

# The TAttler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

## Nellie

Although Nellie Ascough was 98 when she died it didn't seem to have seriously occurred to anyone that she wouldn't make it to 100. She had certainly become more frail physically, but in spirit she could have been a much younger woman. She was full of determination, had an ongoing interest in everyday life, and a cracking sense of humour. And she was a great supporter of the local bus service and Greggs the bakers.

However, on Sunday February 18, Nellie had just enjoyed her usual breakfast of a bacon sandwich, when she suddenly collapsed and died in the kitchen with her son-in-law, Chris, nearby. As fitting an end as she would have wished, blighted tragically by the loss of her only daughter, Rose, just five days previously.

Nellie was very happy in her cottage in Front Street and took great pride in it. She had lived at Hill House for over 70 years and, although she wasn't born in Topcliffe, she was very much part of the village and had a great sense of belonging. She would not have wanted to go into a care home -



*Nellie and Yorkshire Vet Peter Wright, opening the New Improved Village Hall.*

independent for that - and besides, she had a team of friends and neighbours who took excellent care of her and she knew she was valued and loved by the community.

Even in her more fragile final weeks, Nellie would still be going out, whether it was to the Post Office for her pension, or catching the bus into Thirsk when her favourite taxi driver would always bring her home safely.

Tuesday afternoon Boccia provides gentle exercise and socialising for senior citizens in the village hall. Nellie was an impressively good player and proud that she was a valuable member of her team. She enjoyed the

conversation about local news, and the tea and cake at the interval. She famously loved her food.

Sunday was Nellie's special day when Rose, Chris, her granddaughters, Emma and Helen, and very new great-grandson, Jack, would visit. She would have already enjoyed lunch from The Swan courtesy of landlord George, and later she would happily provide tea for her family.

Nellie is greatly missed of course but she had a contented life and didn't seem to want or need anything more. Perhaps that's the secret of a long and happy life, that and the help and affection of thoughtful friends and neighbours. She didn't believe in going to funerals and indeed, had perhaps reached the stage of thinking that "death is nothing at all" and that she would be "only slipping away into the next room." Certainly, it's hard to believe that we won't see her making her way to the bus-stop in her nice bright orange coat ever again.

*Adapted from the eulogy read at Nellie's funeral and written by Malcolm and Sue Sollitt, and Liz Marsh (Nellie's very good friends).*

## Thank You

You very kindly sent a copy of the Winter 2017 edition of Tattler out to my daughter Jane Enright, here in Australia. I have to add my thanks to hers since another link has been established with my families origins.

The publication of Jane's letter on the front page made a great impression since I had no idea that she had written. Just a tiny bit disappointing that it appeared a few years too late to make contact with more folk who might have had memories to share. As Jane mentioned it has been a wonderful revelation to "meet" Jan Dickenson, whose father and my father were first cousins. As Jane mentioned my grandmother Mary Jane was a Dickenson from Topcliffe and her second son John Bernard Fyfe, my father, was born in Topcliffe. I seem to recall my grandmother telling me that she had played the organ and so it might have been in the church shown on the cover of Tattler. I wonder where that record could be located.

My huge regret is that I never visited Topcliffe at a time when there would have been folk still alive who knew the families.

Vicki again thanks for your kindness. I wish you well and here is a big greeting and best wishes to the folk of Topcliffe.

*Malcolm Fyfe*

## Asenby Street Carols

19<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Armed with torches and carol sheets, warmly dressed and in fine voice a jolly group of singers took to the streets of Asenby to bring cheer and much good will to the village residents! Among the group were Alice and Holly Binks and Tristan Port who along with Joy Port left no door "unknocked"!! A selection of favourite carols was sung in four parts which made for a harmonious blend of voices all ably led by Linda Hewlett. Fortunately, the evening was fine and dry and everyone warmly appreciated the singing and gave generously to the MacMillan nurses collection which totalled just over £213 which was an outstanding amount, so thank you to all of Asenby! A welcome glass of mulled wine and festive fare rounded off the evening back at Asenby Hall. Only a few months now until December so please do come next time and join in the singing around the village, date to be confirmed!!

