

Welcome to new jobs... but say no to more traffic

Last December developers announced they had big plans for new industrial units on the Dalton Industrial estate and they distributed a leaflet to local homes seeking residents' preliminary views.

The site, 'Dalton 49 Thirsk', named after the A168 junction number, will be a 43-acre development which will provide a range of job opportunities and a boost to the local economy.



What the development at Dalton 49 could look like

No doubt some residents will have responded to the pre-planning consultation to express their views about the proposed development and perhaps to welcome the potential for new jobs for the area.

But whilst new developments bringing much needed jobs are important, the growth of Dalton Industrial Estate over

the years has led to increased concern in Topcliffe about heavy lorries ignoring weight restrictions and passing through the village...and the feeling is that the recent consultation failed to adequately address concerns.

The plans for Dalton Industrial Estate have been presented to Hambleton District Council and, in consultation with the highways department of North Yorkshire County Council, that is where the main planning decisions will be made. There'll be a formal consultation but there's no harm in making our elected representatives know now about how we feel about the traffic implications for Topcliffe.

One resident who responded to the developer's consultation, copied his response to Topcliffe Parish Council for information and its members subsequently fully endorsed the points made. The key points include:

- In general, the village supports the development of the local economy and local employment; and, in principle, the development of the Dalton Industrial Estate. This must, however, be done in an environmentally sustainable and sensitive way.
- We welcome the commitment that the developers have given to ensure that Dalton village is not adversely affected by traffic, particularly HGVs, or other environmental pollutants such as sound, light and odours and acknowledge that a full transport assessment will be undertaken.
- However, we are concerned that there is no reference to a similar commitment or proposals to protect Topcliffe from the adverse effects of the proposed development and in particular to the increasing HGV traffic likely to flow through the village.

Continued on page 2...



Two views of the Sheepwash just a month apart! The one on the left, with a beautiful reflection, was taken during the floods in January. The other is of the snowdrops in February.

Continued from page 1...

- Experience tells us that the development of the Industrial Estate over recent years has correlated with a marked increase in the volume of HGVs coming through Topcliffe village. This occurs despite the statutory weight restrictions. The restrictions are regularly ignored. This pollutes the air quality, creates excessive noise and vibrations, presents a road safety risk, and damages both the public highways and private property.
- We note the reassurances that HGV traffic will access the main road network directly from Eldmire Lane onto the A168 only. However, we have little confidence that this will actually happen in practice and we are concerned that the number of HGVs travelling through Topcliffe will rise further.
- We hope that the developer's proposals, especially the transport assessment, will include measures to ensure that Topcliffe is effectively and sustainably protected from a further growth in HGV traffic.

Whilst deferring to the expertise that planners and highways experts will bring to this proposal during the planning stage, there is a range of suggestions that might be considered. These are:

- A new layout at the junction with the A168 (Dalton Lane/A168/Long Street) which physically impedes the flow of HGV traffic into Topcliffe in favour of direct access both northbound and southbound onto the A168.
- A new layout at the junction of the A61/A167 at Busby Stoop which physically impedes the flow of HGV traffic into Topcliffe in favour of using the A61/A1/A168 route to Dalton Industrial Estate.
- A revised layout at the exit from the A168 to Asenby/Cundall to impede HGV traffic taking this route through Topcliffe to the Industrial Estate.
- Revised and additional signage on all approaches advising HGVs to only use the A168 as the route to the Dalton Industrial Estate.
- Revised and additional signage at the exit to the Industrial Estate advising drivers to use the A168 only as the exit route to the main road network.
- Revised and additional signage of the statutory weight restrictions relating to Topcliffe.

- Inclusion of details in the Planning Consents and Operating Licences for Dalton Industrial Estate preventing entry and egress by HGVs via Topcliffe village.
- Additional monitoring and enforcement of the prohibited routes by the relevant authorities.

It would be great if lots of residents were to write to or email elected representatives at both District and County level to comment on the current problem of illegal HGV traffic through the village and also about the proposed development at Dalton, which potentially will increase further the amount of traffic through Topcliffe if no special measures are adopted.

