

THREE VIEWS NEWS

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER



THE NATIONAL FOREST

OAKTHORPE



THE NATIONAL FOREST

DONISTHORPE



THE NATIONAL FOREST

ACRESFORD

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Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford

Parish Council Report

Autumn is very much upon us, clocks have changed, nights are drawing in and the heating is on! There is also a great deal to be grateful for when we actually take time to stop and take in the amazing surroundings we live in; the changing colour of the leaves and the countryside give us a continuous alternative to our screens.



The turnout for this year's remembrance service was outstanding and the opportunity to remember this event in the new surroundings of the church added to the poignancy of the event. Throughout our villages and community, the Parish Council were out placing poppies and fallen soldiers' memorials as reminders of events past and sadly as reminders of the turbulent world we live in currently. Wreaths were laid throughout the Parish, including at the base of the new fallen soldier memorial which has been recently installed in Acresford.

This month's meeting agenda as usual covered a wide and varied remit focused on improving, enhancing and protecting our Parish. The amount of work, time and effort that is put in by volunteers on the behalf of others is a true testament to the ethos on which the Parish Council works. Sometimes this work is not fully recognised as we get 'used' to things just happening, whether that be poppies appearing, salt boxes being made ready for winter, hedges cut, play areas refurbished and enhanced, speed reduction strategies, defibrillators as well as the support of many local community groups both financially and physically. Sometimes we do need to stop and look around us and take a moment to appreciate the area we live in and the work that goes in to making it what it is.

Roads and speeding are raised on every agenda that we deal with and this month was no exception. With some extremely serious incidents on our roads in recent times, the Parish Council yet again raised the need for more support from the Police and the District and County Councils. As a Parish Council, we have invested further in MVAS cameras that help to reduce traffic speeds, while also collecting data that is shared with other stakeholders. The quantity and speeds we record are at times shocking.

You will also notice more yellow boxes around the Parish as further life-saving defibrillators are installed. These have already been used effectively and are a key tool in life-saving response for heart attack victims. Councillors have also been involved in a wide variety of community events from Apple Day to attending the Oakthorpe Primary

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Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 11 December 2024.
Oakthorpe Leisure Centre (ME Sports hub).
All are welcome to attend.

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school opening of its new build. Our latest addition to the Council, Cllr Tyler, presented a huge number of exciting community-based events that Donisthorpe Community Group are putting on in the coming months. More details of events can be found on the website, which contains a vast amount of information and the latest updates.

A number of proposed development and planning matters were brought by District and County that will have a direct impact on the Parish. These were challenged robustly regarding the justification and impact on our community. Whilst there seemed to be advantages for the developers, it was at times difficult to see the advantages and gains for us as a Parish. There appeared to be an inevitability around the proposals for development of housing and industrial space. We asked for there to be more of a challenge to protect our area and surroundings and consideration of the impact on what we have. Sometimes we need to take a moment to stop and look around us to appreciate what we have and ensure we care and protect it for now and the future.

Cllr Darren Gelder

Wassailing the Community Orchard, 18th January 2025

The fifteenth annual Donisthorpe Wassail will take place on Saturday, January 18th 2025 in the Community Orchard.

The origins of Wassailing probably pre-date the Christian church, with remnants of the tradition being found all over the country, and not just in the modern apple-growing areas of the West Country. The intention of the Wassailers is to scare off the evil spirits which have settled in the Orchard over the previous twelve months, and wake the trees, in the hope of producing a good apple crop. It certainly seems to have worked this year!

We meet at the Halfway House at 6.30pm on the Saturday evening, and process down Hall Lane at about 7.00pm. As we enter the Orchard, we make a suitable racket to wake the spirits up. Once we are in the Orchard, we hold a ceremony around the 'King' tree, to call for the blessing of the good spirits on the trees, and sing the Donisthorpe Wassail Song as mulled cider made from the last apple harvest is passed around. Please bring a small cup, mug or similar out of which to drink the cider.

Please bring a torch (it will be dark!), and something with which to make a noise – a saucepan lid and wooden spoon, or something to blow is ideal!

After the ceremony, we return to the Halfway House, for a pleasant, sociable evening.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the Wassail, and to make it a real village merry-making!

Ted Tann-Watson



★ *Tree Fest* ★

Christmas Tree Festival

At St John's Church,
Donisthorpe. DE12 7PY

On

Friday 6th December 3-7pm

Saturday 7th December 3-7 pm

Sunday 8th December 3-5:30pm

Followed by the Carol Service
amongst the trees 6-7pm

Light Refreshments available,
Tombola and fun activities!
Entry by donation.

With over 50 Christmas
Trees on display, it's well
worth a look!