

COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Welcome to the last Parish Council article for 2016. In November we had a fantastic bonfire night and fireworks display thanks to the efforts of Jerome Wright and associates which raised money for the Friends of John Blow School, Mary's Meals and Collingham Football Club.

The village will switch on the Christmas lights on the 4th of December at 5pm in the village centre and we hope you can join us and the regular attractions such as carols sung by John Blow School students, a barbecue, free mulled wine (can't say fairer than that) and the various stalls that make it an enjoyable start to the festive season. Remember to wrap up warm and bring a torch because it's generally surprisingly cold and dark despite being in a sheltered location in the middle of the village.

Collingham Tennis club are holding their AGM at the Youth and Community Centre on the 2nd of December at 7pm and everyone is welcome to attend and find out more about what our active club is doing. 2017 is a big year for the club which aims to continue raising funds for a new clubhouse. £1700 was raised from the September Davis Cup event and a group will be looking for sponsorship for a 24h Tennisathon in February to get nearer to their fundraising target.

John Blow School is holding a concert for older people on the 16th of December at 2pm. It will consist of music from the students, mince pies and coffee. Please contact the school on 01636 892485 if you are interested in attending this event.

Many of you have asked about the experimental weight limit through our village as it was expected to be running by now. By way of an update, this has been delayed due to operational reasons from Nottinghamshire Police, however Councillor Dobson is working on achieving a resolution and it is hoped the scheme will become active in the new year.

Nottinghamshire Police have asked that all people in the village be vigilant over the Christmas period. Recently there have been a number of incidents reported including vehicle, shed and house break-ins. If you are away over Christmas, please don't make noticeable changes to your house and consider using time switches to have lights coming on and off. You can contact the police on 101 or by contacting our PCSO Katie Hyde directly on 07894 617567.

In the new year a new volunteer community first responder group will be formed to provide lifesaving first aid in those vital minutes before an ambulance arrives, and the group will be welcoming those people who wish to help their community. No prior experience is needed and full ongoing training and support will be provided for this highly rewarding role.

The festive season is a time when we traditionally focus on goodwill to each other. Our village is a welcoming place to be all year round; one of the many things that makes Collingham a special place to live which we can all be proud of. My challenge to everyone is to do some "random acts of kindness" over the festive period. Visit a neighbour and help them to do something to prepare for the winter. Share a mince pie or two or even just say hello to someone. It all counts and helps to build up our community further.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard Hatton

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.