



Friends – the Newsletter of the Friends of Kirkley Hall

June 2018.

Dear Members,

Would you believe we are now past the date of the summer solstice?

Breaking News: Changes to College staff have been recently announced, briefly:

Jen Bell – will move to Ashington

David Wear – will take over the role previously held by Jen Bell

Other details about these changes and others that may come to light will be notified as the information becomes available to us.

With the departure of Marcus Clinton, your Executive Committee (EC) were keen to appoint another President, Jen Bell was suggested and has been asked.... Jen has said she is honoured to have been considered and has accepted the position with grace. Your Executive Committee feel that Jen who has always been a loyal supporter of the “Friends” will be a great asset to us, even though she will be based at Ashington!

Personal Note: The 2019 AGM will be the end of my 3-year term in the Chair, I have notified Executive Committee of my decision to stand down at that AGM, I will therefore not be seeking re-election either to the Chair or to EC. This will allow EC members time to discuss and “appoint” another Chairman to take over. 2019 also coincides with me serving 40 years on various Committees – time for a complete break. This will allow me more time to follow my other sporting and outdoor activities/pursuits.

GDPR:

A lot of EC time has been taken up recently with the introduction of new Data Protection Regulations, or to give it its full and grand title: General Data & Protection Regulations. The new regulation came into effect on 25th May 2018 – by now you should all have received a copy of the Privacy Notice and Guidelines sent out either by post in April, or by email on 30th March. I do hope you have taken time to read it all. No doubt like me you will have been inundated with letters asking you to tick here there and everywhere if you wish to be kept up to date by the senders. I’m afraid we have to do the same!

Your Membership Secretary and myself have *nearly* completed the task of amending the Friends Database to make it fit for today’s needs and to allow us to comply with the above regulation. To facilitate us with that task we have amended the Subscription Renewal form that you will receive with this Newsletter.

It is our (EC) responsibility to ensure that the data we hold about you is accurate and secure, it is however your responsibility to notify us in writing immediately of any changes to your circumstances or details.

Communications:

Email: At the end of March we began the task of moving across to sending as much information as we can via email to save both costs and our (EC) workload. I am pleased to say that this went *relatively* smoothly, although in the first test email we did encounter a few “bounce backs” (several reasons for this) which meant that the test was unable to deliver the message. Out of 74 emails sent out, there were 4 “bounce backs”, 1 was attributable to me as a typing error, 2 were incorrect (or changed) addresses taken from the database (corrected by contacting the members by phone), 1 was unexplained – as when it was sent out again....it was received by the member!

We now have 77 members with email addresses registered with us. A recent email sent out to advertise an event unfortunately also resulted in some 18 bouncebacks that had not occurred before. *After days of researching this last item, I feel I have identified the problem – and have put in place a workaround, watch this space!*

We will continue to use our database records to send out emails to any Member who has an email address registered with us.

Continued:

It is important to note that when we send out a “mass email” – we send it out as a “blind copy” (bcc) to keep your identity hidden and safe. IF you need to reply to that “mass email” – PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO “ALL” - only reply to the sender (otherwise your email address could be compromised).

How to set up your email contact list for the friendsofkirkleyhall@yahoo.com address:

- Name: leave blank
- Email Address: friendsofkirkleyhall@yahoo.com
- All other contact details: leave blank (although you may wish to record our mobile number here)

This is a generic email address – hence having no “personal” name attributed. What will this all achieve?

As the majority of our members now have an email address registered with us, it will mean a big reduction on: Printing, Postage and other associated costs, EC workload (stuffing envelopes etc) – this is indeed good news, especially as we do have a greatly reduced number of members on serving on EC. In future all correspondence will be sent too you via email if you have registered an email address with us.

Texts: This is currently held as “Work in Progress”. When Subscription Renewal forms are returned, we will re-evaluate the situation... if a substantial number of members provide us with their mobile phone details we will then proceed with the task of setting up “mass texting”

Sound at events – Microphones: We are aware of the current problems some members are having hearing some presenters. Not all of our presenters like using microphones, either fixed (lectern) or roaming, we are currently investigating the use of lapel type microphones as this would allow the presenters freedom to move away from the lectern, but more importantly allow members to hear and enjoy the presentations.

