



Broadacres unveil plans for new homes at East Lea

Broadacres housing association has unveiled plans to provide new affordable homes for local people at its East Lea site in Topcliffe.

Under the proposals, the housing association is proposing to demolish two blocks of flats, each containing four homes and replace them with eight new, modern properties in keeping with the village. Eleven garages currently rented out to private individuals will also be demolished to create an attractive space around the new homes.

Following feedback from residents at a recent consultation, Broadacres is seeking to provide a mixture of two and three-bedroom homes, as well as a one-bedroom property adapted to meet the specific needs of one of the current residents living in the flats.

All the homes would be built to high quality standards and would include new, energy efficient heating systems. The homes have been designed by award-winning architects, P+HS Architects.



Residents currently living in the flats will need to be re-housed whilst the demolition and construction work is carried out, but Broadacres will attempt to keep people as close to Topcliffe as they can. When the new homes are complete, the residents will then be given priority in allocation of the new properties.

Joy Whinnerah, Broadacres' Development and Investment Director, said: "Our number one priority is

ensuring the residents affected are fully supported, and each will be allocated a dedicated key worker who will liaise with them regularly throughout the process.

"The current flats no longer meet customer aspirations, so our plans would see new, high quality homes being built with the current residents being given first refusal on the properties. We're committed to working closely with the residents and the wider community in Topcliffe, and we've already taking their views on board in regard to specific housing requirements.

"Issues about car parking, flood prevention and access to allotments were all raised at the meeting and these will all be considered and addressed prior to a planning application being submitted, which we anticipate happening around summer 2020. The demolition and construction process would then take up to 18 months.

"We will, of course, provide regular updates to the local community as the project progresses."

Fayre launches Christmas in Topcliffe

A big thank you has been extended to everyone who attended the Christmas Fayre on 16 November. It was a tremendous success and just short of £800 was raised towards the planned disabled access route in the church grounds.



There were ten stalls selling all things Christmassy, including novelties, cards, bric-a-brac, books, honey and even doggie treats! Visitors started on the turkey sandwiches at 10am and by 11.30am the turkey was all sold. Latecomers were then offered fresh cream scones and chocolate muffins as an alternative.

It was a wonderful opener for the festive season in Topcliffe, with upwards of 150 attending and turning it into a lovely social occasion with people sitting and chatting for ages. Organiser Karen Morley is planning to repeat the Fayre next year.

Local charity wins award

A charity run from Topcliffe which aims to improve the lives of older people by reducing isolation and bettering wellbeing whilst encouraging physical activity, has won the Best Community Group award at North Yorkshire County Council's annual Community Awards event.

The Sporting Memories Foundation runs eight clubs across the county, and 120 across the country, tackling one of the biggest challenges of our time - that of an ageing population.

The clubs run weekly sessions, free of charge at which members gain confidence, improve their mental and physical wellbeing, and make new friends. Clubs, run by teams of volunteers, encourage physical activity through exercise and sports and stimulate conversation by sharing memories of sporting moments to reawaken positive emotions.

The prize-winning Northallerton Sporting Memories Club, run by a team of dedicated volunteers, has been meeting at Northallerton Library every Thursday morning for almost five years.



Councillor Jim Clark, with Wendy Jameson of Topcliffe, who is one of the volunteers who runs the Northallerton club and Tony Jameson-Allen

The award was presented by county council chair, Councillor Jim Clark, accompanied by Kim Leadbeater, an ambassador for the Jo Cox Foundation. Match of the Day

commentator Guy Mowbray, who is a Patron of the charity and a resident of North Yorkshire, was also there.

Tony Jameson-Allen, co-founder of the charity and a Topcliffe resident, said: "Winning the award is absolute testament to the volunteers involved. They run these clubs week in week out making sure that everyone gets everything they possibly can from the sessions. The prize money will help us to continue supporting the volunteers, buy some more equipment for the club and hopefully have a celebration event as well."

Trace of the Norse Gods

From Germany and Scandinavia came the Vikings with stories about the gods of Asgard. They took them to Orkney, Ireland and Northern England.

*Loki was handsome, convincing,
He walked the sky
With shoes that could fly,
Cunning as a fox,
Always changing
Puzzling everyone.*

*You can trace these Northern warriors
In the words they left behind.*

This is a couple of verses from a powerful poem by Victoria Thomis about Norse mythology which was recently included in *Seeing Things*, a book of poetry collated for the Ripon Poetry Festival 2019. Victoria, inspired by a recent trip to Norway, had studied the gods and was able to capture their strength and authority in her writing.



