

COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Anniversaries and commemorations seem to be the theme for December and January.

I am sure many of us have read or heard about Dr Wake's 'History of Collingham and its Neighbourhood' (available from Collingham Library £4.50); did you know November 2017 was the 150th anniversary of its publication? To mark this anniversary Helena Pielichaty, our resident author and historian, has written the most fascinating piece of research on Wake himself and his 'History'. Helena's research is available from Collingham and Newark Libraries. A later historian said Wake's book 'explains many things well known to us all but little understood'. Helena's research helped me understand Wake so much more. Helena did this research 'off her own bat' as she says and I sure, in future, we will read Wake and Helena's work together, it is a wonderful companion piece and guide. With the excellent new journal from the Local History Society 'The Irregular' on sale now, local history is thriving in Collingham and District.

On November 6 at Lincoln Castle the Tree Charter was launched, the 800th anniversary of the 1217 Charter of the Forest. Collingham Parish Council is a signatory of the Tree Charter and to mark this we were presented with an oak sapling, which has been planted in the Village Centre.

Still tiny it is being protected by a frame and will soon have a label explaining its origin. This sapling will one day replace the great white poplar which had to be removed because of honey fungus, which was making it unsafe. Visit The Tree Charter website at treecharter.uk if you, too, would like to sign the Charter.

On a bright, cold Sunday our Annual Remembrance Day took place; I think our parish service is so poignant and personal a remembrance. The names read out are names we still hear today, we know friends and neighbours who talk about members of their family who never came back from wars. We think of the survivors and how they must have felt coming back with the weight of their memories on their shoulders. I am always struck with the reminder that many of the congregation in their teens and twenties are the same age as the young men and women who served, some of whom did not return.

Next year it will be the 100 year commemoration of the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918. The Parish Council has been asked to co-ordinate these commemorations and in January I will be writing to all our groups to ask if they wish to take part in these commemorations and to arrange an initial meeting. Posters about the meeting will be put up around the parish, on our website and on Facebook.

There will be many events celebrating Christmas in the parish this year starting off with Advent Lights on December 3. New arrangements have had to be made for the lights after the loss of the Village Centre tree and the Parish Council would like to thank the sponsors of the trees and lights. They are to be named individually on a board near the trees. Thank you all. There will be Christmas Tree displays, Secret Advent, Carol Concerts and Services throughout December. You will need to keep your copy of the Fleet to hand and a keen watch on all noticeboards, Facebook and websites. A special thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard for all these events.

With all good wishes to everyone at all these celebrations; and wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Rosie Scott

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. 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.