*Clare Phillips*

## St. Columba's Nine Lessons and Carols

17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

This most worshipful and evocative service of Christmas music and readings was a timely period of quiet and reflection appreciated by all who attended. The church, resplendent in candle light, seasonal decorations, holly and ivy, Christmas tree and gleaming brass was filled with glorious singing from both the congregation and the choir. Among the traditional and more familiar Christmas carols were several pieces sung by the choir including the most beautiful O Magnum Mysterium by Lauridsen. The music, as always, chosen to reflect the readings, gave an atmosphere of the wonder and the true message of Christmas. The readers, who delivered the lessons with clarity and care, represented a diverse range of ages and different members of the congregation with the youngest being only 11 years old! Susanne Jukes and Richard Byas prayerfully led the service and welcomed the congregation to share in Christmas cheer after the service. A collection for the Thirsk Clock raised £525 which was an excellent and most generous gesture.

*Clare Phillips*

## Geraldine Douglas

Many people who live in Topcliffe and Asenby knew, and thought very highly of, Geraldine who tragically died recently. She had a kind heart, a warm smile and was always happy to engage in an entertaining and interesting conversation. She was good fun with a great sense of humour and a friendly personality. I always felt that it was a good day if she was in her front garden or her cosy conservatory when I was walking past because I knew we'd have a grand time putting the world to rights. And we would definitely find lots to laugh about.

Geraldine passed away far too soon. Mark and his family will always treasure their positive memories of a beautiful and popular person, yet it'll be a long time before we all stop expecting to see Geraldine pottering about in her garden and greenhouse, exchanging friendly greetings, and entertaining conversation. A sad time for everyone who knew her.

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Deer Shed

The ninth edition of the Deer Shed Festival returns to Baldersby Park from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018. As always the organisers have asked us to publish a telephone number that local residents can call over the festival weekend to communicate any issues relating to noise coming from the site.

That telephone number is 07934 349468 and it will be answered whilst the event is in progress.

As ever this increasingly popular event requires volunteers to run well and if you would like to volunteer, in return for a free weekend ticket, please find details at [www.deershedfestival.com/volunteer](http://www.deershedfestival.com/volunteer)

If you have any other concerns that you wish to express please email [info@deershedfestival.com](mailto:info@deershedfestival.com)

Yet again, there's an amazing programme of events. It's well worth checking it out on the website:

[www.deershedfestival.com](http://www.deershedfestival.com)

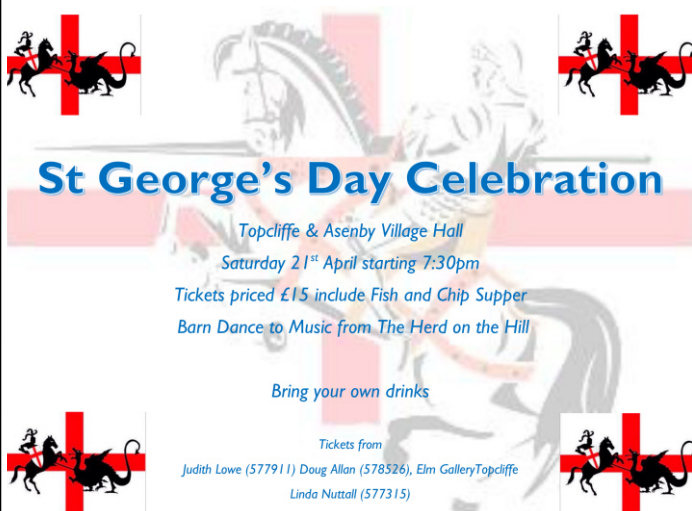
## Sowing The Seeds Of Success

It's nearly that time of year when things start getting active in the garden and greenhouse - vegetable beds are prepared and seeds are sown.

And for many enthusiasts, sights are set on the annual Produce Show, which this year will be staged on Saturday 25 August and which, as usual, will be held at Topcliffe & Asenby village hall.

The Categories and Classes remain the same as in 2017 and these can be read on both village websites. The general rules will remain as they are but in addition to the trophy awarded to the person with the most points overall in the horticultural section, there'll be an additional award to the person with most "firsts" in that section. The winner will receive a special Rose Bowl.

So, get gardening and good luck in the show!



