

Dear Members

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the sunshine, let's hope it lasts.

Looking back at the past few months I feel that Friends of Kirkley Hall is certainly holding its own as we have been encouraged with a slight increase in the numbers attending the monthly speaker events as well as gaining a few new members.

We have had some very good speakers, including talks from the National Trust on Wallington and then Seaton Delaval Hall. The one by the Bailiffgate Museum on the Tudor Dynasty when the speaker stripped off and dawned on clothes of that era was very different and entertaining. We also had a very topical speaker recently on the new Northumberland Rail Line that will run from Ashington to Newcastle, this was really informative, well attended, and enjoyed by everyone.

We already have Age UK booked on 9 October to talk about Scam Awareness, this should be a very useful talk. The AGM will take place on 11 September, don't forget, this is your opportunity to give us your views on what we do and how we organise things. We have booked the Christmas wreath or table decoration again as it has proved to be very successful, with many of you returning each year, this will take place on 27 and 28 November,

and we plan to have the Christmas meal again on 11 December. The caterer is one we have had for the last two years as she has proved to be very popular because of the excellent quality of her food, and, of course, we will have the usual, very easy quiz. We do need your continued support for this event as we can only go ahead if we have a viable number.

This financial year we have funded Presentation Boards for the Higher National Course and paid for the coach for an educational visit for the Animal Care and Equine Students. I'm sure there will be more good applications in the new academic year.

We do understand that it is a difficult time for everyone financially at the moment but we are only just covering the cost of the speakers each month so have decided that, in order to keep pace with all the usual expenses, the annual subscription will be increased to £10 per member, with effect from 1 August 2024. Entrance costs to the talks will remain unchanged at £2 for a member but will increase to £4 for non members, these are proposals recommended by the Treasurer.

Our thanks go to you, our members, for your continued support. It is so important that you attend as many events as you are able so that we can continue to fund what is necessary to enhance the learning for the students at Kirkley Hall and I hope that I have given you some dates for your diary above. As normal you will receive reminders of our forthcoming events nearer the time.

It is now time to renew your membership. Please make your payment on 1 August or as soon as possible after that date. Membership renewal fees are now £10 a year per member. If you are paying by Standing Order or Bank Transfer please remember to alter the amount.

Ways to pay:

Cheque made payable to Friends of Kirkley Hall and sent to:

Mrs Stella Cochrane, 16 Wentworth Court, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE20 9PR

Standing Order / Bank Transfer- Bank details for 'Friends of Kirkley Hall'

Sort Code 30-93-55. Account Number 00998357 (please use your surname as reference)

Email address for queries - friendsofkirkleyhall200@btinternet.com

I look forward to seeing you at some of the events mentioned above and hope that you all enjoy the rest of the summer.

Very best wishes

Enid Saint

Chair of Friends of Kirkley Hall