

THE TATTLER

Volume 11, Issue 2
Summer 2004

'T UNIT' TAKES ACTION!

The last few months have been many things for the youth of Topcliffe village, and one of those things is busy. Thanks to a massive youth project that is going on throughout the country, both the children and adults of this village were given the opportunity to create a partnership, to help make this village a stronger community. Many of the teenagers turned out at our very first meeting, to try to define the most important qualities that were desired

Toll Booth takes on new lease of life!

from the youth perspective. With the help of youth worker Jo from the County Council, an official first meeting was set up with the village council. The meeting was mainly about the development of a bridge between not just the youth and adult committees, but between the youth and adults in the village as a whole. But as well as this, the village seemed to have had a stroke of luck, as we were presented with the opportunity to use the old Toll Booth, which is neatly

situated underneath the snooker club. As we sat in plastic chairs in the bare building, my friends and I could not believe our luck. That first meeting now seems in the dim and distant past, but will always stick in our mind, because of the great bridge that is being made. Many hours are spent working away in the dim lighted room, thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of Thomas Daniels, Danny Lawson and others. But happy they have been as they cleared away the

cobwebs and dust from the rough and old walls. None of it would be possible if it was not for the dedication and co-operation from Gary Keys, who has created an important and strong bond with the youth of the village. A sofa was soon spotted as a good buy from the attic auction, and another settee was soon donated. T unit was the name given to our newly formed youth committee, and so T unit it is. Although the biggest hurdle has been climbed, there are many still to go, but everyone is feeling confident and is looking forward to a long and happy relationship. A lot of work is still needed to make the Toll Booth feel like home, but with the making of the bridge being on schedule, as well as the support from the rest of the village, we shall reach our aim. On behalf of T unit, I would like to thank anyone and everyone that has helped us, the children of Topcliffe to create the opportunities that we have been given. We are looking forward to making the best use of them.

Ruth Graham

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Special points of interest:

- Headmaster to leave School. See School Report Page 4
- Playing Field AGM - Thurs 17 June.
- Parish Council AGM - Report Page 3
- Alanbrooke Concert - Report Page 5

**Football Club promoted.
See page 2.**

THE TOPCLIFFE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

This Charity makes small grants to students in University education or the equivalent, for the purchase of books. To be eligible, the student must live in the parish of Topcliffe, which is broadly the area covered by the parish as now constituted 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 invitation to apply for 2004 automatically. Anyone seeking further information, wishing to apply or questioning eligibility should ring Geoff Hall on 01845 578324.

EDITORIAL

Toxocariasis is caused by the larvae of parasitic worms that usually live in the intestines of dogs and cats. Eggs from the *Toxocara* worms pass into the stools of dogs and cats and can contaminate areas where the animals have defecated. The eggs can be swallowed by young children, especially those who love to put things in their mouths and who may not often wash their hands. Once *Toxocara* eggs enter a child's body, they hatch into larvae that penetrate through walls of the digestive tract and may migrate to a child's liver, lungs, eyes, and elsewhere.

Toxocariasis usually affects children under age ten. Symptoms may include fever, cough or wheezing, abdominal pain, enlarged liver or spleen, poor appetite, a rash that sometimes looks like hives, and enlarged lymph nodes ("swollen glands"). Toxocariasis may also affect a child's eyes, causing decreased vision, swelling around the eyes, or a cross-eyed appearance.

It all sounds quite horrible and yet despite the fact that most adults are aware of the dangers, some dog owners still do not "scoop the poop". Sadly, the worst affected area in Topcliffe seems to be School Lane/ Back Lane, which of course is regularly used by young children going to and from school.

I don't see too many stray dogs in Topcliffe so I assume that most dogs are accompanied when they defecate. So, come on you dog owners, make sure you have your plastic bag(s) when you leave home and remember to clean up after **your** dog. Now the light nights are here, you don't need a torch to find it! Let's make the place safe for the children.

David Pilgrim

Last Copy
Date for
Summer
Issue is
15th Aug
2004



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The TATtler makes no excuses for beating the drum again regarding keeping down crime in Topcliffe and Asenby. Long overdue changes to the system by which information is passed to your Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator are underway and the Police hope to have a state of the art system in place very soon. Hopefully this will allow the co-ordinators to give you accurate information more quickly so we can all be aware of criminal activity in the area.