Victoria, who has lived in Topcliffe for four years, contributed her poem to a book published by Jennyruth Workshops in Ripon which she attends twice a week. She is an avid reader and clearly has a great appreciation for words and stories.

The Ripon Poetry Festival is an annual event committed to making poetry available to everyone.



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Big thank you from Air Ambulance

Yorkshire Air Ambulance have said a big thank you to the managers and residents of Swaleside Holiday Park in Topcliffe for their amazing generosity in recent years.

Managers Mandy Kenney and Andrew Balderson were invited to a special event to receive a 'Community Fundraising Award' to recognise their support.

The pair recently handed over £1,500 which had been raised at a summer event in August. This brings the total to date since they started managing the site just over three years ago to a fantastic £4,050. In total in the years the Park has supported the Air Ambulance, well over £11,000 has been donated.



Mandy (left) and Andrew receive their award

The event organisers congratulated Mandy and Andrew and commented that "their enthusiasm and passion for fundraising is inspiring and heart-warming to see".

Yorkshire Air Ambulance is as an independent charity, needing to raise £12,000 each day to keep its two yellow helicopters flying, maintained and saving more lives across Yorkshire.

Jabs up for grabs!

Did you know that flu kills an average of 8,000 people every year, and it can be particularly serious in older adults, very young children, and people with underlying health conditions? The flu vaccine remains the best defence we have against flu. The flu vaccination is available every year on the NHS to help protect adults and children at risk of flu and its complications.

Topcliffe Surgery reports that lots of local people have now had their annual flu jab, but there's still time for those at risk to have the vaccination.

There are no further flu jab clinics planned but patients can call to make an appointment during normal surgery times.

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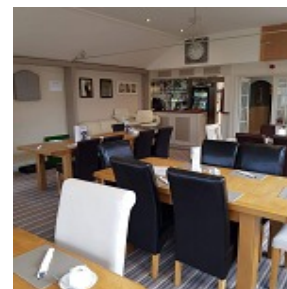
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Christmas at St Columba's



Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday 15 December at 6.30pm, St. Columba's Church

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Hear the traditional reading of the Christmas story and sing your favourite carols in the candle lit church. S. Columba's Choir, led by Linda Hewlett, will include a selection of carols, both old and new, especially chosen for this year's service, including the syncopated Angel Alleluias (1998) by Alan Bullard and a most gorgeous reworking of the Coventry Carol (2006) by Philip Stopford, originally composed to be sung in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast. Matthew Atherton will accompany the service on the organ. Linger afterwards for drinks and finger food.

Carols and Christmas Cheer around the Christmas Tree, Thursday 19 December, 7pm prompt.

Join in this hour-long festive event at the Christmas tree located outside Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall. Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies and sing your favourite carols, led by Linda Hewlett and members of St Columba's choir. For all the family, but please wrap up warmly and bring a torch or lantern! Carol sheets will be provided. Everyone most welcome, no charge, but donations welcomed for Macmillan Nurses.

Crib Service, Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December, 2.30pm, St Columba's Church

An informal service for all, especially families with children, relating the Christmas story.



Midnight Mass, Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December, 11.30pm, St Columba's Church

A special Eucharist with choir and carols to see in Christmas Day, to which all are most warmly invited.

Christmas Morning Service, Wednesday 25 December, 9am, St Columba's Church

Christmas Day for all the family.

Choral Evensong for Epiphany, Sunday 5 January 2020, 6.30pm, St Columba's Church

Celebrating the visit of the Wise Men.

Choral Evensong for Candlemas, Sunday 2nd February 2020, 6.30pm, St Columba's Church

The Rev Susanne Jukes, the Churchwardens Linda Carver and Liz Marsh, and all at St Columba's join in wishing everyone a very happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas, and look forward to seeing you at some, if not all, of our services and events.

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Topcliffe Parish end of year review

As the year draws to a close, it's a good time to reflect on what the Parish Council has done for the community in the six months since the election in May.

The playing field has had its ground maintenance arrangements improved, the play equipment has been inspected and some faults found have been repaired. The old vandalised football changing room has been removed as it was in a dangerous state, the hedges have been trimmed, the grass has been cut several times and the goal posts have been repaired.