**St George's Day Celebration**

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April starting 7:30pm  
Tickets priced £15 include Fish and Chip Supper  
Barn Dance to Music from The Herd on the Hill

Bring your own drinks

Tickets from  
Judith Lowe (577911) Doug Allan (578526), Elm Gallery Topcliffe  
Linda Nuttall (577315)

[www.Topcliffe.net](http://www.Topcliffe.net) & [www.Asenby.net](http://www.Asenby.net)  
[www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/topcliffeasenbyvillagehall)

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, the TATtler, pictures of Topcliffe, Asenby and a copy of the Millennium Book of Topcliffe.





## Scout Leader Abseils For Funds

Dave Baker, Assistant Leader with Topcliffe Scouts, the troop that meet each Friday in our village hall, was one of dozens of scouts from across the north-east who took their life in their hands doing a dare-devil abseil from the heights of Middlesbrough's famous Transporter Bridge.



*The Transporter Bridge, Middlesbrough.*

American state of West Virginia in 2019.

The Jamboree is held every four years and is the pinnacle global scouting event camp which is organised by the World Scout Organisation. In 2019 the USA, Canada and Mexico will be joint hosts and it's anticipated that the event will be the biggest of its kind ever staged.



*Dave prepares for his dare-devil drop.*



*Going down - there's no turning back now!*

Topcliffe's scout group is one of 36 units from North Yorkshire and Durham who will be sending scouts to the Jamboree, and they'll be representing the UK as a whole.

Dave and his colleague scouts will be organising many more fundraising events in the coming months and they hope that Topcliffe and Asenby residents might offer them some support.



The most recent Brunch in February was as popular as ever. £198.70 was raised for the Village Hall, proving that a good bacon or sausage sandwich appeals to everyone, especially pork lovers.

## Roadworks Underway

North Yorkshire County Council has contracted with Tarmac to carry out a range of roadworks on the A167 and in and around Topcliffe.

The works, which are now underway, consists of six main elements and the aim is to improve the safety of road users along the A167 by refreshing signs, laying new road markings, improving the surfacing through Topcliffe village and increasing the super elevation on the bend near Maddison 4x4 business.

The six elements are:

1. Topcliffe village: Resurface and replace/renew gully gratings/frames and service covers. Reset other ironworks. Reinstate road studs and reinstate/refresh road markings.
2. Signing: Signing works to take place at Busby Stoop roundabout, bend near Maddison 4x4 business, both sides of Catton Moor Lane, north of Topcliffe, adjacent Alanbrooke Barracks and in Topcliffe village. This will include directional signage, chevrons and warning signs.
3. Road markings: Centre line markings, 'SLOW' markings on the A61 Carlton road and the A167 Station Road on the approaches to Busby Stoop roundabout and a new 30mph speed roundal at the gateway on the north side of Topcliffe.
4. Alanbrooke Barracks entrance area: Installation of tactile crossings on dropped crossings - both sides of the carriageway - north of the barrack entrance, removal of existing kerbs to tip and replace with bus kerbs, (on both bus stops), reprofiling of footway at new bus kerbs, resurfacing existing footway both sides of the entrance to the barracks and on the opposite side, extension of hardstanding at northern shelter, installation of pedestrian refuge at northern bus shelter, installation of ghost island south of the southern bus shelter (to protect right hand turn lane) and provision of pedestrian friendly grating and frame.
5. Super elevation: Improvements to the super elevation north of Maddison 4x4 business - resurfacing, lining and signage works.
6. Drainage: Drainage grips to be installed at various locations along the A167 and clearing out of the existing ditch.

## Career Opportunity

A vacancy has arisen for the position of editor of a local paper. Amazingly no journalistic experience is necessary, just an interest in village affairs. A fair to middling standard of literacy would be an advantage but not a great desire for a high salary.

In fact, if you hadn't already guessed, the vacancy is to edit the Tattler, and could suit just one person, although it's less onerous as a joint effort. It might benefit a student who's interested in a career in journalism (not as silly as it sounds) as a cv which includes some experience is always better than none. Anybody can volunteer, however, and there is obviously no age limit.

There is also a vacancy for a typesetter for the Tattler and of course, computer skills are essential for this.

Please contact me, Vicki Moores, on 578076 if you would like to know more about these vacancies. Needless to say, there's no actual interview, just a friendly chat.