Write to:

Cllr Mark Robson, Leader, Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Rotary Way, Northallerton DL6 2UU Email: cldr.mark.robson@hambleton.gov.uk

County Cllr Robert Baker, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD Email: cldr.robert.baker@northyorks.gov.uk

You can also refer any specific concerns about traffic issues to the Thirsk Neighbourhood Policing Team - Jonathan.Harrison@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Lorry worries

The number of lorries using the village as a short cut is of increasing concern. Our village roads, particularly Church Street, are not suitable for large, heavy vehicles. Yet every day articulated lorries thunder through. The limit for HGVs is 7.5 tonnes unless access is required and where no alternative access is available...but drivers seem to ignore the rules.

Topcliffe Parish Council has joined North Yorkshire Lorry Watch scheme and in recent months over 600 HGVs thought to be using the village illegally have been reported to trading standards, the county department responsible for legal enforcement. Letters have also been sent to all local businesses asking them to require drivers of vehicles over 7.5 tonnes to avoid coming through the village because in all cases there are alternative routes.

A summary of the data collected by the speed signs is available on the village website at www.topcliffe.org.uk

Share your experiences of health and social care

Healthwatch North Yorkshire, the independent public voice for people using local health and social care services across the county, is urging people to share their experiences of health and social care to help services recover from the impacts of the Covid pandemic.

While NHS and social care services are doing everything that they can to support us all, they need our help to know how they can improve. Healthwatch North Yorkshire shares the public's views with those with the power to make change happen. It can also signpost people to local services and support.

To learn more visit www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk or call 01904 552687.

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Storm Christophe

Here's a reminder of how close the Swaleside Holiday Park came to being swamped when Storm Christophe struck in January. Thankfully, lots of people worked hard to keep the river from flooding the site. It was touch and go for quite a while, but everyone's efforts saved the day. Park Managers Amanda Kenny and Andrew Balderson (who have now left to run a site in Selby) applied their long-earned knowledge and experience of the park and the river to plan and co-ordinate defence against the rising river levels.



Water level with the land

Afterwards, as the water still lapped at the sandbags, but the real danger was over, the couple sang the praises of all those involved, including Josh Barningham, Adam Lowe, Chris from Half Moon House, Tim and Phil Brierley, Mark Fairweather... and the Milk Churn Farm Shop for the hot chocolate and cakes supplied! They also thanked Topcliffe Parish Council and Parish Councillors Malcolm Morley and Jamie Moores for coming to the rescue with additional sandbags.



LITTER BAR'N'SNACK

In our two villages' newest bar there's plenty of spirits, lots of wine, loads of beer, lager, Red Bull and cider. Then for the non-drinkers there's gallons of coffee, lemonade, orange juice, mineral water, coca cola and even nice cold milk. Snacks include biscuits, cakes, crisps, sweets and it even has roll your own baccie.

This is a joke of course but litter is never a laughing matter.

A local resident filled four bags of all the items listed and much more from pavements, verges and hedgerows on just two recent walks - the Topcliffe/Asenby loop and the road between Topcliffe and Catton. Many of the items had obviously been there for a long time but others more recent. It really is the mindless few who drop litter or more likely in this instance to chuck it from their vehicles.

We can all do our bit. Let's 'bar' all litter and urge everyone we know to take their litter home and allow our community to enjoy their walks spotting flora and fora rather than cans and bottles.

The TATtler

The Swan At Topcliffe

01845 595185



There's nothing better than taking your family to a good restaurant or meeting your friends at the pub for a few drinks.

We've been apart for too long because of the pandemic but the end of lockdown is in sight and we'll soon be back together.

Jane and George and the staff look forward to seeing you all.

We'll be offering:

- **Bed and breakfast**
- **Traditional home-cooked food**
- **Take-away meal service**
- **Good company and a very friendly service**

Covid vaccination update

We are delighted to announce that all patients currently registered with Topcliffe Surgery aged 70 or over had received their first Covid vaccination well before the government deadline of 15 February.

Topcliffe continues to offer vaccinations through the shared service arrangement with other GP practices in our Primary Care Network at The Forum in Northallerton. We will continue to send invites for vaccination as per the government guidelines/grouping as fast as supplies allow. This is speeding up day by day.