Getting the playing field back to the standard we would like is going to take time and money. We aim to upgrade the playing field and its equipment in the next year or two, and we will try to cater for all ages, young and old. We know that this will not be cheap to do: possibly requiring as much as thirty to forty thousand pounds. Raising that sort of cash, via grants and other fundraising, will require a significant amount of effort.

Importantly, a decision has been made to stop all vehicles, including those belonging to members of the bowling club, from parking in the field. It is always hard to stop practices that have gone on for years, but this decision had to be made to protect children and, indeed, other users who have been using the same entrance as cars with no separate footpath. Parish councillors concluded that the playing field is for sports and leisure - not a car park!

Two Tidy Up Days have been held and on each occasion many villagers of all ages came out in force to help. Both were a great success and we hope this approach to keeping our village tidy and clean will continue next year. I'd particularly like to thank those of you that came out in the rain to help cut back the hedges and overgrown trees around the cemetery in Winn Lane. It will take several more tidy up days to finish the job and we look forward to tackling more of the job in the spring.



Jonathan Lingard and son, Oliver, dragging away branches destined for the bonfire.

The Sheep Wash was in a run-down state before we cleared out dead trees, lots of rubbish and weeds and began to restore the area for villagers' use. Unfortunately, winter caught up with us before we finished everything, but we hope to continue the work next spring.

Traffic through Topcliffe has been an increasing problem in recent years and without some positive action things can only get worse. Many of you will have noticed that in October the Highways Department installed traffic counters on Long Street and on Station Road near the

school. We asked for this action because of increasing concern about the volume of traffic passing through Topcliffe, the number of vehicles clearly speeding and the significant numbers of HGV vehicles using the village roads illegally.

The results of the survey showed:

On Long Street there were an average 4,000 traffic movements per day, including 140+ large HGVs and 10% of all vehicles speeding.

On the A167 (near the school) there was an average 3,000 traffic movements per day, including 100+ large HGVs and over 28% of all vehicles were speeding.

These results are, of course, extremely worrying and it is clear we need to try to improve the situation. The first step agreed is that we will purchase a mobile radar speed warning sign of the type many villages in North Yorkshire have used to good effect. The cost of £3,500 will be funded from Parish Council reserves and the annual precept raised from the village.

To try to reduce the HGV problem we are having discussions with the Highways Department about erecting highly visual signs at the entrances to the village to warn HGV drivers that they could be breaking the law and could face significant fines. In addition, we have contacted local businesses to ask them to reroute their vehicles. The next step will be to provide the Police and Trading Standards with photographic evidence of HGVs clearly flouting the law.

Unfortunately, there's one important task that the Parish Council has not yet been able to resolve, despite many attempts and much pushing. The railing at the top of Mill Bank was first reported as needing 'urgent' attention around two years ago. David Pilgrim and I taped it off with hazard tape at the time but no action was taken by the Highways Authority.



On becoming Chairman of the Parish Council in May 2019 one of the first things I did was again report the fence to the Highways Department. After several reminders an engineer came out in July to inspect the problem and though he hadn't said he was visiting, he was spotted and I showed him the problem. He actually leaned on the rail and nearly fell though as it collapsed! The result of this near accident was that the engineer placed a single road cone on the foot path, but no other action was or has been taken. I again taped the area off with hazard tape. Regretfully, neither our North Yorkshire County councillor or Hambleton District councillors, all of whom attend our Parish Council meetings, have been unable to get this sorted either. It doesn't say a lot for the Highways Department or the influence of our local politicians.

Malcolm Morley, Chairman, Topcliffe Parish Council

Toll Booth's chequered history

Topcliffe's oldest surviving building has a place in the nation's history, has been at the centre of village life for hundreds of years and is currently the village's snooker room. This unassuming building on the corner of Front Street and Long Street dates back to the medieval period and is the last remaining trace of the Manor of Topcliffe.

There's no date for the original construction but it is likely that it was rebuilt and extended around 1562 using massive timbers from the ruined manor house. This reconstruction was probably carried out to provide an adequate building where the market tolls could be paid and where the Court Leet could sit and Quarter Sessions could be held. There were also shops, stables and a 'lock-up' on the ground floor.

Historically, the Toll Booth's main claim to fame surrounds the payment of a ransom to the Scots for King Charles I back in the 1600s. There are many versions of the story but, according to John Graham's Millennium Book of Topcliffe, it's most likely that after a series of defeats by Cromwell, including one at the Battle of Naseby on 14 June 1645, the king realised he was in danger of being captured by the Parliamentarians and judged that he would be better treated if he surrendered to the Scots.

