

## Broadband Success for

The registration trigger level of 150, set by BT for Topcliffe, was reached in October meaning that Broadband will now come to Topcliffe. The 'enablement' of Topcliffe will happen on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004, with ISPs now taking pre-orders for broadband. Residential customers and businesses in the Dalton area may also be able to access the Topcliffe enablement dependent on their distance from the Topcliffe exchange as the distance that broadband will run from an exchange has just been increased to 6km.

Anyone with questions concerning the Topcliffe enablement should visit [www.thirskbroadband.co.uk](http://www.thirskbroadband.co.uk). Further information can also be found at [www.bt.com/broadband](http://www.bt.com/broadband).

### Charity Auction at The Swan" a great success!

The Harvest Home Charity Auction yet again proved to be a great success. Despite a relatively slow start things soon "hotted" up and the sum of £850 was raised for various charities. Many thanks go to those whose generous participation in the event made it a success and a very big thank you to all those who kindly donated such a wide variety of items to auction.

Forthcoming events to look forward to:

**Every Sunday night**  
Quiz Night

**Fri 19 Dec 2003**  
Christmas Prize Draw

**Wed 31 Dec 2003**  
New Years Eve  
Celebrations (Fancy Dress with prizes)

**Ann and Russell would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

### Use it or lose it!

The village hall has been the one of the centres of the community for many years but it would seem that many of the people who are happy to make use of its heavily subsidised prices are reluctant to support the fundraising efforts of the committee.

The concerts (which with the support of Rural Arts) are usually first class acts from London have been very poorly supported of late, and indeed the last one on the 17th of October actually made a loss.

It was noted amongst the committee that very few, if any, members of the groups who use the hall were present. Indeed, they had not been present at any of the previous ventures. The audiences were generally made up of the committee, and their friends and families - many from outside the area.

If this continues the only way to remain solvent will be to make swingeing increases to the rental arrangements for these regular users, and indeed to the irregular users (birthday parties etc.), to enable the necessary repairs to be carried out and the books to be balanced.

There will be another performance in the spring and after that performance the Village Hall Committee may need to review the rental arrangements.

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## Editorial

In this issue of the TATtler we are re-publishing the Crime Survey Questionnaire, which we ran in September, and a letter concerning the Village Hall. There is also an appeal for Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to replace two residents who have left, or will be leaving, Topcliffe.

The Crime Survey produced the magnificent response of 3 replies. TATtler goes out to nearly 280 homes in Topcliffe alone. The view of the Parish Council is that although crime is an issue discussed by parishioners, it is not perceived to be a problem since only three of us took the trouble to complete the questionnaire. Is that the case, or is there a problem to be addressed? A completed questionnaire, which says there is no problem, is better than no answer at all.

The letter concerning the Village Hall refers to the abysmal turnout for the concert held in October. This was a first class performance and yet only 30 souls managed to make the effort to attend. They all had a great night.

We're very lucky in Topcliffe and Asenby to have so many people willing to give up their time to make our communities a better place in which to live. But they need the support of us all. We only get the community we deserve.

So at this time when we remember the birth of Christ, let there be Peace on earth and Goodwill to all men, especially those in your village! (I'm not trying to encroach on Christine's patch here!)

On behalf of the TATtler Team may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Pilgrim (E-mail: [tattleditor@aol.com](mailto:tattleditor@aol.com))

### Asenby News from the Parish Council

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November saw another successful "Litter Pick". Fourteen villagers turned out and filled thirty odd bags of rubbish giving a much-improved look to the approaches to the village. Unfortunately fresh litter is already appearing. Thanks to everybody who participated, to Jacki Avison for the organization and to The Crab for providing tea and coffee.

The state of the road surfaces and also the drainage problems have been shown to an inspector from NYCC. When, or even whether, anything gets done is, of course, a different matter, but at least we are trying to make the right noises.

Thanks to Steve Hall for organizing the visit.



## Mikado Update

Preparations are now well under way for the production of "The Mikado" in the New Year, but it is not too late to join in if you would like to participate. Rehearsals are held every Friday night at St. Columba's Church, between 7 pm and 8 pm. If you would like to take part and need more information then please contact Peter or Sarah Perkins. Tel No. 01845 578473 or by e-mail at [peterperkins@asenby.freeserve](mailto:peterperkins@asenby.freeserve).