## News From The Elm Gallery

We will all breathe a sigh of relief when Spring finally arrives. For most small businesses, January and February are very quiet in terms of trade. Bad weather, especially snow, just adds an extra challenge. We are fortunate that we don't have far to go to work and we certainly don't need wellies! The upside of being quieter is that we have been able to spend lots of time working on the house side of the building. Since Christmas the house has been completely rewired, followed by re-plastering and a lot of decorating which we've done ourselves. It's a different kind of painting, but we've quite enjoyed it. There's still more to do, so don't be surprised if we come through to the gallery with paint-spattered clothes!

One of the highlights of the new season is that we visit the British Craft Trade Fair in Harrogate each April. This is an event at which artists, designers and a wide range of craftspeople exhibit their work, travelling from all parts of the UK. The people who visit are buyers who own a gallery or shop. It's a wonderful event and although some exhibits are not to our taste, most of it is beautiful and our choice is only limited by our buying power! We try to buy as much as we can from Yorkshire makers, but sometimes we buy from people much further away if they have unique products. Dave came with me last year and I expected him to have a tight rein on the purse strings, but he was just as enthusiastic as I was! We'll see what happens this year...



The photograph is of our back garden in the snow. Those of you who have lived in Topcliffe a long time may recognise the Topcliffe Post Office sign on our workshop building. The sign used to be on the front of our house when it was the village post office over 35 years ago.

Liz and Dave - [www.the-elm-gallery.co.uk](http://www.the-elm-gallery.co.uk)  
01845 577316 / 07709 223920

### MyTimeYoga

Yoga class from 1.45pm - 3pm on a Wednesday at Topcliffe and Asenby Village Hall.

The class starts with a period of settling and pranayama (breath work), warm up movements working towards the main posture of the day and then a time of stretching out and ending with everyone's favourite part - savasana (relaxation).

If you would like to know more:  
07944435718 [www.mytimeyoga.uk](http://www.mytimeyoga.uk)



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### Village Hall Fundraising

The Saturday morning Coffee Morning was a great success. Lots of chatter, lots of meeting up with people after a long winter's hibernation, and lots of cake. Over £330 was raised for Jerry Greens and Animal Rescue Crew. Karen Thomis presented a healthy cheque to a happy representative from Jerry Greens. Chester, the lovely dog from the rescue centre in Catton, was without doubt the star of the show.



### Village Hall Events

Monday Morning	Pilates 9am-12am	N. Brule Walker 07887 581364
Monday Afternoon	Art Class 12am-5pm	
Monday Evening	Yoga 7pm-11.30pm	B. Walmsley 577976
Tuesday Afternoon	Boccia/Tues Club 12am-5pm	J. Lowe 577911
Tuesday Afternoon	Book Exchange 12am-5pm	L. Nuttall 577315
Tuesday Evening	Footloose Dance	E. Jakeman 07912 147386
Wednesday Morning	Daisychain 9am-12am	N. Fox 577739
Wednesday Afternoon	Hatha Yoga 12am-5pm	Yvonne Lovatt 07944 436718 Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> Onwards
Wednesday Evening	Beavers & Cubs 5pm-7pm	
Thursday Morning	Pilates 9am-12am	
Thursday Afternoon	Brownies 5pm-7pm	K. Roberts 577177
Thursday Evening	Indoor Carpet Bowls 7pm-11.30pm	D. Arkley 578728
Friday Evening	Scouts 7pm-11.30pm	Dave Baker 07983 033 833



## Village Hall Committee Update

Here's a summary of matters discussed at the village hall meeting in January.

- New planting boxes, kindly constructed by Malcolm Morley, have been installed at the front of the village hall.
- A range of local companies have made donations towards the cost of constructing an entrance canopy on the village hall - Cargills Premix & Nutrition £150; Cleveland Steel £500; Wagg Foods £250; Cod Beck Blenders £200; Severfield £250 and Frontier Agricultural £500. The committee warmly thanked these companies for their generosity and support.
- Quotations will be sought from local businesses for the construction of the canopy, though the project can only proceed when sufficient funds have been raised.
- It was agreed that the first Scarecrow Festival in our two villages will go ahead in 2018. Plans will be developed over the next month or two so that plenty of notice can be given to residents who we are sure will enthusiastically support the event.
- The training and information session held in January to explain how the defibrillator installed at the Doctor's Surgery works, was a great success with over 60 people attending. A request for a basic First Aid training course to be held is being actively pursued.
- The pensioners' Christmas lunch was a great success and the third Sunday Brunch, held on 25 February was again well attended and raised nearly £200 for village hall funds.
- Among the events coming up are a Horse Race Night on Saturday 14 April and a social night (barn dance and supper) on Saturday 21 April to celebrate St. George's Day. Tickets for both evenings are now on sale
- Plans for a Blues Night, Magic Circle Night and an autumn dance are being considered. Watch out for more details.