The Scots realising their good fortune quickly moved the king northwards from Newark via Topcliffe on route to Newcastle. Once the king was safely ensconced in the north the Scots started to negotiate terms under which he would be returned to the Parliamentarians and agreement was reached in January 1647.

There is no evidence that a ransom was actually handed over in Topcliffe's Toll Booth, but historians have agreed that it is likely that a receipt recognising the handover of money for the hostage was exchanged there...and the table that was used is still in use at the village hall to this day!

We know (because it is recorded in the House of Commons Journal for the 1 January 1647) that the cash for the ransom was carried by thirty six carts from London to



York, where it was counted to make sure it was still all there, and then it arrived in Topcliffe where it stayed for two days whilst details of the exchange were finalised. It makes you wonder where all of those money-packed carts were parked and how many guards must have been there to protect it!



Interestingly, though it is called the Toll Booth, the building has never collected tolls for highway usage - that was done from the cottage on the bridge over the River Swale.

The Court Leet was last held in in the Toll Booth in 1869 and by the late 1800s the whole lower floor was a stable and the upper floor an Institute and Reading Room for the benefit of villagers. Billiards was one of the activities on offer. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the whole Toll Booth was taken over by the YMCA - the billiards table was removed so that a canteen could be opened for RAF and RCAF personnel from Dalton and Topcliffe aerodromes.

After the war the building was handed back to the village but during the next twenty years it fell into disuse and was generally "unloved". But in 1968 when the then county council proposed demolition to create better sight lines on the busy road junction, attitudes changed and a campaign was launched to save it. In 1970 the Parish Council agreed to become Trustee and they have been responsible for the Toll Booth since then.

In 1999 the Parish Council, in conjunction with Hambleton District Council, undertook a preservation project to secure the buildings



future for years to come. The Toll Booth, which has Grade II listed status, is the base for Topcliffe's snooker club and though many attempts have been made to find uses for the ground floor, none have proved long lasting or sustainable.

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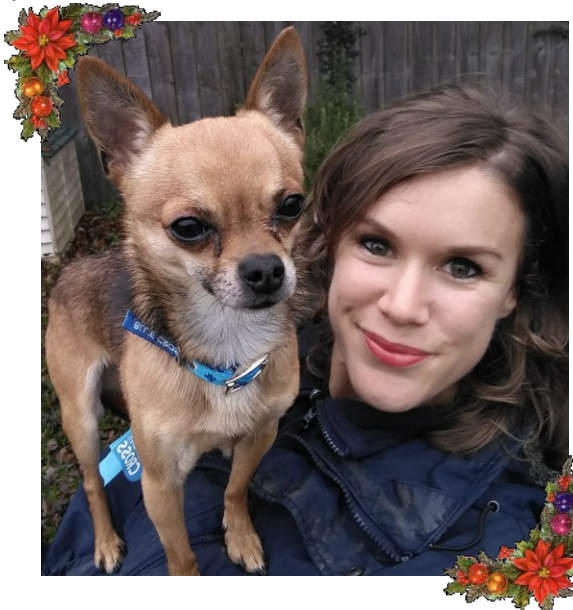
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Make a dog's Christmas!

As Christmas fast approaches the Blue Cross is again appealing for pet free foster homes which are local to its Rehoming Centre in Topcliffe.

Pets like little Reggie, (pictured with Animal Welfare Assistant, Charlotte Waite) would certainly find a foster home extremely beneficial whilst the staff search for a permanent home for him.

Many of the pets in Blue Cross's care struggle being on their own in kennels for long periods and they genuinely seem to miss their home comforts. Some become quite stressed and anxious, making it hard to assess what type of new home would suit them best and for the pets themselves to show their true character to potential adopters.



Foster homes provide a much calmer space for pets and can also mean that they recover from operations and illnesses much quicker too! Blue Cross is particularly lacking in pet free homes which are needed for dogs or cats who struggle around other animals.

Maybe fostering a pet is too much for you but you would like to help? Blue Cross is looking for donations, such as toys or tasty treats for dog and cats.

So, can you help make a dog or cat happy this Christmas? If so, contact Blue Cross on 0300 777 1540 or email thirsk@bluecross.org.uk

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Poppy Mystery

One of the questions asked most in Topcliffe last month was: "Who is the mystery person or persons making and displaying poppies throughout the village" in the run up to Armistice Day?