## AN APOLOGY AND A THANK YOU

On 1<sup>st</sup> May this year Topcliffe Ward re-elected me with a very large majority to represent your interests at Hambleton District Council. I was on holiday when the last issue of The TATtler was produced and I **APOLOGISE** therefore for not writing sooner to say **THANK YOU** for again putting your trust in me. I look forward to working with you all during the next 4 years – whether you voted for me or not.

My role at Hambleton District Council has changed. After the election I was invited to join the Cabinet. This is a name given to us by central Government and is best described as "The most senior committee taking decisions on behalf of Hambleton District Council". My particular responsibility is for Leisure and Tourism. With Tourism bringing approximately £40 million each year into the district and with 1 million people using our Leisure facilities each year you can see that I have a busy job.

However, my first priority is to Topcliffe Ward. If you need my help at any time please contact me and I will do my best to assist.

COUNCILLOR NEVILLE HUXTABLE  
01845 501068  
[NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk)

# Club News



## Topcliffe Playing Field

With the dark evenings and cold days the Playing Field is not used so much, save for the Football Club. However the small band of volunteers that make up the committee continue to try find money to ensure that the field will remain an asset for all the village. Currently we are trying to raise funds for a new lawn tractor to keep the grass trimmed during the summer.

Thanks to Paul Bentley of **Bentley Construction, Skipton** (£1500) and **Hambleton District Council** (£839) we are well on the way to meeting our goal.

Earlier in the year **John Billett** stood down from the committee after many years service to the playing field. John helped in many ways not least in his enthusiasm for organising and running the raffles which helped to raise many hundreds of pounds. The current committee would like to thank John for all his hard work over the years.

If you would like to help, in any small way, to keep the playing field going please contact either Louise Bumby on 524551 or Howard Wilson on 577039.

## Review Your Security Now

- Use timer on lights.
- Lock front & back doors.
- Keep car and door keys out of sight.
- Look out for your neighbours.

**If you have information on criminals in the area call**

**Crimestoppers now on  
0800 555 111**



# Snooker Club

The Snooker Club meets upstairs at the Toll Booth. It has one full-size table and a second, smaller one.

Members are given a key so that they can go and play at any time that suits them. It is open to both men and women of 18 or over, and membership is £12, with a charge of 10p for 8 minutes play.

Existing members will be only too pleased to welcome and help newcomers should they need it.

With television having made the game so popular there must surely be some people who would like to play, or learn to if they do not already do so. Anyone interested in joining should contact David Bowman

# Football Club

Latest League position (as at 24/11/03) - Top 4 only

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond Turf	8	7	1	0	42	19	22
Northallerton WMC	9	7	0	2	30	16	21
Topcliffe	8	6	1	1	34	13	19
Streetlam Farmers	9	6	1	2	37	12	19

## Supporting Operation Delivery



**DON'T LET THE RATS  
TAKE OVER YOUR  
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

If you have information about criminal activity please call the Ratcatchers at Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and help get criminals off the street.



**Local information = Local action**

# School Report by Simon Ashby (Headteacher)

We have had an eventful Autumn term at school and are looking forward to the Christmas period. We are very pleased that our bid to Sport England has finally been approved for the development of the hall. In the end we have received a grant of £72000. We have also successfully applied for additional funding of £8000 from the Local Education Authority's "Seed Challenge" funding, which we now need to match with £6000 raised by ourselves. This all means that we hope our building project will soon get off the ground, and should result in a vast improvement of the school's facilities.



Fundraising activities by the Friends of Topcliffe School continue to be very successful in our attempts to raise the necessary £6000 mentioned above. At the end of last term our Summer Fayre and end of term performance and barbecue raised around £1600. This term the recent collection of used clothing raised a further £220. Many thanks to everyone who contributed bags of clothes for this. We are currently looking forward to our Christmas Fayre, at the village hall on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 2:00 pm.

The school football team performed superbly on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Hambleton area 6-a-side competition. They came up against a number of large schools from the area, but nonetheless battled their way through to the last 8 from 20 schools. The following Thursday they also performed heroically, but were beaten into second place in their group, narrowly missing the final.