Major concerns that the police have at present relate to break-ins where car keys are taken and vehicle is then stolen from the drive. Nothing taken from the house, just the motor! So is your garage full of rubbish instead of your car, and where were your car keys last night? These crimes are generally targeted at high value vehicles, possibly stolen to order. Why not save a few pounds on your insurance and make room for the car in the garage, oh, and take the keys to bed with you!

Another big issue at present is Bogus Doorstep Callers. A large number of initiatives are underway to stop the growing menace of these rogue traders, and national & local government, the police, media and other agencies & businesses are all doing their bit to improve the situation. Don't let yourself become a victim. Keep all your doors **locked**, fit a chain or bar on the door and **use** it, only deal with callers by **appointment**, **always** ask for an identity card and **check** it carefully and **do not** keep large sums of money at home.

Also, know your rights. Generally speaking if the seller makes contact with you first and the goods or services cost more than £35, then you have a right to cancel within seven days. If you make a doorstep purchase and are unhappy about your commitment, seek advice from Trading Standards before it is too late!

If you should have any concerns about any unsolicited caller, apart from notifying the Police, you can get in touch with Trading Standards who now have a rapid response unit based in Northallerton, Tel.

TOPCLIFFE FOOTBALL CLUB

Topcliffe F.C. has had a great season. We narrowly missed out on the Bob Seymore Trophy, after loosing to the winners of the cup, Richmond Turf, 5-4 in the semi-final. The very same team kept us off the top spot in Division 2, but Topcliffe F.C. have gained promotion to Division 1 by finishing in second place. Quite an achievement for a small village team!

Club Presentation Evening.

Sat 26 June - The Angel.

Local support has been outstanding this year and we would like to thank everyone for his or her enthusiasm & backing and hope it will continue next season.

There will be a club presentation evening on Saturday 26th June at the Angel Inn to celebrate our success. Tickets will be on sale shortly and the event will include a Barbecue, Disco and Live music! It should be a great night so why not come along and meet the team!

Dave Thomas Club Manager

TOPCLIFFE PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE— AGM

The Topcliffe Playing Field Committee exist to run and maintain the playing field for the benefit of everyone, not least to give the children of the village somewhere to play safely.

The Playing Field and play equipment is currently in good condition so the committee's task is relatively minimal.

The current committee has been unchanged for a number of years, in deed some now do not even live in the village and none have children of an age who use the field.

Help wanted !!

We are therefore looking for people to give a little of their time to help run and maintain the playing field.

Our AGM will take place at 8.00 pm on Thursday 17th June in the Angel. If you would like to help please come along or give me a call and I will give you more details.

Louise Bumby: Tel 524551

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The last six months has seen a welcome variety of classes being run by the Rural Outreach Workers from Askham Bryan College in Bedale, and on the whole these have been very well supported. You may not have realised it, but you could have had a go at computer classes, sculpture, textiles, upholstery, food hygiene and keep fit!

A class on everyday First Aid did not run due to lack of support – has everyone had training at work or is being a dab hand with the plasters sufficient? (mmm – probably not!) If anyone thinks they had perhaps better brush up on dealing with unexpected emergencies, then please let someone on the hall committee know. Would a certificated course have been of greater interest?

TOPCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL AGM - A REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of Topcliffe P.C. took place on Monday 10th May at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Attendance was disappointing, with only 14 people, including the Councillors, present!

The meeting followed a road show put on by N.Y. Police and Fire & Rescue services and Hambleton Council and NYCC. The road show was mainly directed at helping householders to improve home security, both from a fire safety and the criminal activity point of view, and the AGM itself was preceded by talks from the Police and Trading Standards officers regarding initiatives being taken to improve the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and crack down on bogus doorstep callers.

Changes to the Neighbourhood Watch system will mainly affect the way information is disseminated amongst the NW co-ordinators. As for bogus callers, Trading Standards are stepping up the programme to rid the community of these parasites. Amongst various steps being taken, banks and building societies are to adopt a protocol, which will result in them querying large withdrawals made by old and vulnerable people.

On the subject of avoiding being a victim of crime, it would be helpful if residents whose properties have burglar alarms fitted, could make arrangements for a responsible person to have the means to silence the alarm should they be away from home. Ideally a neighbour could help or at least have the 'phone number of the key holder.