There were lots of names mentioned and each one denied it was them. So, who was the mysterious person or group that came out in the dark hours to festoon trees and buildings with remembrance poppies?

Maybe we'll never know the answer...or perhaps we'll find out in November next year?

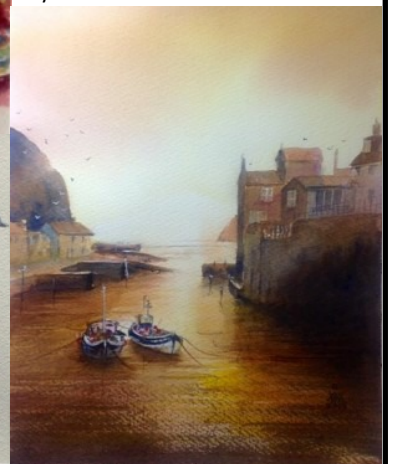


ART CONNECTIONS

Artists Barry and Vivien Wilton-Middlemass take art classes at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall every Monday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm. Classes restart on **Monday, 16 September**.



No matter what your level – beginners to advanced – we would be delighted if you come and join us. There's always something new to learn and if you are not sure of your capabilities please simply come along and have a chat and a try.



Call Barry mob: 07909 690543 or
Email: jbm.lockwoodbeck@btopenworld.com

Coffee morning with a difference!

Every year there is a national celebration aimed at highlighting the importance of village halls within local communities.

The 2020 event will be held from 20 to 26 January and our villages are taking part. The Village Hall Committee has agreed to organise a coffee morning with a difference between 10am and noon on Saturday, 25 January.

Our village hall is different - possibly unique - in that it is shared between two communities on opposite sides of a river, in different parishes, different boroughs, different county divisions and even different parliamentary constituencies. That means that we have double the number of elected representatives who are there to look after our interests!

With that in mind, parish councillors, district council and county council representatives and our two Members of Parliament have been invited to come along and meet their constituents and see our excellent village hall. It will be a great opportunity for elected politicians and residents of Topcliffe and Asenby to get together over a cup of tea or coffee in a friendly environment.

As an extra attraction, a fascinating slideshow featuring images of our two villages now and over the last century and including the changing face of our village hall over the years, will be projected on the large screen throughout the morning.

Asenby village playground

I am happy to report that the playground equipment and surface passed the ROSPA safety inspection organised by the Parish Council in September.

The committee previously responsible for the playground has been disbanded and so responsibility has passed by default to the Parish Council who own the land on which the playground is sited.

According to the Inspector's report, no immediate action is required under health and safety regulations. However, it was agreed at the September meeting of the Parish Council that the playground is looking tired and would benefit from renovation. This would take a considerable sum of money and the Parish Council has no funds available to upgrade it. Funding schemes are available but require matched funding of at least £7,000. The Parish Council precept is £1,350 per annum and of

A Thought for Christmas

All I want for Christmas is...my two front teeth. All I want for Christmas is...you!

What do you want for Christmas? Please don't say that you don't want anything, because Christmas is for the kiddies, really. That couldn't be further from the truth. Christmas is the greatest gift for all of us.

Perhaps if you go by the message in many of the Christmas cards, the thing that we wish most for each other, and so presumably for ourselves, too, is peace and joy. And it's right to keep wanting...wishing for...longing for these things, year after year. They are the bedrock of our lives, the things that make all the difference to our health and well-being as individuals and as a community.

For Christians, especially at this time of year, peace and joy are to be found in the person of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, 'God with us' - Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. But just recognizing that doesn't mean that instantly 'all will be well'. It means that we commit ourselves to standing alongside the Prince of Peace and, learning from him, making the most of the opportunities that we find ourselves presented with day by day. It is about making that commitment to be peace-makers and peace-keepers in our homes, amongst our friends and neighbours.

And we can't be peace-makers and peace-keepers for others if we're not at peace within ourselves too, so it's about, with Christ, tackling our own disease as well.

Your Christmas might be quiet...it might be full of noise and busyness. However it is, I wish you the peace of right-relationships, and the joy that comes from that. The details of our Christmas worship can be found elsewhere in The Tattler, or on the A Church Near You, Topcliffe, website. Do join us if you can, and be reminded of God's great love for you, and of the greatest gift of all.

Every Christmas blessing, to you and yours!

Rev. Susanne Jukes

this £500 is spent cutting the grass on the playground and playing field and a further £124 on the annual ROSPA inspection.