School children will be singing carols at the Crab & Lobster restaurant on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Topcliffe & Asenby Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch. The carols which we will be singing on the day will

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## Christmas Nativity: Thurs 18th Dec 6.30 pm

6.30pm in St. Columba's church. Everyone is welcome to attend, and participation with the carols will be encouraged.

form part of this year's Christmas nativity performance. This will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at

Finally, children from our eldest class have been involved in an exciting design and technology project looking at fairground rides. They have produced some work especially for a DT website ([www.dtonline.org/structures/](http://www.dtonline.org/structures/)) for which they received a special grant giving them free entry to Flamingo Land. The work has also earned them headline status on North Yorkshire's education service web site. The children are currently designing and making their own working models.

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## Crime Survey - 2003

You will be aware that the village has suffered a spate of crime recently - 13 car thefts, break ins and walk ins. I am also concerned, as are the neighbourhood watch, that the police seem to have resolved few if any crimes and their ring round scheme is ineffective. I wish to gather evidence and would appreciate it if as many people as possible could complete the form below.

Please respond to any Parish Council members or neighbourhood watch representative. (see back page for details). **With Thanks - Gary Key (Chairman Topcliffe Parish Council) Tel 578900.**

- Q1. Have you been the victim of crime since 01 Jan 2000. Y/N
- Q2. If yes what was the nature of crime. ....
- .....
- Q3. What was the date of the crime (Time Day Month year) ... ..
- Q4. Was the crime reported to the police Y/N.
- Q5. If yes what was the outcome. No action/in progress/ Solved
- Q6. Have you witnessed a crime. Y/N
- Q7. If yes did you report it to the police Y/N
- Q8. If yes describe any response. ...
- .....
- Q9. Any Other Comments?

## Village Hall Update

### Hire Charges

The Committee had announced small changes in the hire charges earlier in the year. It is a number of years since they were last raised. We believe they are still well below those of most other halls in the area.

Regular users	£4.00 / hr.
Occasional Hire Parishioners	£4.50 / hr.
Occasional Hire Non-Parishioners	£ 7.00 / hr
Deposit (for occasional bookings)	£25.00
Performing Rights Fee (Where music used)	£1.00 per event

Crockery, cutlery, tablecloths, tables & chairs are also available for hire – internally and externally.

### **Sheena Davies Concert**

(Review by “Orpheus”)

On 17<sup>th</sup> October last, about 30 locals enjoyed a real musical treat at the village hall. The Sheena Davies group were world-class entertainment right here in Topcliffe and those of us who turned out had a first class evening for just a fiver a head.

Although billed as a jazz singer, very few of Sheena’s numbers were likely to give offence to those who were not jazz aficionados and many of her songs were standards in the truest sense of the word. Her backing group were also excellent giving some fine solo renderings on keyboard, bass and drums during the course of the evening.

My sources tell me that Sheena and her boys had been appearing at Ronnie Scott’s Club in London just a few weeks before they arrived here, so we were really privileged to have such a quality act appearing locally. CD’s by the group were on sale and “Orpheus” purchased two to enjoy the entertainment at home. I must confess that Sheena and her group stood up remarkably well alongside the likes of Ella Fitzgerald.

**Sadly, the turnout for such entertainment was very poor and has prompted the following response from the organisers ( See front page).**

### **Topcliffe Surgery**

We are pleased to say that the recent improvements to the surgery have been completed. There is a new toilet and baby changing facility on the 1st floor of the building. There is also a reading and small meeting room for doctors and staff. The car park has also been re-surfaced and it will soon have a dedicated disabled parking space. We are grateful for the support Hambleton and Richmondshire Primary Care Trust have given to help in the completion of these projects.

### **Bookings**

Bookings for the Village Hall should be made to **Linda Nuttall – Tel. 01845 577315**. Linda has taken over this position from Lois Hooker – our thanks to Lois for the good work she has put in over the last 12 months or so.

### **Event Support**

Two arts events are organised each year through Rural Arts North Yorkshire, to raise funds for the hall. This money enables us to keep hire charges down. **Please support these events!!** They are highly subsidised and incredible value. Tickets would be 3 or 4 times the price if they were not subsidised so we are getting wonderful entertainment on our doorstep. Every group we have had has been first-class and thoroughly entertaining.

Watch out in the Spring for you next event!



