## Have a very merry Christmas

As we approach the end of one of the worst years that most of us can remember, there's only Christmas and the festive season left to brighten the final days of 2020.

We all know now that North Yorkshire is in tier 2, which is a category up from the restrictions we had pre-lockdown. But the government offered us a bit of festive good news when it announced a five-day relaxation for Christmas so that families can celebrate together.

Families can form "Christmas bubbles" of three households over a five-day period between 23 and 27 December. The three households can meet each other in each other's homes or in an outdoor public space or garden and can even stay together overnight. However, the bubbles must be fixed - so you will not be able to mix with two households on Christmas Day and two different ones on Boxing Day - and households in your bubble can't bubble with anyone else.

Whilst this will bring festive joy to many, others will be alarmed that such a relaxation of the contact rules will simply lead to another increase in the number of infections, more hospitalisations and ultimately more deaths. The choice is ours to make. But whichever way you go please remember the Prime Minister's words - "have a jolly good Christmas but please be jolly careful".



## **Getting in the Christmas spirit**

Households in Topcliffe and Asenby have certainly shown tremendous Christmas spirit by decorating the front of their homes and gardens, ensuring that flashing bright lights help take our minds off the continuing gloom caused by the virus.



For the second year in succession, we have a village Christmas tree outside the village hall in Topcliffe. This year the tree was kindly donated by Debbie Roberts, Hannah Alderson and Kerry Parker of The Milk Churn Farm Shop.

Many thanks to them and also to the team of volunteers who put it up and decorated it - Andrew Eckersley, Malcolm Morley, Karen Morley, Peter Lowe and Doug Allan.

Although quite a few decorations had been collected together last year, we hadn't enough to properly decorate this year's larger size tree. So, Jenny Bumby got to work with some parents and their children to make homemade baubles that were then added to the tree. Then a suggestion that every household should donate at least one bauble produced a fantastic response and the tree is now fully dressed and amazing.

## Your village hall needs you!

An appeal for more villagers to step forward to join the Village Hall Committee has attracted interest from two Asenby residents - Clare Feasby and Sarah Halshaw.



Both volunteers attended an online meeting of the committee and have agreed to become committee members with immediate effect.

Recently Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee appealed for more residents to volunteer to become involved in running the hall.

Members, Emily Collard and Jenny Bumby, pointed out that they are by far the youngest committee members and said they are keen to have more younger people join them to manage the hall, which is the social hub serving our two villages.

Emily said: "Without wanting to be disrespectful, the fact is that many committee members have served their community for many years and we need new blood to ensure that this important community building is retained and maintained."

Jenny added: "It is only the willingness of volunteers to give up a little of their free time now and again that ensures that the village hall is available for everyone's use and enjoyment. I am so pleased that Sarah and Clare have agreed to join us."

Unfortunately the hall is closed at present because of Covid-19, but we look forward to seeing activities get underway again next year.

If anyone else would like to chat about putting their name forward to join the committee, feel free to call Emily on 07843 274604 or Jenny on 577483. Alternatively talk to committee chairman Andrew Eckersley on 577648.

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Open 7am to 5pm weekdays. 7am to 12 noon Saturdays. Closed Sundays.

### O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree

Now here's a tale of Christmas past that should give heart to all those green and environmentally friendly people who like to plant their real Christmas tree in the garden once the festivities are over.

The tree in this photograph was planted after Christmas about 70 years ago by Jack Ellis who lived in South View cottage Asenby. It now stands prominent in the garden of Les and Vona Parker's



new home at Meadow View, which has been built in what was originally part of South View's garden.

Vona, who is Jack's daughter, said: "I remember that my dad always planted out our Christmas trees and several have survived to this day. My mum Connie would say "It'll never grow", but dad would respond by saying "Oh ye of little faith". Well I guess dad was right."

### **Care for Christmas**

Herriot Hospice Homecare (HHH) has launched a 'Care for Christmas' campaign which aims to raise funds and awareness of its services in the community over Christmas and beyond. Their dedicated teams are working tirelessly to deliver vital hospice care services, support for NHS colleagues and assistance for the wider community. In this time of crisis more support than ever is required. The campaign features three fun and easy fundraising activities, which encourage people to keep active and connected throughout lockdown:

Christmas night in - in light of many Christmas parties being cancelled, HHH can provide resources for households to have a fun virtual Christmas night in. The pack includes a best/worst Santa jumper competition, a sure way to bring plenty of smiles and laughter to your team, and it also includes a quiz. In return, HHH simply asks for a donation of the savings you would have spent on a night out!