### See us on Facebook...

Don't forget that Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall is now on Facebook! Follow our page for all the latest news and events.

### ... or via email

If you want to hear directly about events coming up at the village hall then add your email address to the circulation



list maintained by committee member, Doug Allan. He promises not to send too many emails and will keep those he does circulate short and sweet. If you would like to be added to the list, simply drop Doug an email - [doug@dougallan.co.uk](mailto:doug@dougallan.co.uk) and he'll do the rest.

### Topcliffe's Own Grand National

Tickets are now on sale...and selling fast...for Topcliffe & Asenby's first Horse Racing night.

Our very own race meeting will be staged at the village hall on Saturday 14 April. Doors open at 7pm, betting starts at 7.15pm and they're off in the first of eight races at 7.30pm.

There are some excellent raffle prizes on offer including tickets for meetings at three local race courses, bed and breakfast at The Crab Manor Hotel, meals at The Bay Horse, Rainton and The Swan, Topcliffe, a tour of Theakston's Brewery and a selection of produce from Wagg Foods.

Our thanks go out to the many local companies that have sponsored the event and to local individuals who have paid to be horse owners on the night.

Entry tickets - available only to adults (18+ years of age) are £5, including a jacket potato and chilli con carne supper. Tickets are available from Topcliffe Post Office, Doug Allan 578526 or Judith Lowe 578911.

### A Very English Celebration!

Once upon a time in the ancient villages of Topcliffe and Asenby, the residents organised an annual dance and supper to celebrate ...Burn's night!

It has been three or four years (maybe more) since the last local celebration of the great Scottish bard and now a new idea has been announced to celebrate England's patron saint - Saint George!

We're holding a St. George's Night Barn Dance and Supper on Saturday 21 April. Tickets, priced at £15, are also on sale now. The admission includes a fish & chip supper prepared by Chip 'n' Dales.

This is a bring your own drinks event.

Tickets from Judith Lowe in Asenby (577911), Doug Allan (578526) or Linda Nuttall (577315).



## Topcliffe Surgery News

### Self Care

**What Is Self Care?** Self care is about looking after yourself in a healthy way. It can be anything from brushing your teeth, doing some exercise, managing common conditions (like headaches, colds and flu) or living with a long-term health problem, such as asthma or diabetes. Figures published ahead of Self Care Week (13-19 November 2017) showed that nearly half of UK adults (47.7%) felt they needed help to self care for self-treatable conditions.



**Did You Know:** One in five GP visits are for common conditions, such as backache, headache or cough? There are 57 million appointments every year for self-treatable conditions. Much of the information people need to self care these conditions is readily available from their local community pharmacy. Information is also available from Self Care Forum Factsheets

Self Care Forum Fact Sheets: These fact sheets provide patients with information for common ailments including:

- Useful facts
- What patients can expect to happen (the natural history)
- What people can do to help themselves – now and in the future
- When to seek medical help (the 'red flags')
- Where to find out more



Visit the Self Care forum website: [www.selfcareforum.org/resources/patient-portal/](http://www.selfcareforum.org/resources/patient-portal/)

Fact sheets are also available for the following conditions:

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Low Back Pain             | 2. Eczema            |
| 3. Heartburn and indigestion | 4. Fever in children |
| 5. Constipation              | 6. Headache/Migraine |
| 7. Coughs                    | 8. Acne              |
| 9. Sprains and strains       | 10. Sore throat      |
| 11. Otitis media             | 12. Common cold      |

### New Practice Manager

Practice Manager Karen Reed sadly retired from the Practice at the end of 2017. Karen was a familiar face in the practice to many patients having been here for eleven years. She started in reception and dispensary before progressing to Practice Manager eight years ago.



Karen was always a consummate professional and her calm approach and friendship will be very much missed. Staff at the surgery enjoyed an evening out to wish her the very best with her new endeavours.

