

Friends of Kirkley Hall



Registered Charity: 1055903

Website: www.friendsofkirkleyhall.org

Patron: His Grace the Duke of Northumberland



15 December 2021

Dear Friends

Once again we are sending a message hoping that you are all keeping well, at what continues to be very difficult times.

The last few weeks is the time when we would usually be planning things like the Christmas lunch that included the eagerly awaited Christmas Quiz that always defeated about 90% of those taking part. Unfortunately, it was not possible for us to hold this event at Kirkley Hall this year so we sadly took the decision not to have a Christmas lunch. So that members still had the opportunity of a Christmas activity we organised a Christmas table decoration event at the end of November. Those who attended had a thoroughly enjoyable day and all achieved a very professional looking decoration that should last them well over the Christmas time.

We were recently involved with the planning of the annual Carol Service for students at Kirkley Hall, which was to be led by the Rev. Capt. Paul Allinson, Vicar at Ponteland. It would have included readings by students. Unfortunately, this has had to be cancelled due to storm damage to the Hall, a great disappointment for everyone.

We have a couple of things planned for the Spring which might interest you. One is a tour of the Kirkley site. This will take you into places that you wouldn't normally go to. Lots of the student facilities have been upgraded and are now to a very high standard. This includes the equine centre where we have recently funded mirrors around the training arena that will assist the horse riders to check their posture whilst training. Please take advantage of these tours as I'm sure you will find them extremely interesting. Another event that is being planned is an afternoon tea in the Hall where Paul Morrison, a member of the horticulture team, will give a brief talk on how to prepare your garden for the coming season and the Committee will give you information about the forthcoming programme. We very much look forward to seeing you then.

I would like to acknowledge the enormous encouragement we have had from the management of the college. This has resulted in really good discounts for our members in various parts of the college, not only at Kirkley but at Ashington as well. These are:

- 50% off entry to the Zoo for you and also any members of your family attending with you.
- 10% off when you purchase plants at Kirkley Hall.
- Free access to the gardens at Kirkley Hall, including the Walled Garden.
- 25% off Dog Grooming at Kirkley Hall.
- 10% off at the hairdressers and barbers at Ashington.
- 10% off in the restaurant at Ashington.

I would like to send a sincere thank you to all the management and staff who have made these member discounts possible. Please do take advantage of these offers and remember you will need to show your membership card when asking for your discount.

We, your committee, are working hard to ensure that the Friends of Kirkley Hall goes from strength to strength. We do need your help with this by giving us your support. We need you to attend as many organised events as you can and we need you to encourage your friends and relatives to become members and also come along to the events. We would very much appreciate any ideas for future activities that you have. This will enable us to ensure a healthy bank balance so that we can respond to students' requests for assistance. We hope that we can give you a full programme of events next year that, hopefully, will include some that are new.

I would also like to send good wishes from us all to Blanche Johnson and her family. Blanche, our Chairman, and Bill her husband, have both had a spell of ill health and we hope that the coming year will be a better one for them.

All the Committee would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a very healthy 2022. We all look forward to seeing you early in the New Year when hopefully things will be back to some sort of normality.

Kind regards

Enid Saint

Acting Chairman