Sound at events – Loop system: This is another matter which is under investigation, if there is not one available for us from Kirkley Hall Limited, we could probably purchase one out of our funds, but as these rooms are hired out to other groups – I feel that the responsibility for having the system installed should lie with Kirkley Hall Limited.

Whatever the problem is with sound, we do recognise that it is not good news if you can’t hear what is being said, we *will* resolve that problem, probably not overnight, *but it will be resolved*.

Events: We continue to have a wide and varied selection of Events – despite publicity we only had around 20 people at the June event which was hugely disappointing. Chris Garden of Hepple Gin gave an excellent and enthusiastic presentation both about the history of gin making and the planting of juniper bushes in the Coquet Valley. It was indeed a welcome tonic for those who turned out.

Subscriptions:

Subscriptions are due for renewal on or before 31st July, we have included with this Newsletter a “new” Subscription Renewal form for members to complete and return to us along with your subscription. With the recent introduction of the GDPR we require **all** categories of members to complete and return the form to us, that includes: Lifetime Members, Honorary Members, Members who pay by either Standing Order or Direct Debit, this will allow us to double check our database to ensure that your contact details are accurate. I would ask you all to ensure you tick the box, otherwise you will not be able to receive mail from us!

Wynyard Hall:

On 31st May, 25 members and their friends attended our trip to Wynyard Hall. We had a very warm and sunny day, as soon as we arrived we had a garden tour with Mark the Head Gardener. To say Mark was excellent was probably an understatement – he certainly made a few new fans. Afterwards we had tea/coffee and biscuits taken at leisure, we were then free to roam around the vast well-kept grounds. The chat on the coach on the return journey indicated that everyone had had a most enjoyable day. Thanks are due to Enid Saint for organising this event.

AGM: The Annual General Meeting is coming along on September 12th, EC have decided to hold a FREE buffet after AGM business has been conducted, this will once again allow all those in attendance to socialise.

A Booking form is enclosed with this mailing – please complete the form if you wish to come along to the AGM - post it along with your Subscription Renewal Form/cheque plus a Nomination Form if you would like to join EC.

Nominations to serve on EC: We will be seeking nominations from the Membership to serve on EC.

If you have any experience of maintaining a database (Microsoft Excel) that is one position that needs to be filled as a matter of urgency. The database has been modified to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. If you feel you could fill this position or indeed join us in any capacity, please contact us using the information below, or better still complete the Nomination Form which is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Continued:

Contact us:

Should you need to contact us please do so using the following methods, your message will be passed on to the appropriate EC member who will respond to your query.

Email address: friendsofkirkleyhall@yahoo.com

Friends mobile: 07551974955.

Please note that we are unable to provide you with any personal details about another/other members as that would be a breach of the GDPR's.

Events held by Kirkley Hall Limited:

At a recent EC Meeting (12/17, it was agreed by Kirkley Hall Limited (who were in attendance) - that Members of the Friends of Kirkley Hall would receive the same discounts as Staff at any future events.

This will be dependant upon members being able to produce a *current* membership card at the entrance. If you can't produce a card, unfortunately you will not be allowed the discount. The discount will only apply to Members – if there are others in your Group/party and they are not members of the "Friends" they will have to pay the full amount.

This is a generous offer made to us by Kirkley Hall Limited.

Chairman's Annual Report, Treasurers Report, Minutes of the 2017 AGM:

These documents will be sent out probably late in August. The accounts are still active until the end of July, this unfortunately occurs whilst our Treasurer is very busy at the College.

Best wishes to you all.

James Heneghan, Chairman, Friends of Kirkley Hall.

END.

06/18

Encs:

Newsletter - Nomination Form - Subscription Renewal Form – AGM Booking Form

To save you postage, Brian Talkes has kindly offered to have all of these forms sent to his address.