**E-cards** - HHH can provide bespoke Herriot Hospice Homecare e-cards to send to your colleagues, family and friends. This is a great way to show you're supporting your community by being affiliated with your local charity as well as being environmentally conscious.

Christmas challenge - whether it's step based, running or walking HHH is challenging you to get active. You could raise some smiles in a festive outfit, for example. In return for your donation or getting sponsored you will receive a special Santa medal if you raise £50 or more. HHH also has a limited supply of Santa hats, which are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Support of this campaign will help HHH care for more local families living with terminal illnesses and bereavement across Hambleton in a very challenging environment. To receive a free pack, contact Lucy on 01609 777413 or email lucy.turner@herriothh.org.uk To donate please visit the website at:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/HHHCareforChristmas

## Stamp of approval for St Columba's

The Nativity scene in one of the spectacular stained-glass windows in Topcliffe's St Columba church features in a range of stamps issued by Royal Mail for Christmas postings. Six parish churches from across England are included in the new set.

When former vicar of Topcliffe Susanne Jukes was contacted to explain how St Columba's had been selected she recounted the secret communications that had gone on with Royal Mail. She said: "In September 2019 I had a strictly confidential letter out of the blue from Royal Mail saying that they were working on a set of Nativity stamps for Christmas 2020 and that a stained-glass window in the Chancel at St Columba's was an option. It was a lovely surprise but I've no idea how they came to know about the window.

"Eventually I was shown a copy of the proposed design, though at that point there was no cost indicated on the stamp: in the end it became the £2.50 stamp in the set.



"Throughout the process the emphasis was on confidentiality until the Royal

Mail was ready to announce details of its festive stamp set. As you can imagine that has been very hard as I was so proud that I wanted to tell everyone about it.

"St Columba's is blessed by having glorious stained-glass windows by artist Michael Halliday. The rich colours bathe worshipers while the image is a constant reminder that God meets us in our daily lives through the birth of Jesus Christ. Parishioners treasure these windows and are delighted that via the Christmas stamp they can share a little bit of their blessing with a wider group of people. It's such a privilege that 'our' glass has been chosen, and it's good to have a little bit of cheer at what is otherwise a difficult time in our community life."

### The Burne-Jones window

The three-section panel of stained glass that includes the one used for the stamp is often referred to as the 'Burne-Jones window'. Sir Edward Burne-Jones designed the left-hand panel (looking from inside the church) depicting the Annunciation and featuring Angel Gabriel and Mary. Unusually, this window by the artist is actually signed. Sir Edward had been an apprentice of the renowned Pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti.



The other two panels - the Visitation (Mary and Elizabeth) and the Birth or Holy Family (Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus) - are obviously by a different hand and have been attributed to Michael Frederick Halliday (1822-1866).

The three panels date circa. 1860 and were made by Lavers & Barraud.

## The Swan At Topcliffe

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Take-away food will be served from 5 to 9pm and 12 noon to 4pm Sundays.

We are operating social distancing rules to ensure yours and our staff's safety.

Jane, George and staff look forward to seeing you all and we thank everyone for being so supportive and understanding during this crisis.

A
VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYONE



01845 595185

## **Topcliffe Remembers**

Due to the pandemic, this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations across the UK, including Topcliffe, were cancelled, curtailed or moved online.



On Remembrance Day - 11 November - lots of residents in our two villages paused to mark the 102nd anniversary of the signing of the First World War armistice and many commemorated the important day by standing on their doorsteps for two minutes at 11am as a mark of respect.

And, on the church wall in Jubilee Gardens in Topcliffe a village memorial was created which included a wreath placed by Topcliffe Parish Council on behalf of all villagers and a soldier carved by Malcolm Morley.





The TATtler 4 www.asenby.net

## **Update from Cllr Mark Robson**

Leader of Hambleton Council and District councillor for Topcliffe

2020 will go down as a year we all would like to forget. We'll all be pleased when it is over and hopefully the new year will bring us vaccines that will allow us to get back to our normal lives.

Obviously much of Hambleton Council's attention these last nine months has been on supporting communities, businesses and individuals to manage during the pandemic and I am proud of the way in which staff, councillors and associates have worked together to deliver financial support and much-needed services where they were most needed. I'd like to thank everyone who has played even a small part in this process.