Other village issues discussed at the meeting and of general interest were Speeding, the Tollbooth and the Sheepwash. Many of you would have noticed the data recording strips, which were put down outside the school and The Angel, way back in March. Data from these has now been analysed and it was found that 85% of the traffic is travelling at 35 mph or less. There were however, several vehicles, which were significantly over the limit, and NY Police intend to

If you are interested in any particular subjects for classes starting after the summer break, the Rural Outreach Workers would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact **Kathleen Dodds** at Askham Bryan College, Benkhill Drive, Bedale. Tel: 01677 422344.

The Bingo group has sadly now finished, but Keep Fit has taken the Wednesday slot from 7 – 8 pm and has been so well supported that there is a possibility of a second class.

This Spring it was decided not to invite a North Yorkshire Rural Arts concert to the hall, but to seek out some local talent in the form of the Newton Singers and their musical director Les Besnan. They gave a delightful concert of songs from the shows and their three soloists were extremely gifted singers. Following their enthusiastic welcome on this first visit, the group have kindly agreed to return and give a concert in the

take the appropriate action to address this problem. As far as traffic-calming measures are concerned, the figures do not warrant any further action from NYCC.

The development of the Tollbooth for the Community Engagement Project as outlined in the Spring TATtler is underway. The children themselves have completed much of the preparatory work required for Phase 1 and they deserve to be congratulated for their efforts. In order to progress things, assistance is required from electrical engineers for advice and paid work. If you are willing to assist then please contact Garry Key on 578900.

The project is also likely to get professional youth worker support amounting to about 35 hours over the next 15 – 20 weeks. The youth workers will assist the children and help them to shape their future, coalesce & articulate views and generally act as mentors. This is over and above the £1,000 grant, which has already been allocated to the project.

As for the Sheepwash, arrangements are to be made with the assistance of the Thirsk Woodland Trust to replant the trees in this area with varieties more suitable to the location. Regarding improving the appearance of things, it would be appreciated if residents adjacent to kerbs which are not subject to roadside cleaning, could assist the parish by keeping the kerbside swept. This is literally a 10-minute job a few times a year. Your co-operation with this small item could avoid an increase in the Topcliffe precept to cover additional maintenance costs.

Other items of interest to young people are the Alanbrooke Barracks youth club, which may be used by local children. Details of this are being sought from camp personnel and will be passed on when available. Additionally, in response to many requests, a pair of ¾ size goalposts has been ordered for the playing field.

Gary Key Chairman - Topcliffe PC

SCHOOL REPORT

BY SIMON ASHBY (HEADTEACHER)

It is 18 months since the school submitted its initial bid to Sport England for funding to extend the school hall, so we are all delighted that work has now finally begun. As well as an extension to the hall, one of the classrooms is being enlarged, and we are creating a new parking area to the front of the school which we really hope will help to ease some of the traffic problems at the beginning and end of the school day.

The children are currently heavily involved in a project looking at the development of the school grounds to offset the impact of the new building. This includes the creation of a new school garden and the creation of additional hard surface play areas, one of which will be attached to the Reception children's classroom. The children are even being given a budget to

work within!

Due to the nature of the work, we will unfortunately not be able to hold a Summer Fayre this year. However, we are planning to hold an Autumn Fayre to celebrate our newly completed building on the evening of Friday 24th September 2004. One of the events planned is a huge balloon launch, so please keep an eye out for further details nearer the time.

However, the children will be presenting what we hope to be a spectacular performance of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat on Friday 16th July at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall. FOTs will be holding a raffle on the night to help raise further funds towards our playground development, to add to the £4000 already raised. Everyone will be welcome to come along.

Finally, this unfortunately will be my last contribution to the TATtler, as I



will be moving to be the headteacher of Applegarth School in Northallerton from September. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Topcliffe, and in particular have gained a great deal of satisfaction from seeing the school and its children take big steps forward. However, there is still lots to do before the end of term, and I am sure that there will be plenty for the new headteacher to get their teeth into. The process to appoint my successor is in full swing and it is hoped that an appointment will be made around 26th May.

EASTER EGG HUNT AT CRAB & LOBSTER

The children of the Reception Class at Topcliffe School were treated to an end of term party at the Crab & Lobster just before Easter. On a somewhat grey and wet day, the children enjoyed food and drinks before searching the grounds to find tickets, which could be exchanged for Easter eggs. Fortunately the rain had stopped by the time the hunt took place and the tickets were quickly snapped up and converted to something a little more palatable!

The event was a follow-up to last years Pancake Day and continues the "working with the community" theme which the management and staff of the Crab & Lobster are keen to promote. It seems that both children and adults had a great time. Thanks are also due to John Smith Coaches who kindly provided the transport between the school and the Crab & Lobster.