Please **do not** contact the surgery regarding your vaccination. We will be in touch with you via text or telephone in the coming days as appropriate. This also applies to second vaccine invites - we will contact you.

Topcliffe Surgery would like to thank all patients for their continued support during this time. Everyone at the surgery, including the Practice Manager, GPs, dispensers, receptionists, admin staff and nurses, have been working at both The Forum and at the surgery. Please be aware that this continues to impact on appointments availability and we thank you for your continued understanding.

Dr Caspar Wood, Topcliffe Surgery

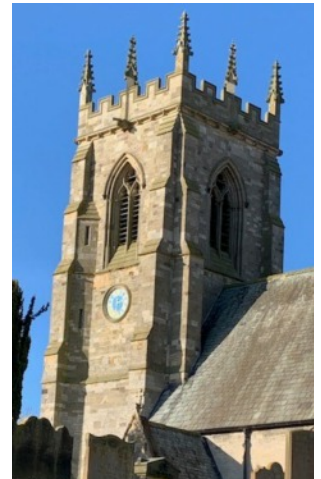
Our hidden treasure

Villagers and passers-by may have noticed that St Columba's church clock stopped earlier this year and only started working again towards the end of February. The problem was that the 'remontoire' arrangement that keeps the clock going stopped working and needed to be repaired. Things are now back to normal and once again village time is on display.

St Columba's clock is one of the hidden treasures of Topcliffe as, unlike many church clocks which were electrified in the 1960s or 1970s, ours still runs with the original mechanism as installed by Thomas Cooke of York in 1858. Therefore, the pendulum still swings and the 'tick' still slowly moves the hands around the dial.

Remontoire mechanisms were installed early this century to remove the need for a weekly climb of the tower to wind up the massive weights, but otherwise all remains very much the same.

Visits to the clock and the rest of the tower have featured in St Columba's Heritage Weekend in past years, but anyone wanting to see it may now have to wait until the 2022 event.



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CONTACT DETAILS

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Council Leader looks to a more positive future

The last year has been terrible for all of us, but for some families that have suffered illness and sometimes the loss of a loved one, it has been horrendous. Our thoughts go out to them.

Now, as we see the relaxation of some of the Covid restrictions, there's a great sense of hope that the nation has seen the worst of the pandemic and that fairly soon we can all start living normal lives again.

The pandemic has impacted council services in a similar way to how it has affected businesses. Many employees have had to work from home, whilst others providing critical services, such as refuse collection, have soldiered on and maintained services. I would like to thank them all. The direct cost of the support given to businesses and other organisations over the year has topped £6 million. A grant of £1.2 million was received from the government, but the balance has had to be found from reserves. That's cash that cannot easily be replaced or spent on vital services in the future.



Despite this, there's some good news for all local taxpayers following the decision of Hambleton District Council to freeze its element of council tax for 2021-22.

Councillors were asked to consider either a small increase or a complete freeze and unanimously decided on the latter.

It is usual for council tax to increase year on year but due to the unique times and unprecedented financial strain on families over the last year, my colleagues and I felt it was only right not to have an increase this year. I am sure this decision will be warmly welcomed by taxpayers.

In the December Tattler I reported that work had started on the District's new crematorium on a 22-acre site near Skipton on Swale and I'm happy to say that construction is going well despite challenging weather conditions. The facility, which will be named Maple Park, will include a service hall capable of seating approximately 120 mourners plus more room for standing.

Last month local company Treske, based in Carlton Miniott, was appointed to supply bespoke furniture to the crematorium, including everything from chairs and sofas to flower and candle stands. This was a very good example of keeping business local and I think shopping locally and supporting local firms is even more important.

I am pleased to be able to report that the old Lambert Hospital is now being converted for use by Herriot Hospice Homecare and that work is progressing well on the Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre. Both developments will be of great value to the District.