The pandemic may have taken priority, but the business of running a busy council has had to go on regardless and as businesses reopened after lockdown number two, I was happy to announce that car parking charges at Hambleton Council sites, which includes many town centres in the District, have been suspended from early December to the 3 January.



It has been an extremely difficult year for businesses in our area and whilst we have done what we could to assist them, I hope this concession will give them a muchneeded boost in trading in the festive period. Similarly, I hope the free car parking will encourage people to shop in their local centres and support Hambleton businesses. But please continue to maintain social distance, wear your mask and keep safe.

Many of you will know that at the start of the pandemic the Council gave cash awards to lots of community organisations, including Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall and local scout groups, that couldn't operate effectively during the pandemic, but who still had to meet unavoidable costs. Our 'Making a Difference' grants were a lifeline and helped ensure their survival until now. In recognition of the ongoing need I intend to double the available fund to £250,000 to help these organisations

keep going until they are operating normally again.

We all know that food banks have become a lifeline for many families. The voluntary sector is doing an amazing job collecting and redistributing food to those in need and that job is likely to be even more difficult over the festive season. That's why Hambleton Council has given £5,000 to each of the food banks in the District's five main market towns - including Thirsk - to help them ensure no one goes hungry this Christmas.

I am very happy to report that work started last month on the new crematorium near Skipton on Swale. The multimillion-pound project on a 22-acre site to be named Maple Park, will feature a revolutionary electric cremator which will significantly reduce emissions and therefore the area's carbon footprint. This is a welcome facility for our District, with mourners currently having to travel at least 40 minutes, to lay their loved ones to rest and often having to wait lengthy times to get a slot which is an added strain at an already difficult time. I am confident the state-of-the-art facility combined with the rural setting will offer people an appropriate and peaceful experience. The development work will take about 10 months to complete.

You can read elsewhere in The *Tattler* about the remedial works to the junction at Dalton Bridge which are now complete. I hope that this extra work and investment will effectively resolve this long-running matter and that the improved highway will continue to contribute to the success of this important commercial area.

Finally, this has been a painful year for many people and a difficult and miserable one for us all. Everyone will be happy to see the back of 2020 and hope that the pandemic will come to an end early next year when the various vaccines are available. Let's hope that we can soon get our lives back to normal. I wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas.

### Could you lend an ear?

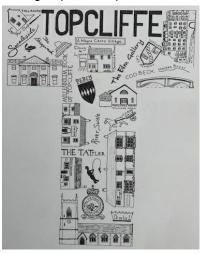
During 2019, more than 20,000 people volunteered their time for Samaritans and their role was crucial in dealing with calls for help and running over 200 branches. Volunteers take a call every six seconds and every year they answer more than 5 million calls for help by phone, email, SMS, letter, or face to face at a local branch.

The charity is dedicated to reducing the feelings of isolation and disconnection that can lead to suicide and it works to make sure there's always someone there, for anyone who needs someone.

The Northallerton and The Dales branch, founded in 1964, was the first rural branch in the country and came about as a direct result of the hardship and difficulties experienced by the local farming community at that time. They are looking for new volunteers so if you would like to find out more about becoming a Samaritans volunteer please email volunteering@samaritans-northallerton.org

## 'T' is for Topcliffe

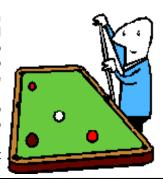
Editor Doug Allan recently received a great piece of art drawn in black ink by his sister. The work is in the shape of a 'T' for Topcliffe and within the large-scale letter are images of the village's many old buildings and references to historical facts. Doug said "One of my sisters originally did a drawing like this based on the M in Middlesbrough for another member of our family. I was impressed and asked if she'd do one for me about Topcliffe. I think she has done a wonderful job and she has caught a real flavour of the village - past and present."



### **Snooker Club**

Fees for annual membership of Topcliffe's popular snooker club have again been held at £25 and are due now. Past members and those not planning to rejoin this year (September onwards) are asked to return their door key to David Bowman (577843).

The club, which is located on the upper floor of the Toll Booth, is always welcoming to new members. It has two tables - one full size and the other three-quarter size. Members hold their own key so can gain entry at any time to the heated accommodation. Under 18s can play but must be accompanied by an adult.



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### What a shocker!