FOR TWO NIGHTS ONLY! - THE MIKADO

There will be two performances of The Mikado, one in July and the other in September. Proceeds from the performances go to the St Columba's Church Fabric Fund. Seating is strictly limited, and may well sell out very quickly in view of the popularity of last year's performance of The Pirates of Penzance, so get you ticket applications in early.

The July performance will be on Saturday 17th at Cundall School starting at 7.30 pm. The September event will be at Queen Mary's School on Saturday 11th September also at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be Adults @ £5.00 and for children under 16 and OAP's @ £3.00 and may be bought in advance from either:

Kit Norris
Downe, Baldersby, Thirsk, YO7 4PP
Tel: 01765 640283
E-Mail: kit.norris@virgin.net

or

Peter Perkins
Stoneleigh, Asenby, Thirsk, YO7 3QN
Tel: 01845 578473
E-Mail: webmaster@st-columba.fsnet.co.uk

Or at the door if there are any left!! Cheques should be made payable to "St. Columba's Church" and postal applications must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

THE ALANBROOKE CONCERT

If you thought you heard gunfire around 9.15 pm on Thursday 20th May, you were not mistaken, as 40th Regiment Royal Artillery, "The Lowland Gunners", based at Topcliffe Barracks was providing the cannons for the 1812 Overture, which brought the first half of the splendid Alanbrooke Concert to a close.

The musical evening was arranged by the regiment in aid of charities in Northallerton, Ripon, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Entertainment was provided by the Royal Artillery Band, Sowerby School Choir, The York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir, Glasgow & Strathclyde



Universities Officer Training Corps and the Pipes & Drums of the 40th Regiment themselves.

The musical theme for the evening was a journey from the regiment's North Yorkshire home to their recruiting base in the Lowlands of Scotland and the audience were treated to some excellent music, singing and highland dancing, with some very talented soloists displaying

their skills.

This is the third charity concert arranged by the regiment since they became based at Topcliffe nearly four years ago. During that time they have raised over £10,000 for local, national and Army charities thanks

ASENBY RECREATION GROUND

The grass is flourishing and thanks to Jackie Avison's "persuasive" methods we now have a mowing rota in place for the entire season. Many thanks to all who volunteered or who were "press ganged"!! Jackie and Carl's demonstration of how to use the mower proved very useful, as there are several new recruits this year including a few ladies!!

You may recall the very high winds and storms, which blew in at the beginning of April? Unfortunately one set of football goal posts sustained severe damage and will have to be replaced. They are expensive but as they are extensively used and enjoyed we considered it important to replace them. We should also be encouraging our young people towards a more healthy and active life style so why not provide a facility they enjoy?

Martin Scholes planted several holly bushes and other young trees to further enhance the field and we now have a developing wild life zone, which provides a natural habitat for bees, butterflies and birds.

Although the response to our questionnaire was pitifully small we gleaned that several families would like to see a toddler swing included in the play park, this we will endeavour to provide.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BARBEQUE

The Summer Barbeque will take place on the playing field on **Sunday 11 July at 3.00pm** and tickets will be available nearer the time. Lots of fun for all including games, football, tombola, raffle, bar etc. The butcher's shop will sell you a variety of quality meats, vegetarian options and your ticket price will include a selection of salads and rolls. The bar will offer

Would you like to help? Contact the committee for information

beer, wine and soft drinks. Always a jolly affair, bring your family and friends but do order tickets in advance, available from Jackie Avison Tel 578871. Oh, and don't forget your rugs, picnic table if you wish and chairs!

Also in store another excellent opportunity to have lots of fun!!

CALL MY BLUFF WINE **"EXTRAVAGANZA"**

This is such an amusing evening! You need to know nothing about wine but even oenophiles enjoy the challenge set by the panel. You will be served a selection of wines (labels unseen), the panel

members each give a different description of the wine and you have to decide who is bluffing and who has given the correct description. A selection of whites and reds are chosen and as they are all available from local stores you may well discover a taste for something new on your doorstep! Again, do bring your friends and have a great evening. Tickets are £6.00 each and include all the wines as well as bread and cheese. To be held at **Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall on Friday 8 October 2004**. Contact Clare Phillips 577034 or other committee members for tickets nearer the date.

In the meantime do continue to enjoy and use the playing field, it's a great facility!!

