

News Bulletin
For all Residents living in
Scrayingham and Leppington

As 2018 is fast coming to a close this is a well overdue welcome from existing villagers to all the new residents who have arrived in the last couple of years or so. Bearing this in mind, it is beyond time that there was a general update. Many new people may wonder why there is not more of a village community with support and events happening, in fact some people have sadly left the village for this very reason. A Friends of Scrayingham and Leppington Group was set up as a group organised mainly for fund raising and social events to benefit and bring together the community, also to foster and encourage activities to support the retention of the church building as a community facility. Sadly, for the past two years the momentum has waned badly due to serious illness and other issues. It is hoped that in the new year this can be reinvigorated and rectified.

The Friends of Scrayingham and Leppington and the Parish Council of Scrayingham and Leppington are titled as such because the two villages make up one Parish. Sometimes communications between the two villages can be vague owing to perhaps the geographic logistics between them and perhaps the division by the main road? However, we are all one community and Leppington and Scrayingham have enjoyed many events years past where both villages supported each other. It would be a very nice thought that on occasions this could happen again in the future

The Church of St Peter and St Paul Scrayingham

For those who are unaware of the valuable history we have in our Parish this is just a very brief update. Our Church is a Grade 2* listed building which is thought to date back to Saxon times, in fact circa 800AD which means that people have worshipped here for over 1200 years which is amazing to think it was around before the Battle of Stamford Bridge which was fought in 1066. Part of the Church (facing the village on the South Elevation) is Victorian, an addition said to have been designed by the famous Architect GT Andrews. The stained-glass windows are quite exquisite, in reasonably good condition considering their age and most of which believed to be of the Victorian era and one of particular interest which is currently under investigation, could be from the Arts and Crafts Era. Scrayingham Church is part of the Stamford bridge Group of Parishes, together with St John the Baptist in SB and All Saints' in Catton. Due to reduced attendance there have only been occasional festival services here over the last year but they have been well received and special occasions for the villages. The next service will be the annual Carols by Candlelight on December 9th 2018 – details below.

The future of this Church remains in a state of uncertainty and it would be an utter tragedy not to make an effort and try to preserve this beautiful building, there is so much to admire, value and preserve historically for future generations to come. York Diocese are willing to let the community make the church more useable as a community space i.e. non-religious events even a local bar (bearing in mind we do not have a pub or restaurant in our parish!) Leppington Church disappeared a few years ago sadly. There is too much to discuss in letter form but there is a distinct possibility of attaining grants to preserve the history and create a comfortable and useable space for local use. The possibilities are very wide ranging and are worthy of a Parish debate.

The Old School/Church Hall

This building as with the Church is a Grade listed building and was for many years a local community space which has been utilised for many memorable occasions such as Harvest Suppers, private parties, Millennium celebrations and much more. This building was repainted inside by the Friends Group and helpers three years ago and the outside area tidied up. It requires workable toilets to make this building useable and an improved kitchen. This can be a very useful annex to the Church building and has proven its value during large events such as the Brass Band Concert and George Hudson events held in recent years. Again, grants are available for these areas of work but time and effort are required to attain these. This building also has an interesting history and is currently owned by our Parish PCC.

George Hudson

For the benefit of those who did not know George Hudson 'The Railway King' and some of his family are buried in our churchyard. It is our local belief that he has in many ways been very unfairly branded as a 'complete rogue' and some of us in the village are trying to raise his profile. It is an interesting story and there is much praise which should be attributed to him. In fact, York Station and the York Railway Museum may well not exist where they are today without this man's input and entrepreneurship and his part in building the railway system as we know it today.

The Friends Group over the past few years has organised some very memorable fundraising events. With the help and support of the PCC they have raised enough money and also with the aid of some generous donations as well, will be able to commence with stage one of the restoration work to George Hudson's grave, which has sadly and shamefully reduced to a state of pitiful disrepair. This work is scheduled to commence in May 2019.

Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight

Sunday 9th December at 5pm

Mulled wine and Mince pies

Children are invited to come dressed as characters from the nativity. (Prizes!)

Come and join in the festive spirit and meet other local folk.

Church decoration from 10am Saturday 8th December

Decorating the Church is a very enjoyable occasion and anyone is welcome to come and help and join in the fun. Children are welcome but must be under the supervision of adult relations.

Donations of holly, ivy and greenery will also be very welcome on the day. Also, donations of red wine and mince pies, biscuits or savoury snacks will be very gratefully received please leave in the plastic box outside the door at Rectory Farmhouse near the Church.

It is time for our community to get together and start creating more community spirit so please come and join us. Come very warmly dressed and in good voice!

We will look forward to meeting you and making a start in rebuilding some community spirit and entertainment within our villages. Thank you all for your support.