The front-page story in this *Tattler* highlights a very real problem of traffic disruption, particularly caused by HGVs illegally passing through Topcliffe and the potential impact

of new commercial developments at Dalton Industrial Estate. I understand the concerns and will work tirelessly to ensure that existing weight limits are enforced, there's more vigilance of illegal journeys, increased enforcement action taken and much improved signage is erected by the highways authorities.

The planning application for 'Dalton 49 Thirsk' is with the council for determination and there'll be a comprehensive public consultation as part of the process. Any local views received will most definitely be taken into account.

Cllr Mark Robson, Leader of the Council

Elm Gallery's fifth anniversary

Last December saw us celebrating the fifth anniversary of opening The Elm Gallery in Topcliffe

In truth coming to Topcliffe was the best move we've ever made! We've really settled here and we're lucky to have such lovely neighbours and friends in the village. We also consider many of our customers to be our friends after all this time.

When we first arrived, our first priority was to get the gallery ready for opening and we spent many weeks renovating the three rooms, often decorating until late at night! We opened on Sunday 4 December 2015 and since then we've gradually built up the business. As well as our own paintings, prints and cards, we now sell a wide range of ceramics, jewellery, glass, wood, sculptures, basket ware, hand-made bags and many other original things.

During the very challenging past year the renovation of the property has been an ongoing project and we have now done about two thirds of the work. However, every so often another job is added to the list, so we may never run out of things to do.

In this third lockdown we have made good use of the time. We are both working on new paintings and by the time we re-open the gallery, hopefully in mid-April, we will have a lot of new work on display. Liz is also busy making lots of new bags and increasing the stock of interesting and beautiful fabrics in the process.

Although it's been a trying time for everybody, we've really enjoyed the chance to have more creative time, despite all the restrictions. Hopefully, our customers will enjoy seeing what we've been doing when life becomes a bit more normal.

Liz and Dave Marsh

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Topcliffe Parish Council Report

This report for *The Tattler* is shorter than usual. Winter is always a quieter time and activities have been curtailed by Covid restrictions and lockdown, plus the recent floods and freeze up. However, we have been able to hold our regular Parish Council meetings via Zoom and have been able to progress a few items.

HGV traffic - as reported separately in this issue, we have continued to be active in feeding back details of suspected illegal HGV traffic to the Lorry Watch Scheme run by North Yorkshire County Council Trading Standards Department. To date we have reported around 600 HGVs passing through the village and we are actively pursuing Trading Standards for their feedback on actions taken on these reports. Although we are hopeful of positive results from the scheme, we continue to consider further actions to resolve any ongoing problems.

We have also written to local hauliers asking for cooperation in reducing their HGVs usage of our village streets. As a result, we recently received a commitment from Potters Eggs agreeing to instruct their drivers to use alternative routes where possible. We continue to hope for a similar response from Potter Plant Hire.

Dalton Industrial Estate - expansion proposals are reported in the lead article of this issue and the Parish Council is fully and actively supporting the initiatives being taken regarding traffic control arising from the proposed development. If successfully implemented, we believe that they will not only prevent additional HGV passage through the village from the industrial estate but also result in a reduction of overall HGV traffic on our streets.

Road repairs at Mill Bank - after continual lobbying by the Parish Council, repairs to the unsafe railings and support wall on the A167 above Mill Bank (Catton Lane) are finally scheduled to start mid-March. The work comes under the Bridges Department of Highways England and will involve:

- Re-pointing various worn areas of the wall.
- Re-building an 8m long section of the wall, near the centre.
- Installation of a new drainage system within the wall itself and a soakaway at the base, within the highways verge.
- And, after consultation with the Parish Council, repairs to the public footpath steps between the A167 and Mill Bank.

The works should be underway this week and be completed by 24 April. The highways department warn of possible disruption throughout the contract period, though the road will remain open to traffic with two-way lights at certain times. Access to private properties will be maintained, though there may be temporary restrictions from time to time.



Mill Bank - where repairs are scheduled

Playing field and cemetery - we have now completed repairs or replacements to the damaged and broken fencing along the entry lane to the playing fields and cemetery frontage.

The Toll Booth - an English Heritage specialist has reviewed the property and reported on the mandatory work required to repair this historical building. We are now awaiting quotes from the skilled builders needed to undertake this type of restoration. Once we have the quotes, we will be seeking contributions to the costs from a range of organisations.

