

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



100 years on from the end of the Great War, Burbage gets ready to remember

IDEAS are coming through on how Burbage might mark Armistice, 2018.

Next year's Remembrance Sunday of course carries a very special significance. When the country's church, chapel and cathedral bells chime 11.00 on the 11th day of the 11th month next year (appropriately the day falls on a Sunday) it will be 100 years since four years of brutal conflict ended and the 1918 Armistice signing halted an appalling loss of human life.

Cities, towns and village communities the length and breadth of Britain plan to commemorate the centenary. Burbage, which never forgets the debt owed to the fallen of the Great War (and to those of all other conflicts) will definitely be among them. Burbage Parish Council has pledged its full support for a programme demonstrating that 100 years has not dimmed respect. A WWI Commemoration Working Party has already been formed and its members will look at what could be achieved.

Ideas that keep the focus on commemoration, rather than celebration, will form a fulcrum of discussions. In November 1918 Britain didn't find a great deal to celebrate. Its people, wishing to be left to grieve in peace, embraced the cessation of hostilities and was thankful there would be no more "regret to inform you" messages from the Front. But it wasn't a time for partying. So next November, apart from the winter timing, street parties aren't likely on any agenda.

Useful suggestions which WILL be actively followed up include:

- **Plaques on the former Burbage homes of WWI fallen.**
- **Updates and additions to the Burbage War Memorial**
- **A peace march through village streets (Burbage schoolchildren did this after the Armistice)**
- **Son et luminaire effects evoking the turmoil of trench warfare**
- **Bell chiming**
- **Street and premises decoration/memorabilia/period and military dress-ups/WWI songs**
- **An exhibition/information event**

Many areas will benefit from the assistance of the Burbage Heritage Group. The group, which has considerable research resources and archive material available, is ready to help and representatives will work with the council's team. What we want now is to hear YOUR views – comments, suggestions, volunteer help will be welcome. We'd particularly like to hear from descendants of Burbage's Great War warriors - both those who came back and those who did not. Contact Projects Officer Pat Armstrong at the Parish Office, email to Patrick.Armstrong@burbage-council.co.uk



FOCAL POINT: The imposing sculpture of a World War I soldier at the Burbage War Memorial will be central to the 2018 centenary commemoration

Snow time, slow time ... or do it now time?

A FORMER neighbour who disliked gardening (a lot) used to relate how he welcomed winter's frosts and snows . . . because under a blanket of white, his neglected patches looked just as good as those next door. Maybe he had a point, of sorts.

The quietest time of the year has descended on our gardens. And on allotments too, where growers, for entirely different reasons, welcome the approach of hard weather (it helps break up their hard-worked soil, ready for next season's renewed cultivation). Before that can happen, plots require a deal of strenuous preparation - and that's after the equally tough task of harvesting. But the late autumn jobs have been seen to at last and the 90 or so gardens Burbage Parish Council offers for rental at Woodland Avenue and Blackways Meadow can, with their tenants, enjoy winter's repose. So why are we telling you this? There's almost 100 per cent occupancy on both council sites (though see below). However, if you hanker after an allotment, NOW is the time to get your application on to our waiting list.

Why? Past example shows that postponing it to New Year or into early spring (our allotment year starts on 1st April which is when existing tenants decide whether they want to renew) means it's likely your ambitions will be shared by lots of other applicants. It's during this quiet breathing space that the queue is shortest – down to single figures at Woodland Avenue with no current list at all for Blackways. Sewing the seed with an application now (online forms available through our website) could see you nicely placed for vacancies that may be coming up during 2018.

- There's a single half-plot available at Woodland Avenue and another at Blackways Meadow that could be made available straight away to anyone prepared to give them tender loving care. Ill-health has sadly forced their tenants to give them up and both gardens have been neglected for a while. So we'd offer them rent-free until 1st April, 2018 to anyone keen to use the winter months ahead to get them back into shape. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

THE elected membership of the Burbage council is: Sketchley ward: Stan Rooney (chairman), Mike Hall, Amanda Wright, Christopher Ashton. Lash Hill ward: Ann Hall, Howard Wilkins, Stuart Bray, Mark Nickerson, Roger Johnson. Stretton ward: Peter Morris, Liz Rooney, Keith Lynch, Paul Williams. Tilton ward: Richard Flemming, Lucie Hoelmer, Noel Robinson, Tony Iliffe. St Catherine's ward: Peter Wallace, Mary Sherwin, Andrew Clayton (vice chairman).



It's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas

JUST as surely as Slade's festive favourite shouts out that "IT'S CHRISTMAS", Carols Round the Tree in Burbage signals the same message ... albeit a little less raucously than Noddy Holder!

The goodwill season is galloping up fast, so here's a further reminder of a diary date that's become unmissable for all those Burbage folk who enjoy a heart-warming night under the famous and fabulous illuminated Coronation Tree near St Catherine's Church. It goes ahead on Friday, 22nd December to usher in the Christmas Eve weekend. The open-air service (song sheets available) starts at 6.30pm when the tree lights will be re-lit. Cllr Ozzy O'Shea, Hinckley and Bosworth Mayor, will join a throng that will, on past experience, raise bucketfuls of money for his nominated charitable causes. Come early to secure a good spot; road closures and no-waiting restrictions will apply in the area between 6pm and 9pm and Burbage Parish Council requests people to leave their vehicles at home.

- **CHRISTMAS** music in a concert at St Catherine's Church in Burbage, staged by Hinckley Music Club, will feature the Cantabile Youth Choir. The Nuneaton-based group, a BBC Choir of the Year finalist, draws its girl singers, aged between 7 and 19, from an area including Burbage and Nuneaton and will perform in the parish church on Saturday, 16th December at 7.30pm. Entry is £10 (includes buffet), students £5 and children £2.

A NEW member of Burbage Parish Council has been welcomed on board. Paul Williams takes his place on the 20-member council after winning a three-cornered election to fill a vacancy in Stretton ward. Cllr Mr Williams lives in Rugby Road in Burbage and topped the poll in a closely fought contest.