When Blue Cross volunteers and Thirsk Wombles picked up litter along the road between Topcliffe and Busby Stoop - a stretch of road about three miles long - they were astounded at how much they collected. Just look at the bags full of other people's rubbish. Pretty disgusting that people throw rubbish from car windows and ruin our environment when it's so easy to take it home.



Litter pick from Blue Cross - Oct 2020

## **Merry Christmas from The Elm Gallery**

It has been a challenging year for The Elm Gallery. Like many small businesses, we've found it hard to plan ahead. During the second lockdown, we've been very encouraged by increasing online sales and local people ordering things to collect from the gallery door. Thank you for your support - it is greatly appreciated!

The gallery re-opened on Wednesday 2 December and we plan to be open almost every day up to and including Christmas Eve. The same Covid-19 safety rules will apply as before. Only one person/couple/bubble will be allowed in the gallery at any one time and hands must be sanitised before entering. In addition to being open each day from 10am till 5.30pm, we will be happy to open by prior arrangement in the evenings. Please contact us on 577316 to arrange a time.

We have many beautiful things in the gallery, most of which are made by local crafts people. Some are very local and made at the gallery. Our Christmas bottles with miniature prints are selling well and our Hope Angels are very popular. We're busy making Snow Women too and they now feature in our Christmas window display.

We hope that in this very strange year, you are all able to enjoy Christmas and spend time with at least some of your family and friends. Let's hope for a healthier and happier 2021. We send our love to you all and wish you a very Happy Christmas!

Liz, Dave and Bess.





## FARM SHOP





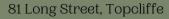


We offer a fabulous variety of fresh local meat, fish, fruit and veg. A selection of yorkshire gins, craft beers and cider can be purchased.

We have a range of beautiful gifts for any occasion and festive decorations for your tree! Its our first Christmas in the farm shop and we are providing Christmas trees, puddings and Christmas cakes along with everything else you need for the festive period.

## Open

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm Thursday (half day) 9am-1pm Sunday - CLOSED









www.milkchurnfarmshop.co.uk

## Parish Council keeps active during pandemic

### Roy Beckwith, Vice Chair, Topcliffe Parish Council

The Covid-19 pandemic and recent second lockdown may have changed the way your local representatives are operating and curtailed some activities and plans, but we've managed to achieve quite a lot.

Since September we've held three online Zoom meetings and have managed to keep business matters ticking over. Here's an update on some of the parish matters that have been completed or are progressing.

Dean's Square/Back Lane public footpath - the path has now been re-laid with crushed stone and it's looking neat and tidy again. The rain that fell immediately after the job was completed drained away quickly indicating that the previous water problem standing appears to have been resolved. Surplus crushed stone was used to resurface part of the entrance to the playing field.



**Sheep Wash** - unsafe trees have been removed and wildflower seeds have been sown and rolled into the grassed area. This was done before the November high waters and we are anticipating a beautiful flowering next spring. However, just to be on the safe side, half of the seed has been held back so that we can re-sow in spring if needed.

Lorry Watch Scheme - we have set up an official lorry watch scheme in association with the Trading Standards Department of the county council. So far we have reported over forty HGVs to the department for them to check out to see if the lorry journeys through our village were legitimate. We will continue to actively operate the scheme and monitor its effectiveness in reducing illegal HGV traffic passing through Topcliffe.

Vehicle activated speed sign - it is still early days, but first indications are that the sign obtained by the Parish Council is having some effect in reducing speeding traffic. We'll be analysing the large amounts of data collected from the sign, which is moved around two separate locations, and also looking for hard evidence to support any reports we produce. Broadly, the data gathered so far shows:

The number of vehicles passing each of the sign locations is as high as to 2,000 per day.

Of these, 25-30% of the vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit.

The average speed of those exceeding the limit was around 35mph.

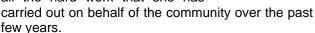
**Playing field and cemetery fencing** - considerable amounts of fencing has fallen into disrepair and will repaired/replaced as soon as prevailing conditions allow.

**The Toll Booth** - an expert review of the repairs required to this historic listed building has been undertaken. The

building's upkeep and maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council, and councillors fully recognise the importance of establishing the scale of the problem and the best way to tackle and fund the repairs.

#### Other council matters

Heather Holt recently submitted her resignation from the Parish Council. We wish to thank her for all the hard work that she has



Anyone interested in the vacant Parish Councillor position created by Heather's departure should send their application to the Parish Council Clerk (topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com) - see page 11.