Zoom meeting - just a reminder that the next Parish Council meeting will be early April and, as always, members of the public will be welcome to attend. An agenda and timing will be posted on the Council's website - www.topcliffe.org.uk and a link to this Zoom meeting can be obtained from the Parish Council Clerk - topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com

Roy Beckwith, Vice Chair

Volunteers needed

Herriot Hospice Homecare is keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in getting involved in bringing the Lambert Hospital into use as a hospice care community hub. This call comes after the charity was gifted the building thanks to the generosity and support of the local community and Hambleton District Council. The project will significantly increase the availability of hospice care services for local people.

Plans are taking shape for new services including a community hub, outpatient service and a four bedded inpatient unit. The idea is that the charity will also extend its well-loved home service, sitting and befriending and driving services.

The hospice will need the support of lots of different people including fundraisers, donors and volunteers to bring the building, which was closed to patients three years ago, back into use as a community asset. To register your interest in getting involved, visit www.herriothh.org.uk or call 01609 777413.

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Big jobs at the village hall

The closure of the village hall due to coronavirus created a great opportunity to tackle some of the big maintenance jobs that need to be done every few years - resurfacing the floor and redecorating.

The quality of the floor is one of the hall's best attributes and keeping it in first class condition is extremely important and a key responsibility for the hall's volunteer committee. It's a big job which takes a week to complete and it is best undertaken when there are no activities taking place.

In January, expert flooring contractors Richard Clark and Martin Callum, undertook the job - removing the old well-worn surface and applying special two-pack sports floor lacquers which are easily cleaned and are extremely tough.

Obviously, renewing a floor surface involves significant amounts of sanding and polishing, and vast amounts of dust is generated which settles everywhere. The contractors were brilliant and did a great job of cleaning every surface and leaving the place spic and span.

In the last few weeks painters have been in the hall to completely redecorate the main hall, kitchen, entrance lobby and toilets. The acoustic panels have been temporarily removed to facilitate the work. Although the hall remains closed because of Covid, it is clean, fresh and ready for a return to use at the earliest possible time.



Village Hall floor resurfaced Jan 2021

Village Hall remains closed

At a meeting of the Village Hall Committee late February members decided that the current closure until 31 March will continue until the lockdown is fully lifted and Covid is no longer considered high risk within our community.

The committee is keen to see the hall reopen with lots of activities again being organised for the benefit of local residents, and it welcomes the government's roadmap to easing the lockdown restrictions that may see the hall reopen around May time.

Regardless of other considerations, the hall will be made available for use as a Polling Station on election day - Thursday 6 May.

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New owners for Swaleside Holiday Park

The family behind a group of North-East holiday parks says it is 'proud and delighted' to have taken ownership of a top-rated Swaleside Holiday Park in Topcliffe.

Maguires Country Parks, which owns a range of five-star graded holiday parks, has announced the acquisition of the site. It brings to eight the number of parks now owned by the Maguire family who started out in business forty years ago.

Billy Maguire Snr, business owner, said that the site in Topcliffe is a perfect complement to the firm's other top-rated holiday parks. He said: "The site has been carefully and beautifully developed over the years by York House Leisure who, like us, are committed to providing the highest possible standards for customers. The location is absolutely stunning, and a perfect retreat for those seeking tranquil surroundings for breaks and longer stays throughout the four seasons."

It's Hello and Goodbye



Asenby business with new horizons

There's a new business advertising in *The Tattler* starting this edition. It's New Horizon Windows and Doors and it's run by Asenby resident Paul Stoves.

A time-served glazier, Paul has been in the trade for over thirty years, and his knowledge and expertise is second to none. He said: "I do all my own customer appointments so there's no high-pressure sales, just a friendly and informative approach. I also measure and install every job myself which ensures a high-quality service from start to finish.

Paul uses windows and doors from award-winning supplier REHAU. They are market leaders in the design and manufacture of uPVC windows and composite doors, ensuring a high-quality product from a company that constantly innovates.

