

You will all be aware of the forthcoming elections in May for Parish and District councils . I ask that you consider participation in this exercise of local democracy. Please consider serving the community either by standing for election to the Parish Council or by encouraging others to do so. It is not an onerous duty. At least please contribute to local democracy by exercising your right to vote. The greater the turn out the greater the legitimacy. Have your say!

Garry J F Key  
Chairman

PS Don't forget the Topcliffe Annual Parish Meeting on Monday April 7th. (See page 2 for further details)

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## Editorial

It does not seem possible that we are already towards the end of 2003's first Quarter, where *do* the days go? As I write, the threat of war is hanging over us, let us hope that the Politicians can settle this matter in some other way. I have already lived through the first world war and served in the second. I dread to think what may be in front of us in view of today's weapons. Whatever it is, I sincerely hope that none of you will be affected.

But enough of bad news; as you will see in this issue, there is good news too - on the restoration of our historic church. To have reached the stage we have is a tremendous accomplishment for two such small villages, especially coming right on top of the immense job of re-furbishing and installing the Willis organ. It will be fascinating to watch the progress of the Contractors when they actually make a start. Have a good Spring.

**Last copy date  
for Summer Issue  
is  
22nd May 2003**

## PRIZE BINGO

**Where?** Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

**When?** Every Wednesday evening

**Starts?** 7.30pm,

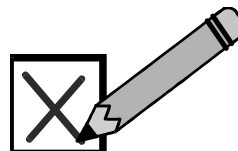
Books on Sale

7.00pm

**Cost?** 50p per book



## Topcliffe Parish Council Elections. Election timetable.

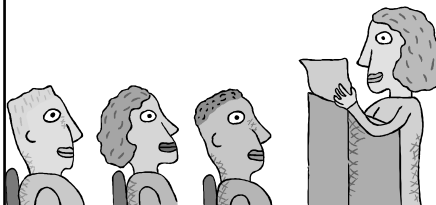


Public Notice of Election	21st March
Delivery Of Nomination papers by	31st March
Public List of Candidates	2nd April
Notice of Withdrawal	10th April
Notice of Poll	22nd April
<b>Polling Day</b>	<b>1st May</b>

## Topcliffe Annual Parish Meeting

**Monday 7th April**

Before the next TATTler comes out it will be time once again for Topcliffe's Annual Parish Meeting. Please make a note in your diary. It will be in the village hall on Monday 7th April at 8.00 pm. This is your opportunity to speak out.



If you want anything putting on the Agenda for discussion please contact any member of the Council or the Chairman, Gary Key (Tel 578900).

## Asenby Parish Council

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the councillors below should you have any issue that should be brought to the attention of the Council.

Chris Millross Topcliffe House	Tel 577961
(Chair)	
Jackie Avison 2 Orchard Cottages	Tel 578871
(Vice Chair)	
Fred Gifford Green End Cottage	Tel 578300
Steve Hall Orchard End	Tel 578379
John Sharp 16 Cundall Road	Tel 578406

## HELP !!

I hav a 'Brother AX100' Electronic Typeriter, and nead two bee shoan how to use itt.

Kan anyone help pleese!



Contact:  
The Editor  
John Walter 578147

## Paying Field.



We are a small band of people who look after, and maintain, Topcliffe Playing Field for the use of all the village. Like all clubs we are always on the look out for people to help in fund raising or in grass cutting during the summer. If you would like to help to keep this facility going for all the village, especially the children, then call Louise Bumby on 524551

## Club News

### Football Club



Having had a good season so far the league has been thrown into turmoil with the collapse of two 'military' teams who have lost players after they have been deployed abroad. It has still not been decided what will happen to the points, won or lost, by the other teams in the league. As the saying goes ' Watch this space!'

### Snooker Club



The Snooker Club meets upstairs at the Toll Booth and is always on the lookout for new members from Topcliffe and Asenby. The Membership is £10 covering from September to September. Members must be 18 or over, but under 18s are allowed in with members. The Club has two tables, one full size and one ¾ size. The light meter costs only 10p for 8 minutes. The Club is no longer in a league. Anyone interested in joining should contact

## Carpet Bowls

You never know what goes on in the evening at the Village Hall, especially in the winter when the curtains are closed! But have no fear, nothing improper occurs. On Thursday evenings, members of the Carpet Bowls Club practice on their 'magic carpet,' and would welcome some new faces. It is a very friendly Club, and there would be plenty of help for anyone wishing to give it a try, which you can do for nothing, just by coming along. The members, all local residents who meet weekly and play non-competitively for their own amusement, will be only too willing to teach newcomers. The Club is in a League of 15 Clubs, and teams from local villages play one another during the winter months, but of course you don't have to do that if you don't want to.

Do give it a try, you will be made very welcome, and can be sure of pleasant company. Enquiries can be made by ringing the Secretary, David Winfield, on 01845- 577930. We look forward to meeting you.