The date of the part Parish Council meeting will be

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be dependent on the prevailing pandemic situation. Please check the website or the village hall notice board for details.



Traffic through Topcliffe has steadily increased over the last few years and is considered by many to be a significant issue that needs attention. The belief is that many vehicles entering and leaving the village are speeding and the sheer volume of traffic, particularly at peak times, makes crossing main roads a risky business.

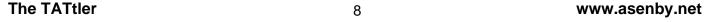
Last year North Yorkshire County Council's highways department carried out a traffic survey on behalf of the Parish Council. That resulted in permission being granted for the installation of a radar speed sign at two sites, one on Long Street and the other on Station Road just past the school.

The sign has been in operation for several months and the data collected indicates that 25-30% of all vehicles are significantly above the speed limit when approaching the sign. It does appear that the majority of road users slow down when the sign illuminates, which is a real positive, but further action may be needed in future. The data collected also shows that vehicle numbers are high, with a large number of vehicles travelling through the village particularly at peak times.

Another issue concerns the number of lorries using the village as a short cut. Our village roads, particularly Church Street, are not suitable for large, heavy vehicles. Yet it is a daily occurrence that we see articulated lorries squeezing through between parked cars and often mounting the pavement in the process. HGVs of over 7.5 tonnes are only permitted access through the village if they are from local businesses and where no alternative access is available or if they are delivering in the village.

The Parish Council has joined North Yorkshire Lorry Watch scheme and HGVs thought to be using the village illegally are being reported to trading standards, the department responsible for legal enforcement. Letters have also been sent to all local businesses asking them to require their lorry drivers 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



## Silver Award for thinking philosophically

Pupils and staff at Topcliffe CofE Academy have received a Silver Award from national charity SAPERE to mark the school's outstanding commitment to and progress in Philosophy for Children (P4C).

P4C is an approach to teaching and learning which, research has shown, enhances children's thinking and communication skills, boosts their self-esteem, and improves their academic attainment.



Mrs Clay, headteacher with two of the school's Year 6 pupils

The SAPERE P4C Silver Award celebrates hard work to develop critical, creative, caring and collaborative thinking across a school. Silver Award schools have made P4C a regular part of teaching and learning and philosophical thinking is integrated across the curriculum.

Teachers use a stimulus, such as a picture book, video clip, or photograph, to help children to explore big philosophical concepts such as fairness, bravery, friendship, conflict and respect.

Pupils then create philosophical questions about the concepts, such as: Is it ever OK to lie? Do we have to respect everyone? Can good people do bad things? Having chosen the question they wish to explore, they are encouraged to discuss and challenge ideas as a group. As the questions grow more philosophical and imaginative, children learn to recognise and explore different perspectives.

It's believed that P4C boosts literacy and numeracy, particularly for disadvantaged children, as well as improving communication skills, teamwork and resilience.

Headteacher Mrs Abigail Clay, said: "Our school has worked with passion and determination to achieve this award and we are now focused on the gold award. The pupils of our academy get so much out of the rich P4C discussions that help pupils articulate their thoughts and feelings about the world around them. I am so proud of all the staff and pupils for achieving this award."

## Extra work at Dalton Bridge completed

Additional work on the Dalton Bridge and the surrounding flood alleviation scheme has been completed.

The project, jointly funded by North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council, aimed to deal with some contributory causes of flooding that were not apparent when the original improvement scheme, which cost £4.1 million, was implemented.

The unprecedented flooding which was caused by back to back storms in February this year highlighted the need for further works to ensure the scheme performs as intended.

An extensive investigation by the County Council, identified that work was needed to raise part of Dalton Lane, which involved infilling between the flood embankments close to the A168 and the reconstruction of the road.

North Yorkshire County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Highways, said: "The original project and these additional works have proved vital in ensuring jobs and growth in the area are supported. We had unprecedented rainfall in February and raising the level of a short section of the access road was the most effective remedy to guard against future flooding events."

Leader of Hambleton District Council, Councillor Mark Robson, added: "We have worked closely with companies on the Dalton Industrial Estate for many years and can understand the disruption that the unprecedented February storms caused. This further work to safeguard against future adverse weather events was essential to ensure the economic stability and growth of local businesses."



## 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 Covid-19.

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 listens to what people like about services and what could be improved. It shares the public's views with those with the power to make change happen. It can also signpost people to local services and support.

