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Date: October 2022

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Kirklevington and Castle Leavington Parish Newsletter

Welcome to this edition of the Parish newsletter, this publication has been held back as long as is practical to try and cover the updates around the impending new bus service.

The half hourly 'S7' bus service is now planned to be in place for the end of October (30th) and will serve Green Lane\Conyers\Yarm station, Willey Flatts, Yarm High Street, Kingsmead, Eaglescliffe Golf Club and onwards to Stockton High Street – it will stop in Kirklevington at 'The Green' and the bus stop by 'The Crown' – please note this is not a hail and stop service. Once the timetable is finalized it will be advertised on the Village Hall noticeboard, shared on social media and the website for download plus we will print some for collection from the Village Hall entrance. The first service expected to be around 7.15 and then 7.50, 8.20. After dialogue with the council they have agreed to forgo the building of a bus shelter and painting of road chevrons around the green, agreeing that it would spoil the aesthetics of the village.

Whilst it seems like such a long time ago, we had so much positive feedback regarding the Jubilee party on the Green, the weather was kind, and it was so nice to see so many people socialising in the same place. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their help and also a huge thank you to the different bands who gave up their time and performed free of charge for us all. We've had numerous requests to repeat the celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III next year – please let us know your thoughts at Kirkcommunity@gmail.com.

Sadly, only a few months later on September 8th we lost our long reigning monarch of 70 years, Queen Elizabeth II. A book of condolences was opened in the church and so many residents called to pay their respects.

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that we will be planting a new Christmas tree in the playpark this month! Please advise children not to interfere with or climb on it.

We have been asked many times about the public footpath around the school, whilst the path itself has benefited from the installation of land drainage and being levelled out, we acknowledge that the top surface is far from ideal. We were expecting stone chippings to be laid a few inches thick to allow for drainage but sadly SBC believe the existing solution will compact over time and be just as good – the dialogue continues but we are very aware of it.

For those on Social media, note we have our own Facebook page 'Kirklevington Village News'.

Slightly out of the area but we have had reports from other Parishes of teenage groups inhaling Nitrous oxide as a laugh – this insane craze is growing in popularity and the long-term effect of inhaling the gas is a lack of vitamin B12 which can lead to long term and potentially irreversible brain and nerve damage. Parents please be aware and vigilant, the signs of such activity are usually small metal gas canisters and balloons – please report any sightings to us, especially if near the village.

We receive several requests for people looking for services in the village such as cleaners, dog walkers, child minders, gardeners and the like, please let us know if you offer or need such a service and we can look to add it to the website, naturally the Parish Council do not endorse nor police the replies, the residents are responsible for their own due diligence and checks.

Dates for your diaries

The hugely popular Halloween trail will be repeated again this year on Monday 31st October, as before there will prizes on offer for the best decorated houses (£25 - 1st, £15 - 2nd, £10 - 3rd) full details are on the website, each year the event grows in popularity and attracts interest even from outside the village, as our Parish grows in size; so does the competition - so get your thinking caps (or witches hats) on and start thinking about your display. Our residents will be the judges again as it is by far the fairest way of judging.

The idea is the entrants (To enter please email Kirkcommunity@gmail.com or text 07785 226030) decorate their houses as spookily as possible and 'hide' an unusual Halloween object (on obvious display) for the children to 'spot' - a list of the entrants addresses, hidden objects and a trail map will be available for download nearer the time from our Parish website <https://www.kirkcommunity.co.uk/halloween> and printed versions can be collected from the village hall on the night. The children then go on a treasure hunt around the village using the trail map in order to find and spot as many of the hidden objects that they can, ticking them off as they go, everyone is free to judge and vote for the best decorated house\display and return their votes to the village hall entrance (white post-box) for counting - winners will be notified on the 1st November. Closing date for entries is 23rd Oct. For clarity St Martins Green residents are very much welcomes to join in this fun activity – it is always very well received. Residents are welcomed to leave treats out for kids to avoid being disturbed by door knocking.

Remembrance Day 13th November - We are going to start service at 10.15am and then hold the 2 mins silence at 11am outside church followed by the laying of wreaths. Refreshments will be provided after the service inside the church.

Our annual Christmas event will be held on the afternoon/evening of Sunday 11th December, there will be a grotto with presents for kids and mince pies/mulled wine for the adults, our amazing kirklevington choir will once again be singing our favourite carols around the tree.

Next year Kirkfest will be held on the weekend of 24/25th June 2023 – please make a note of this as it's been selected specifically so the children are still at school and therefore not likely to be on holidays and miss the events.