## **Surgery Hours Christmas & New Year**

**The surgery will be closed on  
Christmas Day, Boxing Day  
and New Years Day  
and will close at 4.00pm on  
Christmas Eve and New Years  
Eve**

**We shall be open usual hours on all  
other days.**

**Emergency Surgery  
Sat 27th Dec 9.30—10.30**

**Drs Shaw and Parker along with all of  
the Practice staff would like to take  
this opportunity to wish all of our  
patients a very Merry Christmas and  
a Healthy and Happy New Year.**

## St. Columba's Church Services (Visit the Church website at [www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk))

<b>Dec</b>	Sun	7th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	10th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun	14th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	14th	<b>CHRISTINGLE</b>	3.30 pm
	Sun	21st	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	21st	Nine Lessons and Carols	6.30 pm
	Wed	24th	<b>CRIB SERVICE</b>	3.00 pm
	Wed	24th	Midnight Mass of the Nativity	11.30 pm
	<b>Christmas Day</b>		Joint Family Worship at the Chapel	10.30 am
	Sun	28th	No service at St Columba's. Benefice service at Skipton on Swale	9.15 am
<b>Jan</b>	Sun	4th	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	7th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun	18th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	25th	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	25th	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
<b>Feb</b>	Sun	1st	Benefice Family Service	10.30 am
	Wed	4th	Holy Communion in the Percy Chapel	9.30 am
	Sun	8th	Holy Communion	10.30 am
	Sun	22nd	Matins	10.30 am
	Sun	22nd	Choral Evensong	6.30 pm
	Sun	29th	Prayer Book Holy Communion	10.30 am

### Christmas at St. Columba's.

There will be two special Christmas services for all the family at St. Columba's this year:

**CHRISTINGLE** This service, which takes place at 3.30 pm on Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>, is especially suitable for families. The meaning of the Christingle orange will be explained before the oranges are lit (their candles, that is) and distributed to every child. Children from Topcliffe C.E. School will be taking part and everyone will join in singing Christmas carols. The service, which originated in Moravia, was re-discovered some years ago by the Children's Society and so – appropriately – all the collection taken will be given to help their valuable work.

**The CRIB SERVICE** which takes place at 3.00 pm on Christmas Eve is magical in the truest sense of the word, and is suitable for even the youngest children. As the animals and figures are placed in the Christmas Crib, the timeless story of the first Christmas unfolds. Members of the Children's Church participate and together we join in the singing of carols. This service is an oasis (though not usually a quiet one!) in the midst of the busy preparations for Christmas Day. We are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas in the coming of the Christ Child to be 'God with us'. The service lasts approximately half an hour and is followed by seasonal refreshments of sherry (adults only!) and mince pies.

Please come and join us.

**David and the Revd Christine Haddon-Reece  
wish all TATtler readers a happy, blessed, and peaceful Christmas.**

### **Church Website updated**

The St. Columba's website was updated at the beginning of November and is now better than ever. For those of you who have not yet paid a visit, it is well worth the effort, and even if you think you know everything about Topcliffe and the Church, you're sure to find something of interest. In future it is hoped that "The TATtler" can be incorporated in the website which will make news about Topcliffe and Asenby more accessible to all. Pay the website a visit now at [http:// www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.st-columba.fsnet.co.uk)

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## Topcliffe Parish Council Litter Pick Success

The litter pick, organised in September by Tracey Brown and Howard Wilson, proved to be a success with about 20 stalwarts of all ages, including the local Scout Group, spending a couple of hours one Sunday afternoon filling 17 large bags with rubbish collected from around the village.

A big Thank You to all who participated to make the village a tidier place.

## BELLYDANCE CLASSES

Every Tuesday during Term Time

7.30 - 9.00pm

with Roz Rayner-Rix

At Topcliffe Village Hall

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## Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinators required

Due to residents leaving, or about to leave Topcliffe, two positions have become available for Co-ordinators to cover Winn Lane/Manor Close and also Back Lane/Long Street to the east of Back Lane.

These are full-time positions and there is no remuneration other than the warm glow that comes from doing your bit for the community! Seriously though, it will not take up much of your time and you get to meet some nice people. For more information please contact Dave Bowman on 01845 577843.

### 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 Winn Lane Manor Close 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

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 (E-mail NWH@dwny.fsnet.co.uk)					

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