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February 11th 2019.
Dear Parishioner,

Annual Report 2018
Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council

Welcome to the new Parish Clerk!

Regular readers of the Quarterly Parish Council Newsletter will be aware that I am retiring as Parish Clerk on March 31st 2019 after 18 years' service. My successor is Gillian Kelly and she hails from Washington, Tyne & Wear. I wish Gillian good luck in her new role and I hope that she stays with the Parish Council for many years.

Summer Flower Baskets, Barrels and Tubs in the Parish Area

I am sure that all residents in the Parish Area will have enjoyed the wonderful Summer Display of Hanging Flower Baskets, Tubs and Flower Trees provided once again by the Parish Council in Bowburn, Cassop, Parkhill and Tursdale in 2018.

I am sure that, once again, everyone will agree that Messrs. Thinford Nurseries have done a splendid job in preparation and maintenance of the Seasonal Display for the last thirteen Summer Seasons. They also prepare Winter & Spring Bedding Plants now for Bowburn and Tursdale.

As 2018 has been my last full year of service, it seems to me to have gone over in a flash!

The Coal Column (A New Piece of Art for Bowburn)

Discussions have been ongoing for some considerable time between the Esh Group, Durham County Council and Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership about the source of funding for a Piece of Art to be known as "The Coal Column". The Artwork will show a representation of the seams of coal beneath Bowburn to reflect the Village's Industrial Heritage. The Artwork will be prepared by Mr. Colin Rose. In addition, a pathway leading up to the Artwork will also be constructed. Funding for the Project Cost will be provided from moneys received from the Developers by virtue of Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

After much debate, the Site agreed upon for the Artwork is near the junction of Mary Terrace, George Street and Dallymore Drive, Bowburn on the other side of the A177 from the Cape Site Development.

Careful research has ensured that there are no power lines or water pipes underground at or near the proposed location for the Coal Column.

Groundwork UK, on behalf of the Parish Council, undertook an initial public consultation exercise in September 2018 to gauge public support for the Project. Unfortunately, attendances at a Publicity Event at Bede Terrace Communal Room in September 2018 were disappointing. Although there was no evidence of significant opposition to the Artwork, there was no great turnout of local people in favour either. Consequently, Members of the Parish Council discussed the options of using social media and publicity in the Bowburn Interchange as further consultation with Bowburn residents about the Coal Column. A Survey Document subsequently enclosed within the latest Bowburn Interchange received a number of replies. The majority of these written responses were in favour of construction of the Coal Column. It is hoped that work on the Coal Column will commence in the Spring of 2019.

The Tommies have arrived!

Plans to install one or more life size metal figures in the shape of World War One Soldiers at the War Memorial Site in Bowburn have now been completed. The Figures stand on “permanent guard duty” at the War Memorial Site. They have been installed to mark the Centenary of the end of the First World War.

Local Care and Maintenance of Local Footpaths & Rights of Way

Readers of the Quarterly Parish Newsletter will recall that the Parish Council’s Application for Grant under the County Council’s Parish Paths Partnership Scheme to trim the grass on various Local Rights of Way was approved for the 2018 Season.

The first and second comprehensive grass cuts were done on various Local Footpaths in June and August 2018. The works were undertaken by the Parish Council’s Allotment Superintendent. This Scheme allows the Parish Council to choose which Local Footpaths require the most attention and WHEN the grass strimming should be done.

I am sure that the Parish Council will apply to the County Council for Grant Assistance to trim Local Footpaths once again in 2019 for the fifth year running.

**Peter Thorpe,
Parish Clerk**