The Parish Council propose to hold a village meeting next Spring to discuss the future of the playground and the surrounding playing fields.

*Peter Palmer
Chairman, Asenby Parish Council*

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Festive celebrations start early



On 8 December residents living in Asenby attended the village's annual Christmas get-together to enjoy mince pies, mulled wine and good company. It was held at the home of Peter and Judith Lowe at Green End Dairy, Asenby.

Over thirty senior citizens of Asenby and Topcliffe enjoyed Christmas lunch in the Village Hall on 10 December. A three-course festive lunch, with a choice of wine, mince pies and coffee was very much enjoyed by those present. Entertainment was provided by Thirsk U3A's Ukulele group and by local musicians Alan Nuttall and Julian Capell.



Memorials on the move

The Second World War memorial that has been on display in the Methodist Chapel for many years has now been moved to a new location - the Village Hall.

Following the decision of the Methodist authorities to put the Chapel up for sale for housing development a new home for two war memorials had to be found. The one pictured - with the famous Mouseman of Kilburn mouse carved on the edge - is made of wood and needed to be kept indoors, so the entrance lobby at the hall seemed to be an ideal choice.



The other memorial, which is made of stone, is much larger and is a memorial to local men who died in the First World War, will be relocated quite soon to a special resting place in the Jubilee Gardens, just across the road from the Methodist Chapel. It's hoped that plans will be finalised fairly soon and we'll report the move in a future edition of *The Tattler*.

Safe and Well

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service is offering free "Safe and Well" visits to anyone who would benefit from free fire safety advice at home. These visits involve a member of the Brigade coming to your home to give you tailored fire safety advice including:

- Identifying potential fire risks in your home.
- Giving advice on how to reduce and prevent fires.
- Information about bedtime routines to help keep you safe at night.
- Helping you make an escape plan for if there is a fire.
- Checking you have working smoke alarms and know how to test them.

They can also give advice about other health and well being topics and suggest support you can get from other organisations. This may include information on how to get further advice or help avoiding falls, giving up smoking, keeping your home warm or living with dementia.



If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a visit you can book by phone by calling 01609 788545 or online at www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/communitysafety/sw/swform

Loose Chippings hit the road

There was a barnstorming performance by the popular Thirsk-based band The Loose Chippings at the Village Hall at the end of November.

The five-piece group had caught the mood of the audience and had them singing and dancing along to a long list of favourites from the 60s through to the current day.



The sixty people present had a very nice supper prepared by Karen Morley and Linda Carver and on the night £370 was raised for village hall funds.

Tidying up Topcliffe

Despite the rain and autumnal gloom, there was an enthusiastic turnout again for the latest Topcliffe tidy-up. The focus this time was on Winn Lane Cemetery which was in great need of some hacking and chopping, sweeping and weeding. All ages joined in - from the very young to the less young - but there was a lovely atmosphere of camaraderie and good humour.

Following the grafting, hot soup and sandwiches were served at the village hall, giving everyone a chance to warm up and discuss the next project. Even hard labour can become a habit it seems!

Also receiving a much-needed facelift is the children's play area where safety measures are being upgraded and improvements have begun.



Heather Holt, the tidy-up organiser, and Karen Cussens attack the wild undergrowth which had become overgrown

Aussie finds her Topcliffe roots

Readers of *The Tattler* may remember an obituary for Miss Jean Dickenson a few years ago. Indeed, many residents will remember the lady herself. Topcliffe born and bred, she never married and had no children but her niece, Jan, although now living in Lancaster, remains a regular visitor to the village and still retains her connections.

Two years ago, a long-lost Australian relative with a passion for family history, found a link via Jean's obituary in an old edition of *The Tattler* online. Immediately the relative, Jane Enright, managed to get in contact with Jan and there followed lots of emails and exchanges of information about the Dickenson family.



Jane (left) and Jan

During the summer Jane visited England and travelled to Topcliffe to meet Jan and look around the village, particularly the church and cemetery. She was extremely enthusiastic about the information she discovered and loved exploring the area where so many members of her family had originated. And of course, meeting a member of her family who, until two years ago she hadn't known existed, must have been quite a thrill.

Merry Christmas

The *Tattler's* Editorial and Production team wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your next *Tattler* will be issued in March 2020.

Best wishes

Doug Allan, Alexandra Ventress and Charles Collinson

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.