Clare Phillips

NEW— 'OUT OF SCHOOL' CLUB

Opening in September 2004 at Alanbrooke Primary School, Alanbrooke Barracks. A new out of School Club provision. Providing before and after school care for children aged 4 to 11, living in the parish of Topcliffe and surrounding areas. For more information please contact Linda Craggs on 07808 452028.

St. Columba's Church Services

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

Jun	Sun 6th	Benefice Confirmation Service, with the Rt Revd Robert Ladds, Bishop of	10.30 am
	Wed 9th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun 13th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 20th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 27th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 27th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
Jul	Sun 4th	Benefice Family Service	10.30am
	Wed 7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun 11th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 18th	Holy Communion with Baptism	10.30 am
	Sun 25th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 25th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
Aug	Sun 1st	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	N.B.	No monthly mid-week Holy Communion in August	
	Sun 8th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 15th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 23rd	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 23rd	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sun 30th	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	10.30 am
	Sept	Sun 5th	Benefice Family Service
	Weds 8th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun 12th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 19th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun 26th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun 26th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm

ATTIC AUCTION RAISES OVER £1,000

Thanks to the generosity of contributors and buyers, and the hard work of auctioneer John Phillips and all his helpers, the Attic Auction held on 8th May raised £1071.00 in aid of the Church Tower Fund.

Goods started to arrive at the village hall early on the Saturday morning and after a frantic session of unpacking and cataloguing, everything was ready for the sale by 2 pm. A good turnout of buyers meant that almost all of the lots were sold, with many picking up some real bargains and even collectors items.

*Villagers' generosity boosts
Church Tower Funds*

Grateful thanks are due to all concerned. The money raised will help keep the fund in good shape, for as work nears completion there are bills to be paid..

As for the tower itself, progress continues behind the screening. The new pinnacles are starting to arrive and these should be erected during the forthcoming weeks. Completion of all the stonework should be around the end of July although there will still be the clock and other minor works to complete.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

Age Concern – Ripon branch, organises a fortnightly lunch for club member as the Black Swan, Dishforth. The lunch is held on Thursdays at 12.30 pm and an excellent two-course meal is served at a modest charge. The club membership is around 15 – 20 at present, but new members are always welcome. Transport can be provided to Dishforth from Asenby and Topcliffe.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact John Rayner Tel. 01845 577273 or Age Concern, Ripon office Tel. 01767 692219.

TATTLER ON

We are currently in the process of producing a Topcliffe Village Web site. Amongst the many items that will be available on the site will be The TATtler. This will obviously mean that any names, addresses and telephone numbers will be able to be viewed on the WWW.

**THE WEB**

Whilst most people have no objection to this there may be some people who do. If you have any concerns, or wish your name to be removed please contact David Pilgrim or Howard Wilson of the TATtler team (see contact details at bottom of page).

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS**Topcliffe**

Gary Key (Chairman)
Cliffe House, Long St.
Tel 578900

Howard Wilson (Vice Chairman)
Eldmire House, Long St. Tel 577039

Russell Smith
The Swan, Front Street, Tel 577239

Tracey Brown
Sandtoft, Church Street. Tel 577623

Vic Rawlings
Hawthorn Cottage, Long St. Tel 577697

Asenby

Chris Millross (Chairman)
Topcliffe House
Tel 577961

Jackie Avison (Vice Chairwoman)
2 Orchard Cottages Tel 578871

Peter Dale The Warren
Tel 577373

Steve Hall Orchard End
Tel 578379

John Sharp 16 Cundall Road
Tel 578406

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		East Lea
Linda Carver	Green Acres		1 - 12 East Lea
Julie Clayton	Manor Close		Winn Lane / Manor Close
John Key	Cliff House Cottage, Long St.		Back Lane & Long St east of Back Lane
Mrs Acaster	4 Swaleview		Long St west of Back Lane
Jenny Trollope	Kenilworth, Church St.		Swaleview
Peter Brown	Ashleigh, Front St.		Church St.
Doug Allen	7 Dovecote Mews		Front St.
Pauline Hindmarch	Moot Hall, Dean Square		Dovecote Mews
Sandra McGrail	Kyber House, Station Road		Dean Square
			Station Road

Useful Telephone Numbers

Topcliffe Surgery	577297	Friarage Hosp.	01609 779911	Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Police	01609 789737	Hambleton DC	01609 779977	Harrogate BC	01423 568954

Hambleton District Councillor (Topcliffe Ward) - Neville Huxtable 01845 501068 (E-mail NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk)

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