

MAY 2020

## **ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, NORTHUMBERLAND**

Ashington Town Council has planted 75 trees planted in and around Ashington Cricket Club and at People's Park to commemorate the 75 Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day). The cricket ground was given to the town as a memorial to those from Ashington who gave their lives in the two world wars, with significant tree planting taking place at the Cricket Club and Peoples Park at the end of WWII.

The project has been funded by Ashington Town Council while working in partnership with the Cricket Club and the Ashington Branch of the Royal British Legion. Originally, the trees were to be planted by volunteers from several local organisations including local Scout and Guide groups; Sea Cadets; Friends of Ashington Community Woods and, members of the Royal British Legion. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the tree planting has been fully carried out by Town Council staff working under strict social distancing instruction.

After the end of WWII, 150 trees were planted in memory of those who lost their lives. Following that, in 2015 a project took place to develop a new War Memorial for Ashington and research was undertaken which added a further 25 names to the Memorial totalling 175 individuals. Many of the added names were from families who could not afford the cost to have their loved ones recognised on the Memorial at the end of the war. The new trees have replaced those that have been lost over the years as well as recognising the recently added names.

The service was planned to take place in the Ashington Memorial Garden to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day but was cancelled. However, respecting social distancing, Mr Ian Lavery MP, Cllr. Matthew Cuthbert and the Royal British Legion placed floral tributes at the War Memorial.

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