



## Friends of Kirkley Hall – June 2017 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Here we are half way through another year, with plenty of sunshine still to *come*?

Recent findings have revealed that the Friends of Kirkley Hall are not too well known either in Ponteland or its environs; after all of the years the Friends have been in existence, I find this rather sad. Now we have this information we are in a position to do something about it.

The first steps are already under way, we have co-opted one member who has experience in the field of Publicity onto Executive Committee (EC), and she will work alongside another EC member with a Marketing background. It is hoped that by the time this Newsletter arrives with you ( mid/late June) we will see the result of this expertise in the form of posters and publicity beginning to appear in and around Ponteland, Morpeth and other areas where there may “potential” Members living!

I do hope that after all of the effort being put in by members of the EC we will see an increase in the numbers attending our Events, it is recognised that this will not happen immediately, it may take a few months for people to see and react to the posters. This is something new we are trying, we will adjust in the light of any experience we gain, BUT we do need to get ourselves known to more people and in a wider area.

Several other initiatives are being investigated at present, but the art is not having too many things going on at once, one stair at a time is the secret. What are these initiatives?

- Looking at the longer term aim and ambitions for the Friends
- Improving Communications with Members
- Getting staff at Kirkley College more involved with the Friends
- Making students more aware of what we do for them
- Attempting to make contact (via the College) with the parents of students, as *their* son or daughter may benefit from one of our awards. It is hoped that some of the parents may also join the Friends.
- Attempting to get ex Alumni from the College to join the Friends
- Holding “Joint Enterprise” Events with the College, Staff, Students and Friends – these will run alongside our Monthly events, in October there will 2 events, more news later as things develop. The idea is to get the students, staff and Friends together. It is envisaged that these events will happen twice per year only, but if they are success... who knows?
- ONE excellent suggestion to bring people into Kirkley Hall is to hold a Friends “Open Day”. FREE tea, coffee, biscuits would be on offer. If this event could be staged in either the Blue Room or the Banqueting Suite, this in itself would impress first timers to Kirkley Hall. I should point out that this idea came from member of EC who has a Marketing background!

We are coming to that time of year when we on EC have to start preparing for the AGM (to be held September 13<sup>th</sup>), 3 Members of EC *have* to retire on rotation, your Treasurer has decided to stand down to follow other interests, so we are now looking towards the **Membership** to fill these **4 positions**. The role of Treasurer has to be filled as it is a legal requirement; an Accountant who would be willing to join us on EC would be an ideal situation, however if you are not an Accountant but have had previous experience as a Treasurer or indeed think that you could fulfil this role....we will pipe you onboard!

The Friends of Kirkley Hall **DO** have a great future.....but only if Members are willing to join and support your EC.

Changes to the Management Structure have been made at Kirkley Hall Ltd. Wayne Vickers has left and has been replaced by Chloe Tesseyman, who now holds the title General Manager, Kirkley Hall Ltd. I hope to be able to give you regular updates of what is happening throughout the College in future Newsletters.

In May we had an excellent presentation by Banks Mining, Jeannie the young lady who gave us the presentation was both knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject, those who did not come along missed what has been described to me as “the best presentation we have had”!

- A spin off from the questions asked by members who attended has resulted in a “rare offer” being made for the Friends to visit one of Banks Surface Mines. This will involve a guided tour down into the open mine in a Banks Landover (you are not underground) to see coal being abstracted, and then onto another part of the site to see how they restore land to its former glory after the coal has been removed.

Following a discussion with Banks Mining about the design of the vehicles used to take us around the mine site (*we have to be in a Banks vehicle* for Health & Safety Regulations) it is suggested that members who have mobility problems do not book for this event. The one step into the vehicle is very high.

*Any member wishing to go to this FREE event will need to book in advance using the contact details at the bottom of this Newsletter. Once we have the names and numbers, I will contact Banks to finalise the details, if you have booked you will then be notified of the final arrangements. Members wishing to attend will have to make their own way to the location (probably Shotton or Brenkley surface mine). The closing dates for applications will be 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017.*

Sadly we had to cancel our proposed trip to Harrogate Flower show due to lack of support from the Membership, the future of these trips will need to be discussed within EC, this is the second year running that we have been unable to fill a coach after a lot of hard work has been done by individuals members of EC.

We now have events planned well into 2018; these will all be announced when we send out the booking forms, these forms will include information about each event.

#### Updates:

- Our new website: [www.friendsofkirkleyhall.org](http://www.friendsofkirkleyhall.org) is now live; regular updating will take place.
- Database is now encrypted – this makes your details as secure as we can make them.
- We will begin trials with “reminder messages” via email to those members who have an email registered on our database. These reminders will be sent out either one or two weeks before an event takes place.
- We hope to be in a position within the next two/three months to begin trials with “reminder messages” via text to your mobile phone (if you have registered your mobile on our database); this will take the same format as the email reminders.

Should you wish to offer your help and support to EC, or indeed discuss other matters with us, please contact us using one of the options below:

Best wishes to you all, I look forward to welcoming you to one or more of our events.

James Heneghan MISM, Chairman.  
Chairman

**Contact details: email: [friendsofkirkleyhall@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkirkleyhall@gmail.com) Phone: (Mobile) 07551974955**