

Kirky News

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THE LIGHTS FANTASTIC

Congratulations from our councillors to the 'Christmas in Kirkliston' team who hosted a very successful lights trail at the weekend encouraging local residents to enjoy a walk through the village enjoying all the houses lit up. An amazing effort from the community to provide an alternative to the traditional 'switch on' event - the village has never looked so Christmassy!

NO FLOAT

There will not be a Santa float this year due to the dangers of crowds gathering at this time. Many children and adults will miss this village treat heralding the advent of Christmas with carols and Santa on his sleigh.

NEW MINISTER FOR THE PARISH CHURCH!

Erick du Toit was elected by unanimous vote of the congregation on 2nd November and Presbytery has 'sustained' the Call for him to be the new minister with his induction service taking place on Zoom on Sunday 13th at 3pm.

The congregation is delighted at this news - finally to reach this point after a year's vacancy. Erick moved into the manse with his wife Suzaan on the 9th and, after the induction, will start work by introducing himself to the congregation on Sunday 20th in time for the Christmas services.

He completed his theological degree and Masters at Stellenbosch University and was ordained in the ministry in South Africa in 2016 and has been working in the Church of Scotland as Associate Minister at Camelon Parish Church, Falkirk since October 2018 where his remit accommodated all Parish Ministerial duties including funerals, weddings, baptisms, Sunday services, weekday lunch services, pastoral care in care homes and hospitals, etc.

The congregation are all looking forward to welcoming Erick to Kirkliston

SWI (THE RURAL)

With no meetings and no prospect of any in the near future, the committee have been unable to make any plans. However, the hardworking President has been in contact with all the members (despite having hip replacement surgery). It has been good to see Ishbel and Marion out and about again and having some chance, mini get-togethers in the street. It is surprising how quickly everyone loses track of what has been happening in members' lives. Anyone who knows of a member who is ill, or just needs a chat, is encouraged to get in touch with a committee member who will do their best to see them.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021 is wished for all friends and members, and the hope is that at some stage in the New Year everyone can get together again.

SCOUTS

Progress with the new Hall has been put on hold as lockdown has stopped all fundraising. Meanwhile the Scout hut has been getting a face lift recently, some urgent plumbing work done and the interior painted. Four new lampposts have been erected giving good illumination for all to walk up the path to the hut safely.

PARISH CHURCH

Although normal services have been unable to be held in the kirk itself, the work of the church has carried on with services being held via Zoom and 'In Reflection' recordings being made available on the website at **www.kirkliston-parish-church.org.uk**

The Covid 19 outbreak hindered the search for a new minister but it provided the opportunity to modernise the manse while it was vacant and it is now ready for its new occupants.

All are invited to join in the services of worship by contacting kpc.officeangels@gmail.com for joining instructions.

FLOODING RETURNS

Most folk thought that destructive floods from the Swine and Niddry burns were gone for good after the Almond was realigned all those years ago, but this month's spectacular weather has proved otherwise, with Newliston Road being closed and the surrounding areas waterlogged. Despite warning notices going up, a surprising number of motorists still tried to get through, causing even more disruption.

WELL DONE

Debbie Chalmers received a bouquet of flowers from a mystery person for cheering everyone up with the Giant Teddy Bear during lockdown.

ANGRY & FRUSTRATED

Local councillors are frustrated to have to report a delay to the new crossing facility at Stirling Road outside the primary school. This improvement was agreed back in 2019 to help pupils and parents cross the road safely. Unfortunately, it is just one of a number of road safety projects that have been delayed because transport officials have been moved across to 'spaces for people' projects in other parts of the city. It has been made clear to the Transport Convener that this is completely unacceptable and our councillors will keep pushing to get this new facility in place as soon as possible.

FRIENDS OF PIKE'S POOL

Friends of Pike's Pool, an active group in our village, has been chosen by Aberdeen Standard Life as one of only four Park Friends' Groups in Edinburgh to be part of their "Giving Back to Green Spaces" initiative. Funding of around £1,250 is being provided to help pay for insurance, community volunteering and clear-up costs as well as a community event/project to find out more from the local community about "the elements they most love and appreciate about their park and what makes this greenspace special to the community?" The Friends mean to run a poll on Facebook to add anecdotal information to that already gathered. What has been noticeable is the upsurge in the use of and appreciation of the park during lockdown. A dog walker who was near Pike's Pool recently spotted four cygnets that had got through the sluice gate away from the parent swans. They were starving. A call to the SPCA brought help and they were taken away and fed and are being looked after by the SPCA before their transfer to Linlithgow Loch.

GATESIDE 'S GOOD SAMARITAN

Thanks to Paul Vaughan who spearheaded help for those vulnerable, housebound residents of Gateside throughout lockdown. Volunteers made soups, while others filled bags of groceries and delivered them. From finding money through crowdfunding and driving daily to nearby stores to get donations of food, Paul worked tirelessly to ensure needy people did not go hungry. The project has now come to an end so a well-deserved vote of thanks to everyone part of this worthwhile community effort.

LES WRITES

`I would like to thank all the volunteers who, over the years, have put the Kirky News together and for the folks who gave up their time to distribute the news(sheet) to all the households in the village. This has become more of a time-consuming job with all the new houses being built. To all these people I would just like to say **THANK YOU ALL**'.

ACCIDENT

Local concern over the recent car crash at the foot of Station Road has been shown by the 130 comments on Facebook. Dashcam evidence has been available, but the police have declined to say what, if any, action is being taken.

LAST ISSUE OF KIRKY / GOODBYE FROM US

Every good thing comes to a natural end. We, the committee (currently 4 people), believe that Kirky News has been good for Kirkliston but have decided that now is a good time to "stop while we're ahead", so this will be the last issue of Kirky News.

Although some people prefer our one-page paper format, delivery has been impossible this year, and now, thanks to Covid-19, most seem to prefer electronic alternatives.

In closing, thanks to all who created Kirky in 2002 or served as committee members and editors since (Ben, Fran, Ena, Rob, Christine, Rory, Yolande, Catherine, Nicola and Mae) We also pay tribute to Mike, our printer at Print be Ltd, our tireless delivery team who ensured that all 2,327 households received each issue and to our contributors and advertisers without whom there would certainly have been no Kirky News.

We will be passing our small funds, and our archive, on to other local organisations. Our email and website will remain for a time, then disappear. We thank all of you for your support over many years. So, as the Two Ronnies would say, "it's goodbye from us" "and it's goodbye from them".

FROM ALL THE TEAM

Keep Safe and have a merry Christmas as we look forward to happier and more normal times in the New Year.