The charity's current campaign aims to help services identify and, more importantly, address issues people are experiencing with their care. To take a survey and read more, visit www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk or call 01904 552687.

## Spooky times on Halloween Night

Families in both Topcliffe and Asenby made the most of this year's Halloween celebrations despite the difficulties of the coronavirus pandemic.



Halloween in Asenby

As traditional trick or treat activities couldn't take place because of the virus, imaginative children and parents created spooky pumpkin trails in our two villages.



Lilly Heidstrom and cousins Harper and Tiffany Halliday get in the spirit of things

Lots of residents got into the spirit of things with carved pumpkins and scary creatures on doorsteps and in gardens.

It might not have been the same as in past years, but everybody made the most of the evening and 'spooktacular' fun was had by all.

### Services at St Columba's

Although there may yet be further rules and restrictions from both the government and the Church of England regarding Christmas services, it is planned that the following services will go ahead during December.

Sunday 13th December at 10.45am, Holy Communion led by Reverend Terry Dyer

Sunday 20th December at 10.45am, Sung Matins

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December at 11.30pm, 'Midnight' Holy Communion led by Reverend Terry Dyer

Sunday 27th December there will be no service

On Sunday 20th at 6.30 pm, there will be a suitably Covid-safe shortened service using the traditional readings, but without congregational carols. It is hoped that the choir will be able provide some accompaniment.

The St Columba's community would like to wish all in our villages, their families and friends a very happy Christmas, with every hope that all can stay safe and healthy, and that everyone can look forward to better things next year. A huge thank you to those who have supported the efforts to re-open St Columba's for worship in these very difficult times.



## Village Hall Closure Extended

Following the government having placed North Yorkshire in tier 2 restrictions from 2 December the Village Hall Committee met to consider the implications for Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall.

The committee had earlier agreed that the hall would remain closed until the end of this year but has now reluctantly agreed that it will remain closed until the end of March 2021.



This position will be reviewed in February, or at any time the government guidelines are changed significantly to allow a safe re-opening with less complex and arduous requirements on users and the committee.

#### Re-scheduled events

The Challenge Quiz & Curry Night and The Topcliffe Big Race Night, both of which were postponed due to the pandemic, will be rescheduled as soon as possible once the pandemic is over or the committee believes it is safe to stage them.

## **Parish Vacancy**

Topcliffe Parish Council would welcome applications from residents of the parish for a co-opted councillor vacancy.

The ideal candidate will have a keen interest in local matters, be available to regularly attend monthly meetings and actively participate in the work of the Parish Council.

Interested parties should apply by email or in writing outlining the reasons they wish to be considered, including any skills and experience that they will bring.

Please either email topcliffeparishcouncil@gmail.com or write to The Clerk, Topcliffe Parish Council, Wagtail Barn, South Otterington, Northallerton, DL7 9HW.



The Tattler production team wish all readers a very merry stmas Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

### **Green waste and Christmas trees**

Garden waste collections have been suspended during the winter months and the regular service will resume mid-February.

In Topcliffe there will be a green bin collection on 14 January, mainly for Christmas trees, but normal garden waste is accepted as well. This service is only for residents who subscribe to the green waste system. Trees must be chopped up and placed inside the green bin, trees left at the side of bins or protruding from bins will not be collected.

There is no similar special collection in Asenby, so residents are just advised to cut up their tree and put it in the green waste bin.

Non subscribing residents will have to dispose of their trees themselves - trees can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Sandholme Lane, Sowerby, which is open from 8.30am until 4pm.

They are closed on 25th, 26th December and 1st January and every Wednesday.

Subscriptions to both Hambleton's and Harrogate's fortnightly green waste collection service for 2021 will open in January.

## The Virtual Village Hall

At a time when our own village hall remains closed because of coronavirus, you might be interested to learn about the Virtual Village Hall, which is being promoted by the Royal Voluntary Service, with support from The People's Postcode Lottery.

The Virtual Village Hall is a programme of themed online activities designed to enjoy at home. Sessions are led by expert tutors, Royal Voluntary Service activity coordinators, volunteers and some well-known faces, and require very little space or equipment.

You'll find a wide range of sessions to take part in, like creative arts and crafts, gardening and the outdoors, music and singing, cooking and baking, dance and exercise, health and beauty, and technology skills. You can join in with live sessions or catch up on demand when suits it you.

www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/virtual-village-hall







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