



Friends – the Newsletter of the Friends of Kirkley Hall

October 2018.

Dear Members,

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the last days of the sun before the dark and cold nights set in. Oh dear!

As I go into my final term in the Chair, it is a time for reflection on my behalf. It is a credit to the Executive Committee that we have been able to hold things together with greatly reduced members on the Committee. As the numbers on Committee reduce, the workload on each Committee member increases – hence the need to look closely at what and how we do things.... *Streamlining* is the turn of phrase in management “speak”. Every member of EC has played an important role in this streamlining process (more ideas are still coming forward) so to them all I say “Thank you”. Well done.

We held our AGM in September and a few changes to the way your Executive Committee (EC) conduct and manage the affairs on behalf of the Friends of Kirkley Hall were made.

Some of the changes were necessary to safeguard the running and future of the Friends, others were in an attempt to bring in new members and more people attending our events.

So, what are these changes?

1. Your EC has been reduced from a minimum of 12 members down to a minimum of 6 members, this recommendation came from EC themselves as we were acutely aware that there were no offers of help forthcoming from the membership to help on EC. The proposal was accepted by more than 66% of those in attendance. We are confident that with the streamlining we have done so far (and will continue to do) we can operate with a minimum of 6, at the moment we have 8 EC Members. The Friends of Kirkley Hall Governance Document has been amended to reflect these changes – and is now lodged with the Charity Commissioners in accordance with the law relating to Charities.

Three members did volunteer to be part of working groups, these will work outside of, but under the jurisdiction of EC, thanks are due to those members – we hope to be using your skills and enthusiasm in the near future.

2. Event admission charges have been reduced for everyone in an attempt to bring in more members of the Friends and members of the public to our monthly events. The new charges which will be effective as from and including our October 10th event will be as follows:

Members £2-00 pp (reduced from £4-00 pp) - Non-Members £3-00 pp (reduced from £5-00pp)

EC are aware that the admission costs of our events are above what other local groups charge, this is an attempt to readdress the balance a little and see if we can attract others to come long and support us. Indeed, I am a member of 3 other Groups (not in the Ponteland area) and none of those charge at all for events!

3. Subscription levels are being standardised to make administration simpler, the new rate will be: £6-00pp per annum (irrespective of age) – this will take effect as from renewals in July 2019. Any new members joining after July 2018 will pay this rate when they join.

If you are one of our members who pay by either Direct Debit or Standing order please ask your bank/building society to make the necessary changes to the amount you pay (only applicable if you currently pay more than £6-00 pp per annum), the bank/building society should also be instructed to make payments to the Friends of Kirkley Hall by/on 1st August each year.

Further streamlining is being carried out – this time with the way we conduct our banking at the peak period when subscriptions are renewed. Your Treasurer will be able to scan cheques and have them paid into our funds within minutes, this should make it more effective and less time consuming for us. I have to say a huge thank you to your Treasurer for coming up with this initiative.

Included with this mail shot is the menu and booking form for the popular Friends Christmas Lunch, this year we have a choir of schoolchildren from a local school in Ponteland coming along – so come along and join us, and why not bring a friend?

Continued:

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.

Veteran Tree Project:

Please see the following – Nick Johnson will be hosting a presentation on Wednesday 31st January 2019 in the Main Hall.

Northumbria Veteran Tree Project

At a time when trees are becoming increasingly threatened by both planning and environmental issues, we are extremely grateful that thanks to a successful Heritage lottery bid, Ancient, Veteran and notable trees across the regions of Newcastle, North Tyneside and the county of Northumberland will receive much needed recognition and long-term protection.

The project based at Kirkley Hall encourages members of the public to nominate appropriate trees which will then be added to a map on the website and the project Gallery.

For more information contact; nick.johnson@northland.ac.uk - or visit the website

www.veterantreeproject.com

Executive Committee Members wish you all:

“A very Merry Christmas and we hope that throughout 2019 you enjoy good health and happiness”.



Best wishes

James Heneghan, Chairman, Friends of Kirkley Hall.

END.

10/18

Encs:

Newsletter

Christmas Lunch booking form

Christmas Lunch Menu

2019 Events program