

# COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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|              |              |                |              |
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**Parish Clerk Caron Ballantyne**

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**Or visit in person in the library on Mondays 2-5 (during Library Opening Hours)**

Thank you to our Vice Chair, Chris Allen, for last month's PC fleet article and in particular for reminding us all about the Best Kept Village Competition which, I will spend time visiting later in this article.

It is great to see daffodils flowering, cherry trees blossom and overall, the village springing into life as the light warm days and evenings take hold. I particularly like passing the cricket club at this time of year and look forward to enjoying a refreshing "tipple of choice" watching a cricket match.

Our village is very much a jewel in Nottinghamshire's crown and we would very much like it to gain some form of recognition for all that it has to offer. Best Kept Village (BKV) is a competition within which we can pull out all the stops to present our village to the county and gain the recognition the village deserves.

I mentioned this competition in detail within my autumn 2016 fleet article and would like to put some weight to it in this one. We would like to invite volunteers to get involved to support a village "tidy-up" in advance on the competition; please contact us if you would like to get involved; please also be on the lookout for groups of supervised young persons from the village taking part in a tidy-up.

The best kept village is judged through June 2017 with no specific judging date in June. We would encourage all to use their Great British competition spirit to have gardens, borders and hedges in full bloom throughout the summer but particularly June.

We would also like to invite business's and interested groups to sponsor key areas of the village such as The Green, High Street, The Cross and our approach verges. We want to enhance these key areas over the next few years to help us win this competition; local support will be an important key factor.

As well as vision, perhaps sound could also be used to support our BKV efforts through June. I hear that our local bell ringing guild is looking for new learners and would welcome new comers. Details of our local ringing guild can be found at [www.southwelldg.org.uk](http://www.southwelldg.org.uk).

As mentioned in my previous article, I think we need to be realistic and look to achieve BKV wins in next 3 to 5 years as I'm sure it will take some great work, dedication and most importantly lots of fun! It would be really great to hear from gardeners, landscape experts and those with a keen interest in presenting the village in the best possible way to win!

Please also look out for Collingham's Crawl & Canter that takes place late June this year. If you are not planning to take part in the crawl or the canter, please do come along to the Collingham Cricket Club late morning/early afternoon on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to welcome the participants back from their 5km journey, all in support of Collingham Pre-School.

Please do keep a keen eye out for the many events occurring over the next few months in the village, all from the wide and varied selection of fantastic local groups we have that work so hard to make Collingham the great village that it is! Finally, thank you for taking time to read this article and we look forward to updating you with more great news next month!

Have a great Spring & Summer, Best, *Lee Marshall*

*Collingham Parish Council meets on the fourth Thursday of every month and the second Thursday in December. The meeting in August may be cancelled if there is insufficient business. The meetings are held at the Youth and Community Centre on Low Street, except June which is at the*

*Chapel in Brough and begin at 7:15pm. The general public are welcome at all meetings, though they have no rights to participate except at the beginning of the meeting or at the Chairman's discretion and with prior notice to the clerk. Once the meeting is under way the public are welcome and encouraged to stay and listen to the Council. There may be times because of the sensitive nature of the business being discussed that the public and the press are asked to leave though this happens very rarely.*