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 year ago, back into use as a community asset. To register your interest in getting involved, visit www.herrioth.org.uk or call 01609 777413.



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Topcliffe Fri 5 - 7.30pm
Saturday openings suspended until the Spring**

**TEL 07515 422202
or 01845 595967
www.chipndales.co.uk**

Crematorium to be built

Land near near Skipton Bridge has been revealed as the site for a new crematorium to serve the Hambleton area.

Hambleton District Council has given approval to the plan on a 22-acre site and has provided £250,000 in its capital programme to fund design, surveys and site assessments needed to reach a planning submission and contractor appointment.

The people of Hambleton currently have to travel some miles out of the district to crematoriums in neighbouring areas and they often have to endure a considerable wait for appointments, before they can say goodbye to their loved ones.

Get on Message

I'm always amazed to hear reports of locals who say they had no idea that such and such an event was being held or state that they never know what is going on in Topcliffe & Asenby.

The fact is that our two villages have considerable communications capacity – the two village websites, the quarterly *Tattler*, posters, A boards, notice boards and a regular email circulation to those who have agreed to be included.

And, of course, word of mouth is one of the best ways to spread messages about what's coming up at the village hall and other locations...and we all know that this method of communication is alive and well!

I'm fairly content that organisers are doing the best they can to promote the events they are arranging, but what else can we do to ensure that everyone knows what being planned and when? I'd certainly welcome any affordable ideas for improving the spread of information.

Personally, I think the regular email circulation is perhaps the most direct method of communication – though of course it's only available to those with computers or smart phones. There's currently over 150 contacts on the circulation list and I'm happy for it to keep growing until everyone's on it. To be included simply drop me an email at doug@dougallan.co.uk and I'll add you to the list. If you hear someone say they didn't know what was going on in our villages, suggest they add their name to the circulation too!

Doug Allan
Editor

Snooker Club

Subscriptions are still only £25 a year.

The Snooker Club situated in the Toll Booth, is excellent value. There are two tables, one full size and one three quarters; the club is heated, and you get your own key so you can play whenever you like. The club welcomes new members but under-18s must be accompanied by parents. Contact Dave Bowman on 577843



Light up a Life

Villagers from Topcliffe, Asenby and the surrounding area are invited to a special Christmas service to celebrate the lives of their loved ones during the festive period.

Herriot Hospice Homecare is hosting the service at St Mary's Church in Thirsk on Saturday 14th December at 4pm. The event will involve readings, carols and the opportunity to dedicate a light on the Christmas tree to remember those you remember and love at this special time of year.

You can contact the fundraising team at Herriot Hospice on 01609 710514, email fr.team@herriothh.org.uk or visit www.herriothh.org.uk to find out more and make your dedication.

Village Meeting Dates

Topcliffe Parish Council
1st Thursday of the month.

Asenby Parish Council
3rd Wednesday of alternate months.

Village Hall Committee
next meeting in February 2020

Check out specific dates on our village websites:

www.topcliffe.org.uk

www.asenby.net



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THE
Angel
at TOPCLIFFE

WHAT'S ON

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
FROM THE TEAM AT THE ANGEL WE'D LIKE TO
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT

BOXING DAY KARAOKE 5-10pm

"Sing for your supper"
FREE FINGER BUFFET
at 5pm



FREE POOL
12-10pm

2020 *THE Angel* NEW YEAR'S EVE CHARITY DO IN THE PLAZA



YORKSHIRE
AIR AMBULANCE

70's & 80's DISCO RETRO BUFFET

TICKETS £20
PORTION OF PROCEEDS GO TO YAA

DRESS AS YOU FANCY - 8pm till late

Long St, Topcliffe, Thirsk YO7 3RW 01845 578000

2020 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

4 COURSE DINNER
IN THE GRILL
£36.95pp
BOOKINGS ONLY



PARTY ON!
IN THE BAR
DJ...9pm-late
ALL WELCOME!



TO SEE ALL OUR EVENTS FOR 2020



Including by popular demand "Steve V King" and muh more....



Get set for 2020
With a Tasty New Year's Day Brunch
Here's a small selection of what's on offer for you

BREAKFASTS

The Angel Full English to Eggs Benedict...

PUB FAVOURITES

Beer Battered Haddock to Steak & Ale Pie...

SWEET TREATS

Sticky Toffee Pudding to Buttermilk Pancake Stack...

BOOKINGS NOW TAKEN! Served 11am - 4pm

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

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