*try Something Exotic.....  
try Carpet Bowls.....*

## School Report by Simon Ashby (Headteacher)

The school is once again taking part in a number of collection schemes this term for which we would be very grateful for any support from villagers. Tesco "Computers for Schools" vouchers are out again. In each of the last two years we have been able to purchase a brand new computer for school at no cost due to this scheme, and we are hopeful that this can be achieved again. We are also collecting "Free Books for Schools" vouchers which can be found on packets of Walkers



crisps and in the Sun and News of the World newspapers. If you are able to collect towards either of these schemes for the school, we would be extremely grateful.

The Friends of Topcliffe School will be organising another collection of used clothing over the Easter holidays. In October we raised a superb £180, so if you have any old surplus clothing, why not wait for the blue bags to come round at the beginning of April.

FOTS have had an extremely successful year raising funds for the school. The most recent event was the Autumn Fayre at Topcliffe Village Hall in November which raised over £900. Many thanks if you were able to support this. The money raised is being put to very good use, and is enabling us to purchase a special projector which allows a computer screen to be viewed by a whole class. FOTS are also purchasing an amp and microphone for the school, which will be very useful at public events, school performances and discos. We have already set the date of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June for our Summer Fayre, so please make a note in your diaries.

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**School Web Site: [www.topcliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.topcliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk)**

We are further strengthening our links with Topcliffe Pre-School Playgroup this term. Children who will be starting school in

September are being invited into the Reception class on four afternoons before Easter, to help smooth the transition from playgroup. For the first time in many years, we will be admitting a full quota of 20 pupils in September which is a very exciting prospect.

Year 5 & Year 6 children had an unexpected surprise on a recent trip to York Minster. Whilst waiting outside at the start of the day, a BBC film crew descended and thrust them on to the nation's screens during a live feed in which they were questioned about the state of Britain. It was only 30 seconds of stardom – but very exciting for the children nonetheless.

Finally, the school has now received further details of its planned redevelopment of the school hall. A further bid to the New Opportunities Fund will have to be submitted, but we are confident that a grant in the region of £50000 will be forthcoming and that work should be able to go ahead early in 2004. Currently we are also looking into the possibility of extending other parts of the school at the same time.

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# Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

Enquiries/Bookings: Lois Hooker 17 Manor Close Topcliffe YO7 3RH Tel: 01845 578007  
Registered Charity No. 10038303

## Serving The Local Community

### Heating

The gas heaters, which were installed last spring, have proved to be a great improvement in getting the hall heated up quickly. Gas consumption has been monitored over the year and seems to be very efficient. We will shortly, be able to work out the cost of the heating in relation to use and charges for the year will be adjusted. Users have not paid for heating since the installation thanks to the support of Topcliffe Parish Council, however the booking fees will incorporate the cost of heating following the AGM in spring.

### Burn's Night Supper

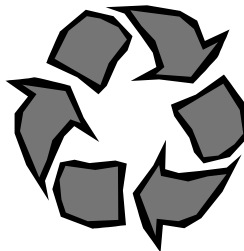
Another successful night of Scottish tradition as everyone enjoyed an excellent meal, well read poetry and some lively dancing. Thanks to Andy and Linda Hutton as prime movers of the event and to John Graham for calling the dances. By the end of the night just over £700 was raised. This will be split between The Joan Maynard Palliative Care Appeal and the Village Hall Improvement Fund. Two palliative care units are planned, one at the Rutson Hospital in Northallerton and one at the Lambert Hospital, Thirsk. We understand that work is about to commence on the unit for The Lambert.

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## Recycling News

From **District Councillor Neville Huxtable**  
**01845 501068**  
**Topcliffe Ward**  
NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk

Wheelie Bins have once more hit the headlines as the trial in Topcliffe and other areas come to an end. Hambleton District Council with wheelie bin collections and to programme. I fully support this Topcliffe residents. However, the concerns, the principle one being the I am fully aware of your reasons and Council Cabinet meeting recently collections are to stay in place, but I Please let me know of any problems which occur, especially as the weather gets warmer.



has now decided to go district wide further intensify its Waste Re-cycling strategy as do the vast majority of trial has thrown up a number of fortnightly collection of the black bin. spoke at the Hambleton District conveying your worries. Fortnightly will be watching the situation closely.

My term of office as your District Councillor comes to an end on 1<sup>st</sup> May with fresh elections. Four years ago you put your trust in a newcomer to the area. I hope I have not failed you. It has been a privilege to deal with many requests for help. I have not always been able to achieve the desired outcome, but have tried to resolve your problems to the best of my ability. I am always available to assist you.

