

THE Moorsider



SPRING 2026

TRACTOR RUN & KIRKBYMOORSIDE 10K SUNDAY 3RD MAY



Rapidly approaching, this year's Tractor Run and 10k event will be held on Sunday 3rd May.

For those of you with a competitive streak looking to set your sights on a prize, or if you just like statistics, here goes:

- ▶ In 2025 there were 722 competitors of all ages participating across four races
- ▶ There were 99 kids in the dash race!



- ▶ Fastest LOCAL 10k runners in 2025 were Andy Wardell in 38.12 and Heather Walker in 46.12
- ▶ By age, the fastest 70+ runners were 55.35 male and 60.17 female
- ▶ Other race winners for 2025:
 - ▶ 4K - 12.49 male and 15.53 female
 - ▶ 1mile - 5.55 male and 6.32 female
- ▶ The current 10k course records are 31.59 male and 35.40 female.
- ▶ This year there will be a £100 prize for anyone who breaks the record!!

Kirkbymoorside Town Council is proud to support 'Friends of Kirkbymoorside Primary School' and the 10k event by covering the cost of £1,500 for traffic management.

KIRKBYMOORSIDE OPEN GARDENS SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

Kirkbymoorside In Bloom are holding their increasingly popular Open Gardens event on Sunday 7th June from 10.30am to 5pm.



This year there will be a record number of gardens across Kirkbymoorside and Keldholme, including some new entries. Tickets and maps will be on sale on the day from our base on the corner of West End, in the centre of town. Tickets cost £5 for adults only with free admission for under 16's, and offers access to all the gardens and a cream tea, served from 1pm in the Quaker Meeting House garden on West End. Dogs are welcome at the discretion of garden owners. Central and street parking is available in town. There will be additional information available regarding accessibility and the history of some of the buildings featured enroute.



The event will also feature performances by the Town Brass Band, from 2.30 to 3.30pm in the town

centre. 'In Bloom' are also delighted to welcome local choirs *Ryedale Voices* and *Ryelarks* for the first time.

The very popular plant stall will be running throughout the day. Contributions are very welcome and a plant creche facility will be available.

"This year's Open Gardens promises to be a real treat for the senses and one not to be missed!"

For further information and enquiries please contact Gaynor on 01751 430250.



Kirkbymoorside Town Council is proud to support the In Bloom Group by covering the annual cost of £2,500 for the hanging baskets in the town centre and maintenance of the planting around the war memorial in All Saints' churchyard.

BIODIVERSITY

The Town Council has adopted a 'Biodiversity Policy' and is exploring opportunities to establish a Biodiversity Action Plan. If this is something that you would like to be involved with please express your interest to the Town Council.

The Town Council designated the sloped area of the A170 verge near the junction of West Lund Lane as a 'Nature Area' for promotion of native wild flowers and grasses. This area was originally seeded with wildflowers in 2015 and grass was infrequently cut. Since 2023 the area has been managed in line with the North York Moors National Park Authority *GrubsUp!* Project including the introduction of yellow rattle. The latest survey, led by Holly Ramsden, *GrubsUp!* Project Officer in July 2025 identified 41 species of plants in this location. Further information is available upon request.

Can you suggest any areas that would be suitable to be designated as 'Nature Areas'?

Kirkbymoorside Town Council, Church House,
7 High Market Place, YO62 6AT 01751 432 217
town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk

In response to feedback from residents regarding the 'wildflower verges' on the A170, which involved leaving areas uncut for the duration of the growing season, this approach has been abandoned and the grass verge management is currently being reviewed.

You can adopt your own practices to promote biodiversity in your own garden. This simply involves creating, nurturing, and maintaining a diverse range of plant species and habitats to support insects, birds, and wildlife.

Key actions include choosing plants with varied blooming times, reducing pesticide use, and adding water features. These simple measures promote ecosystem resilience, natural pest control, and enhanced soil health.



A toppled pot provides shelter for wildlife

Key Strategies to Boost Garden Biodiversity:

Plant Diverse, Native Species: Choose a wide range of plants (trees, shrubs, and flowers) that provide year-round pollen, nectar, and fruit. Native plants are best for attracting local pollinators.

Create Habitats & "Messy" Areas: Leave piles of logs, brush, or fallen leaves to create shelter for invertebrates.

Water Features: Install a pond, birdbath, or mini-pond, which is one of the most effective ways to attract wildlife like amphibians and birds.



An 'In Bloom' garden with nature pond

Minimize Chemical Use: Avoid pesticides and herbicides to keep the ecosystem healthy and balanced.

Embrace Natural Lawns: Allow parts of the lawn to grow long or let wild plants like clover, dandelions, and buttercups thrive.

Layered Planting: Use a mix of tall trees, shrubs, and ground-level plants to provide nesting sites and



'In Bloom' garden with area of 'Natural Lawn'

Benefits of Biodiverse Gardens:

Pollinator Support: Increased, varied food sources support bees, butterflies, and moths.

Natural Pest Control: A balanced ecosystem allows natural predators to manage pest populations, reducing the need for chemicals.