We welcome Brian and Karen Hills, the couple on the left in our photograph, as the new managers of Swaleside Holiday Park. Brian is a former police inspector who served 32 years with Durham Constabulary, including secondments to the Home Office, and Karen has a background in residential care. After retiring in 2005 they went to live in Cyprus where they operated a hospitality business. Brian is President of the Darlington branch of the Magic Circle.

And we say goodbye to Andrew Balderson and Amanda Kenny who, after five years at Swaleside, have moved on to manage a bigger site near Selby owned by York House Leisure. The couple were great friends of Topcliffe and they have promised to come back to join in some of the village's events in the future.

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Census 2021 is underway

All householders are being asked to take part in Census 2021 - a once-every-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

A census has been conducted every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

New community business venture

Local businessman Simon Mosley and his family have operated successful companies in the Topcliffe area for over fifty years...and provided quite a few jobs for local people in that time.

Now Simon is creating a social enterprise business as a way of putting something back into the community.

The family has accommodated new and growing firms on its Park Barn Farm site but during the Covid pandemic enquiries for small commercial units have increased. Apparently, there is an appetite from entrepreneurs and first-time business owners who want a small, affordable space to store, sort or work on their new venture.

Simon plans to construct 10 small commercial units on the site and he has set up a new company - Halvar Limited - especially to handle the new venture. An application for planning consent for the units is currently with Hambleton District Council.

"We not only want to support small firms, but we want to do this without having to rely on the big banks, which require long leases and put many inflexible constraints on new and growing businesses." says Simon. "I'll be putting in some of my own money and have access to funds from the Charity Bank but would also like to raise funds within the local community to help build these units. This would see us borrowing relatively small amounts - £1,000 to £50,000 - from local businesses and individuals on agreed terms, with the capital guaranteed and interest of 1.5% paid over a five-year term. Having these smaller amounts will allow greater flexibility as investors come into and leave the scheme.

"By borrowing locally we are able to keep the benefits local...and that's important to us. The project won't make huge profits - but that's not what it's about, once a surplus is achieved the plan would be to set aside a percentage of profits to benefit the community.

"The idea is to construct these units as cost effectively as possible without skimping on the quality of the materials used - and they will be extremely energy efficient. Then we'll be able to set affordable rents that new businesses can afford."

Over the past 35 years the family has been planting trees and establishing wild natural spaces on the farm and Simon has calculated that there has been enough planting to more than match the current carbon footprint, plus the extra once the new units are in use.

"So, having invested in the environment, we now want to invest in small local businesses and create a great atmosphere for seedling businesses as the pandemic ends and the economy begins to thrive again", said Simon.

For more information, call Simon on 01845 577684 or 07801 864901 or email simon@halvar.uk

Census 2021 will be the first run predominantly online. Households probably received a letter last week, but if not, it should arrive this week. The letter contains a unique access code that allows the recipient to complete the questionnaire on their computer, phone or tablet.

Those people who are not confident online or do not have access to a computer, can request to have a paper copy and fill the census in as they always have done in the past.

It's important for everyone to take part as the information gathered is used to ensure organisations such as the government, local authorities and charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed.

The questionnaire can be completed before, on or after March 21. After Census Day, staff will be visiting any households which haven't submitted their forms and will be able to help you. All staff will have ID badges, will have full personal protective equipment and will remain socially distanced at all times.

	Asenby 2001	Asenby 2011	Topcliffe 2001	Topcliffe 2011
No of Children Under 5	19	19	122	146
Adults over 90	3	1	3	3
Total Population	287	311	1336	1489
Country of origin other than UK	11	17	80	164
Households with no transport	6	6	37	75

Some interesting statistics from 2001 and 2011



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It's show time!

It's that time of year when things really start getting active in the garden and greenhouse - and the dedicated gardeners in the community start thinking seriously about what they might display at the annual Produce Show.

The 2021 Topcliffe & Asenby Produce Show, which will be staged on Saturday 28 August, is open to all residents of Topcliffe and Asenby, and individuals who grow produce on allotments within the boundaries of our two villages.