## St. Columba's Church Services

<b>Mar</b>	Sun	2nd	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	5th	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sun	9th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	16th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	23rd	Choral Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	23rd	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Wed	26th	Compline with short address	8.00 pm
	Sun	30th	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Service	10.30 am
<b>Apr</b>	Sun	6th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	9th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sun	13th	<b>Palm Sunday:</b> Holy Communion and Blessing of Palms	10.30 am
	Fri	18th	<b>Good Friday:</b> Joint Family Service at the Chapel	10.30 am
	Fri	18th	<b>Good Friday:</b> Devotional Hour	2.00 - 3.00 pm
	Sun	20th	<b>Easter Day:</b> Holy Communion	pm
	Sun	27th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
<b>May</b>	Sun	4th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.00 am
	Sun	11th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	18th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	25th	Choral Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	25th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

## Church News (Visit the Church website at [www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk))

The placing of the contract to carry out the work to St. Columba's Church is good news indeed, but it brings into focus the task of the people of Asenby and Topcliffe, who together are responsible for repairing the valuable clock, and re-furbishment and re-setting of the bells. The clock is valuable, being the oldest surviving one of its kind made by Thomas Cook, three earlier ones having been destroyed.

The £2 per week scheme for local residents being run, organised and supervised by the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, John Graham, has been a considerable success throughout the village. It is hoped that this will continue and that more residents will subscribe in this way.

Fund-raising events for 2003 will be Wine Tasting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 8 p.m. in the Village Hall, an Attic Auction also in the Village Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. A 'possible' is a 'Clock Evening' in the Church, (as the Clock would probably be of considerable interest to some of the Clock Societies in the area). Other suggestions are a Play performed by a Theatre Group, a Harvest Barn Dance, Car Treasure Hunt finishing with a Barbecue, and a Sunday Lunch for the residents of both villages. These suggestions will be further discussed and decided on later.



### **Church Tower Restoration** (Continued from page 1)

needed. It is hoped that once the work has started, funds for the concluding phase will swiftly follow.

May we offer our sincere thanks to all who have supported us in any way, publicly or anonymously. Everyone's contribution has been both essential and special. Further fund-raising events are being planned for 2003, so please continue to support us when you can, and enjoy watching the restoration work unfolding at last over the coming spring and summer.

**THE SWAN  
INN**

*Front St. Topcliffe*



*Ann & Russell bid you a warm welcome*

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INN**



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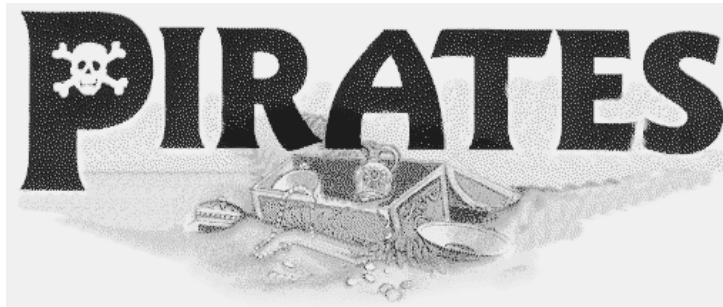
*Orders from local people subject to 5% discount*

**TEL: 01845 578172**



## Pirates raise £1200 for Church Tower Fund

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February, a packed house at Queen Mary's School enjoyed a real and memorable treat when Local People (a group of enthusiasts centred on the St Columba's Church Choir) put on a stunning performance of The Pirates of Penzance. The school hall setting with its double staircase was ideal and the directors of the operetta exploited this feature to maximum advantage. The singing of soloists and chorus was absolutely delightful - a tribute, if any were needed, to the training and unobtrusive conducting of Linda Hewlett and the skill and stamina of Matthew Atherton at the piano. Two



features stand out in the memory of this reviewer. One, the obvious enjoyment of the cast. It was clear that they all were fully involved and not one was "wooden". Secondly, what a joy it was to see the participation of so many children. They will never forget this experience and are all the more likely to follow up an interest in music. I will treasure the image of the small boy in the big policeman's helmet stomping away in the front

row. Iolanthe next year?

The event, together with the performance last November, raised £1200 for the Church Tower Fund

### Topcliffe Parish Council - Neighbourhood Watch - Co-Ordinator List

Co-Ordinator	Address	Tel:	Area Covered
Dave Bowman	21 East Lee	577843	East Lea
Lynn Heidstrom	32 East Lee	577437	East Lea
Linda Carver	Green Acres	578014	1 - 12 East Lea
Ian Roberts	13 Winn Lane	578181	Winn Lane & Manor Close
Grant Pryce	Little Beeches, Long St.	578235	Back Lane & Long St east of Back Lane
John Key	Cliff House Cottage, Long St.	577072	Long St west of Back Lane
Mrs Acaster	4 Swaleview	578036	Swaleview
Jenny Trollope	Kenilworth, Church St.	577397	Church St.
Peter Brown	Ashleigh, Front St.	577594	Front St.
Doug Allen	7 Dovecote Mews	578526	Dovecote Mews
Pauline Hindmarch	Moot Hall, Dean Square	577508	Dean Square
Sandra McGrail	Kyber House, Station Road	577675	Station Road

### Useful Telephone Numbers

Topcliffe Surgery	577297	Friarage Hosp.	01609 779911	Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Police	01609 783131	Hambleton DC	01609 779977	Harrogate BC	01423 568954

Hambleton District Councillor (Topcliffe Ward) - Neville Huxtable 01845 501068

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Team**

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