Our new Practice Manager is Stephen Craven. Steve originally worked for the Police in the London Met and Yorkshire for 25 years before moving into general practice management two and a half years ago. He comes to us from a similar sized practice and is looking forward to building on the excellent legacy Karen has left behind and to continuing to improve the services the practice provides. He is looking forward to getting to know the staff and to meeting our patients in the coming months. His DIY skills have already come to the fore whilst arranging his new office!



The TATtler

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### Snooker Club

To all Snooker Club members, the annual subscription is due and is still only £25 for the 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



[www.Asenby.net](http://www.Asenby.net)



## Information from Anne-Marie Barningham, Parish Council Chairperson



The worrying local news at the moment is that the playing field has been vandalised. The portacabin, used by the football club as a changing room, has had the doors and interior walls smashed. We hope to remove the portacabin once the field has dried out and would be grateful for any help. Also, a working party to clean the play park equipment and matting in the better weather would be very helpful. Many hands make light work! From the two photos it's possible to see how pointlessly destructive the vandals have been.



### World Scout Jamboree Cake Stall Can you bake for me?

On Saturday 21st April, I am having a 'Bake Sale' on Thirsk Market, on the charity stall as part of the Saturday market.

I would like to ask if there are any Scouts and/or parents who would be willing to make or bake a cake, some buns or other sweet treats that I could then sell on the stall?

My stall on Thirsk Market is on Saturday 21st April to raise funds for the World Scout Jamboree next July.

Any help with baking of cakes/buns/biscuits would be very much appreciated.

*Dave Baker*

### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Topcliffe	Asenby
<b>Anne-Marie Barningham (Chairman)</b> 07740 175311	<b>Peter Palmer (Chairman)</b> Hilltop Farm 578057
<b>Lynn Wallis (Vice Chair)</b> East Lea 577437	<b>Judy Lowe (Vice Chair)</b> Green End Dairy 577911
<b>Heather Holt</b> 577024	<b>Mel Arkley</b> Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
<b>Garry Key</b> Cliff House, Long St. 578900	<b>Peter Dale</b> 577373
<b>Alex Little (Clerk)</b> 07977 417428	<b>Don Compton</b> 577462
	<b>Jayne Molyneux (Clerk)</b> 595053

## Grand Attic Auction

Saturday 5 May 2018 in Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall  
All proceeds to St Columba's Church Funds

Auctioneer: Mr John Phillips

We are appealing for items for the above auction, so please do not discard anything during your Spring Cleaning which could be sold to assist the above!

Books...Furniture...Bric-a-brac...even Antiques! (But please no TV sets, beds, clothes, computers, videos or used soft toys.

### IN FACT ANYTHING SALEABLE!!!!

Items to be brought to village hall on Saturday morning 5 May 2018 between 8am and 11am

Viewing from 12 noon to 2.00pm on the day

Refreshments

It may be possible to arrange transport for any bulky items. Contact John Phillips 577034

BUYERS: Come and browse and see what you can discover!

Of particular interest this year is a Model Railway Board with folding trestles and complete with 00 gauge track layout as well as quality house clearance items.

How to have an Electrifying morning during the Easter Holidays if you're aged between 5-11:

Come along to Topcliffe Village Hall on Tuesday April 3 between 9.30-11.30am for some hair-raising experience with the Van Der Graaf Generator; make some cool electric games; make squashy battery-powered models and your very own light-up pictures using conductive ink to take home.

Parents are more than welcome to stay but don't have to if you'd value a bit of peace and quiet!

Contact Abigail Carr on 01677 425888  
abi@lovescience.co.uk  
www.lovescience.co.uk



**SPRING EVENTS...** coming up at *THE Angel*  
 For further information please call 01845 578 000 or visit [www.theangelatopcliffe.co.uk](http://www.theangelatopcliffe.co.uk) at TOPCLIFFE

## Steak NIGHT EVERY FRIDAY

..... TWO SUCCULENT 8oz SIRLOIN STEAKS  
 & BOTTLE of house WINE £28.95



**Saturday 31st March**  
**80's Disco**  
 7pm - Midnight

**£5 tickets Includes 80's Classic Cocktail**  
 or a selected drink

## Easter Family Fun Day - MON 2nd APRIL 1-5pm

Meet, Feed & Learn about Alpacas & Pygmy Goats



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