There'll be 47 horticultural classes, so there's lots of opportunity to grow some winners! There's also 16 baking/preserves classes, 3 floral classes, 10 hobbies classes and 5 classes just for children to enter.

Don't forget that the Show Committee agreed a new rule last year, namely that only one entry can be placed in each category. Other to that the rules remain unchanged. As in previous years there'll be two trophies in the horticultural section, one for the person with the most points overall and another for the person with most "firsts". There'll also be trophies for the winners in the other sections.

The full list of rules, categories and classes is available on both village websites - www.topcliffe.org.uk and www.asenby.net or from Produce Show Secretary Judith Lowe (577911).

So, get gardening or knitting or whatever you do, and good luck in the show!



As you get older your needs and circumstances can change. Our extra care developments in Northallerton, Brompton, Stokesley and Leyburn are designed with this change in mind, enabling people to maintain their independence, living behind their own front door, whilst safe in the knowledge that care and support are on hand if needed.

For more information call: **01609 767900**
Or email: **info@broadacres.org.uk**



Church services and events

When the Parochial Church Council (PCC) met recently it had to take some difficult decisions about future events.

On the positive side, it was agreed that church services would continue to be organised and the calendar up to Easter is as follows:

- Wednesday, 17 March, 7pm - Compline (Night Prayers)
- Sunday, 21 March, 10.45am - Matins
- Wednesday, 24 March, 7pm - Compline
- Wednesday, 31st March, 7pm - Compline
- Easter Weekend - Holy Communion (either 3 or 4 April - to be confirmed. It's very much hoped that Terry Dyer, our visiting priest, will be able to lead the celebration.)

After Easter it is hoped that we can quickly return to our former monthly calendar of weekly services.

Any services organised will be fully Covid compliant until the government restrictions end. So please bring a face covering with you - and use the hand sanitiser provided before and after each service. Most importantly, for everyone's sake, if you have any suspicion you might have contracted Covid please don't join us on that particular occasion.

Not everything can proceed this year as the PCC might have liked. Once again the ever-popular Attic Auction, usually held in April or May to coincide with everyone's spring cleaning, will be postponed, but hopefully just to the Autumn.

And for the second year, the St Columba Day Festival and Heritage Weekend will not proceed in full. A special Sunday Service will be held at 10.45am on 13 June, but extensive plans to look at Topcliffe in the 17th century and a programme of lectures, exhibitions and even a visit from a Royalist re-enactment troop, will sadly have to be put back to 2022.

Snooker Club

The snooker club has been closed during lockdown, but we look forward to reopening very soon.

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for this year. We are sorry your play has been disrupted. Those who intended to join or re-join this year can still do so. Just contact the Treasurer Dave Bowman on 577843. The annual fee is £25.

It's expensive having to continually have more keys cut so could we appeal to past members to return their keys to Dave. Just give him a call and he'll let you know how to get them back to him.

The club has two snooker tables, one full-size and the other three-quarter size. Members hold their own key so can gain access to play at any time. Under 18s can play as long as they are accompanied by an adult.



Great view to wake up to

Here's a wonderful view to wake up to each morning. It's of the River Swale and was taken from the back garden area of the new house on Church Street. The balcony, which is at ground floor level, will be a great place to sit with a drink to watch sunsets or merely to watch the river racing downstream.



The Swale is one of the fastest rising spate rivers in England. People used to say that the Swale 'rusheth rather than runneth'. The name 'Swale' is from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Sualuae' meaning 'rapid and liable to deluge'. Annual rainfall figures of 1800mm in the headwaters and 1300mm in the lower waters over a drop of 148m in 32km, gives proof to its name.

Textiles recycling to raise funds

Topcliffe Village Hall and the Scouting Association, who in normal times are regular users of the hall, have joined forces to organise another 'Bags2School' recycling event. Everyone is encouraged to have a cupboard and wardrobe sort out and bring unwanted items in black bags to the village hall garden on Friday 23 April 2021 between 8.30am and 12 noon.

Home collection can be arranged for any elderly or vulnerable resident in self-isolation or lockdown - ring Doug Allan on 578526.