Environmental Resilience: Diverse gardens are more capable of withstanding extreme weather, disease, and climate change pressures.

Mental Health: A lively, natural, and sensory-rich garden provides greater therapeutic benefits.



Biodiverse gardens support invertebrates like moths

Please share your biodiversity suggestions and experiences by email to the Town Council town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk

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2026 KIRKBYMOORSIDE GATEWAY TO THE MOORS MUSIC FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 31ST JULY - SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

After the success of the inaugural Kirkbymoorside Gateway to the Moors Music Festival last summer plans are well underway to repeat it again in 2026, bigger and better!

Still encompassing and celebrating 'Yorkshire Day' as the focal point of the festival, the 2026 dates are Friday 31st July - Sunday 2nd August. Performances and activities will be held across town centre venues and outside on Church Street. As with last year's festival, there will be a mixture of ticketed, 'for donations' and free events with something for everyone.



There will be more dance this year, with both Bollywood and Line Dance (back by popular demand) classes, Morris Dance sides performing, and a Ceilidh. Also back by popular demand for the Saturday night are the Maestros, who last year performed as the 'Bootleg 60's' and gave us an unforgettable night of live music that had everyone up and dancing all night. This year they will perform the music of the 60's, 70's and 80's, and the evening is bound to sell out. Another likely sell-out is our own amazing Kirkby Soul playing live on the Friday night.

Saturday in the Methodist Church is a day dedicated to folk / acoustic / traditional music, starting off with ukelele and then bodhrán lessons, then two brilliant duos, Mills and Farrell and The Browns and then local folk singer Nesy Williamson (who many enjoyed last year when she performed in the Moorside Coffee House). To finish the day off will be the Celtic Music Circle followed by a 'sing-around' where anyone can play.





Two other 'must-see' acts are John Drakes (once more back by popular demand) and the wonderful Boo Hewerdine, an international star performing at the festival as a special favour to the organisers. John is supported by Lost in Eve, a female singer songwriter duo with wonderful harmonies Boo is supported by singer songwriter Tymisha who has an incredible voice. This line up promises an unforgettable evening of performances.

Over the weekend, the White Swan is showcasing some of our own fabulous Kirkbymoorside acts, including Alkelda, Spanking Monkeys, Diva Strop, the Moorside 3, the Infernos, Grayson and Jacobs and the Cover Ups.

There will be a 2 hour children's disco party in the Memorial Hall on the Sunday morning. Admission will be free courtesy of the generous sponsorship by Little Years Nursery.

There will be Country with the Howard Hebron Band in the Memorial Hall on Sunday afternoon, followed by the return of the Jackhare Ceilidh Band. Downstairs in the Memorial Hall will be the Acoustic Bar all weekend, with lots of wonderful acts performing, free entry and specially brewed Kirkbymoorside Cidar on sale. There will other free performance in pubs and cafes across the town.

We are delighted to have the return to All Saints of the Weighton Waytes Choir on Sunday afternoon. An extraordinarily moving choir that sings from the sacred to the contemporary.

There will be music by the Town Brass Band on Saturday at midday. Then on Sunday evening they will be joined by singers and musicians in the James Holt Concert Hall, for a stunning finale to the festival, to perform the first ever 'Sgt Peppers Lonely Hearts BRASS Band'.



The purpose of the festival is not just to enjoy great live music and have fun, but to promote the town and boost the local economy. Hopefully local shops and businesses will join the festivities with eye catching window displays, special offers and their own promotions.

Please email the Festival Director Jean Illingworth kirkbymoorside.town@outlook.com if you would like to help. Opportunities available include festival stewards, technicians, bar staff and venue set-up.

Kirkbymoorside Town Council is supporting the 2026 event by covering the cost of £470 for traffic management on 1 August.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite and via links on the town website www.kirkbymoorsidetown.co.uk where more information is also available.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Report all incidents to the Police
Via 101 or 999
Don't post it on social media

If you've witnessed or been the victim of crime, please report it to the police online via www.northyorkshire.police.uk or call **101**. Your report will be sent direct to the police control room and all information is treated confidentially.

If a crime is in progress dial 999.

KIRKBYMOORSIDE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Nominations for the 2026 Community Awards will be open from 1 May to 31 July. The categories are Individual, Young Person and Volunteer or Charity Group of the Year. All information and nomination forms will be available for collection from The Home Decorating Centre and the Library and online via www.kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk

This year's winners will be celebrated at the Community Awards event on Saturday 31 October from 7pm in the Memorial Hall. *Save the Date!*

To receive further information about any of the articles in this publication please contact the Town Clerk.



Town Council meetings are held in the upstairs meeting room in Church House on the third Monday of every month, except August. The Planning Committee meeting is held prior to the full council meeting (if there are planning applications for consideration) followed by the Ordinary meeting of the Council at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Kirkbymoorside Town Council. Church House, 7 High Market Place, Kirkbymoorside, YO62 6AT
email: town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk telephone: **01751 432 217**.