



Monk Fryston Church of England Primary School

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13 June 2018

Dear Parents,

South Milford Bonfire & Fireworks Display – 10 November 2018

It is with great sadness that the South Milford Bonfire Committee has reluctantly decided that there will be no event in 2018. This decision has been brought about following a review of health and safety, and other considerations.

Our safety record has been exemplary and an example of good practice but the demands of meeting current regulations now makes our situation very difficult indeed. Essentially, we have been unsuccessful in our negotiations to secure support on the night from the police and/or local enforcement bodies, as the management of coned areas is proving difficult to maintain. Having worked hard with local residents to find a solution to the traffic issues, we now have problems with those who drive to the event from further away and totally ignore the parking restrictions we put in place. Also, the responsibility for ensuring safe and efficient exit routes is increasingly difficult and requires expertise. In addition to this, we are now also required to have a professionally qualified safety officer. We have always been indebted to the many local businesses who offer their services, many hours of their time and manpower and equipment. Regulations now mean that they would be required to sign documents which could implicate them and find them liable should an incident occur.

In addition to the health and safety issues, it is with sorrow that we also have to inform you that our expert and specialist pyrotechnic, Dave Partridge, a volunteer with us for several years, who gives many months of his time to support the cause each year, is very ill. We could source other experts but they would come at considerable cost.

We would like to thank you for all the support you have given us over the past twenty-five years. Who would have thought when the event started that it would go on to raise over £325,000 for our community? We are very proud of that achievement. Please continue to offer as much support as you can for the several community groups who have benefitted, and, in some cases, only exist, because they are beneficiaries. They will now be looking at new ways of fundraising and we hope that you will continue to support them.

In the meantime, we shall continue to have discussions with the relevant authoritative bodies to see if progress can be made before decisions about the future are finalised. The Committee is very passionate about our event and the funding it provides for the local community. We will do all we can to try and run an event in 2019, hopefully, with your support once again!

Yours Sincerely

Mr R Weights
Headteacher
(on behalf of South Milford Bonfire Committee)