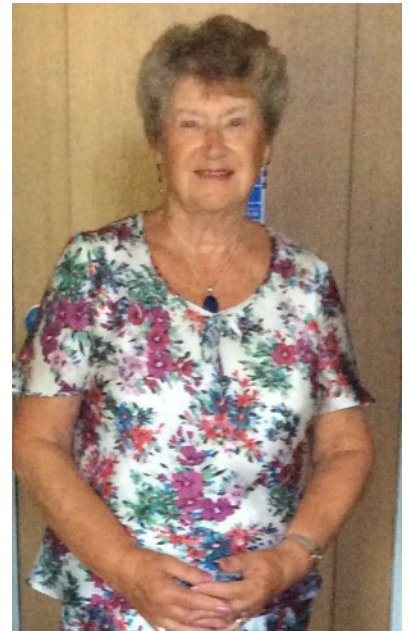
The proceeds of the event will be shared between the Village Hall and Scouts Association.

As a reminder, any of the following items are welcomed: men's, ladies and children's clothing - paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around) - handbags - hats - bags - scarves and ties - jewellery - lingerie - socks - belts - soft toys - household linen - household curtains - household towels - household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers). Please note that we are unable to accept duvets and blankets, pillows and cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats), soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms with and without logo, corporate clothing and workwear or textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.

Dorothy 'Dot' Arkley

Well known Asenby resident Dorothy Arkley died aged 79 in hospital on 13 January following a long fight with cancer. Known to her family and friends as Dot, she was a well-known figure in her beloved Asenby and was also active in the Topcliffe community.

Dot and her husband, Mel, lived in Asenby for 18 years and before that lived in Dalton for 24 years. They met on a blind date in South Shields where Mel was studying for his Merchant Navy exams and were married in 1971.



Never one to be idle, Dot went back to work once her two lads were of school age. She worked at Dalton-based John Smith coaches, first as a bookkeeper but later as a school bus and coach driver.

Dot was genuinely a woman of many talents and her interests were wide-ranging. She was a great supporter of the Topcliffe & Asenby Produce Show and she regularly entered embroidery, tapestry, jams and baking in the various competitions...and won top places! For many years Dot was the chair of Dalton Women's Institute and until her death, was treasurer of the Topcliffe Carpet Bowls Club, which plays in the village hall.

Dot and Mel's sons Timothy and Richard travelled home (one from Berkshire and the other from Colorado in the USA) to attend their mum's funeral and comfort their father. If anyone would like to make a donation to Cancer Research or Macmillan Nurses in memory of Dot, that would be very much appreciated by the family.

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AT LAST SOME GOOD NEWS!!!

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with

OPEN-SIDED MARQUEES

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WED | THUR - 12 - 9pm

FRI | SAT - 12-11pm

SUN - 12-9pm

(closing times subject to weather conditions)

— FOOD —

WED | THUR | FRI - 12 - 2.30pm | 5-8pm

SATURDAY - 12-8pm

SUNDAY - 12-7pm

(limited menu available)

THE Angel
at TOPCLIFFE

DINE AT HOME

Mother's Day Specials

FULL MENU BELOW ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday 14th March

'Treat your Mum to a Take Away from The Angel...
Don't forget to add our Gift Vouchers to your order'

Book early to reserve your preferred collection time
between 12 and 7pm
PLEASE CALL 01845 578000 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

Breaded Goats Cheese £4.95
Roasted Beetroot, Radish & Red Onion Jam (v)

Confit Duck Leg & Pistachio Terrine £4.95
Spiced Plum Chutney, Toasted Focaccia

...

Roast Leg of Lamb £13.50
Roast Potatoes, Mash, Yorkshire pudding, Seasonal vegetables,
Cauliflower Cheese, Gravy

The Angel Luxury Fish Pie £11.95
Cod, Salmon, Halibut, Prawns & Scallops, Cheesy Mash Potato
Herb Crumb, Toasted Bread

...

Poached Pear Frangipane Tart (v) £4.95
Custard

Classic Tiramisu (v) £4.95
Amaretti Biscuit

For further information please call 01845 578 000 or visit www.theangelatopcliffe.co.uk



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