

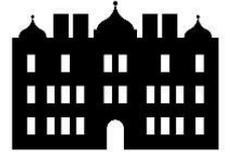
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Kiplin Hall
& Gardens

Antique “Kitchenalia” from Kent brings funds and employment opportunity to Kiplin Hall & Gardens in North Yorkshire

Known for its grand rooms, opulent décor and bountiful walled garden, Kiplin Hall & Gardens has become home to a vast collection of Victorian kitchen and dairy antiques.

Originally owned by renowned antiques dealer Annie Marchant, who lived in Kent, the collection includes machines, pots, pans and utensils that were used in the kitchen and dairy during the Victorian era. Items from her collection were sometimes hired out and used on television. Comedian Victoria Wood used them on the set of her soap opera parody Acorn Antiques during the mid-80s.

Sadly, Annie Marchant died, aged just 68, this spring. In her Will she left instructions for her collection to be donated to a museum. Kiplin Hall & Gardens, an accredited museum in North Yorkshire, applied for the collection and has been successful in acquiring it, along with a generous financial sum to ensure its safe keeping for the future.

James Etherington, Director of Kiplin Hall and Gardens comments

“We are very grateful to become the new home for Annie Marchant’s impressive collection. Much of our current collection includes art, fine furniture, and the possessions of the families who lived here at Kiplin over the last 400 years. But those items do not always tell the whole story of the people who worked and lived here. A house like Kiplin would have required staff and servants. We know there was a dairy on site, and larger kitchens and servant’s accommodation existed next to the hall, but they were demolished some time ago. Annie’s collection will help us to explore the stories and lives of the sorts of people who worked and lived at Kiplin outside of the family ownership.”

Annie’s obituary was written by a friend of hers, Hugh Darrah, and was published in The Guardian in April. Hugh described Miss Marchant as a “lively, talkative and strong-minded woman who held unshakeable views about almost everything – the best word I can think of to describe her thought processes was that everything should be proper – it was, she believed, proper to be frugal, proper to reuse and recycle, proper to grow your own vegetables, proper to preserve produce at harvest time, proper to look after wounded animals.”

Mr. Etherington continues “At Kiplin we have a number of strong women in the family tree, but on reading Annie Marchant’s obituary we were struck by just how similar she sounds to our own Bridget Talbot. Miss Talbot was the last owner of Kiplin Hall and is credited with saving it for the nation. They sound very similar in their tenacity and will to preserve history. The Victorian walled garden, produce from which is used in our Tea Room, alongside the fine dining room in the Hall set the perfect context for the Annie Marchant collection which fills a gap in the telling of Kiplin’s story. We feel confident that the previous owners of the Hall, especially Miss Talbot, would be delighted to have Annie’s collection here.”

Utilizing the funding which accompanies the collection Kiplin Hall and Gardens is also recruiting a member of staff to see to the project through to completion. The post of Project Officer is currently being

advertised online at www.kiplinhall.co.uk . The successful candidate will work to create a temporary exhibition due to open in February 2021. The post holder will conduct research, manage the care of the collection, create learning materials, and contribute to long term plans to house and display the collection at Kiplin. A partiality to enjoy cake is also desirable, as with all vacancies at Kiplin!

At a time when many jobs in the heritage sector are at risk it is good news to see employment opportunities being created, especially in a rural area. Since the lockdown Kiplin has reported its busiest ever July. This previously much loved but little-known attraction enjoys welcoming many more local families; thought to be a result of the trend to *love local* and visit *destinations on your doorstep* post lockdown. Attractions like Kiplin, with outdoor space & refreshments, who have reacted quickly putting in place COVID secure procedures and pivoting their marketing methods are seeing some success post lockdown (although annual income may be down due to the spring closure). This alongside the new acquisition leaves the future looking brighter for Kiplin Hall & Gardens.

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(Images on next page)

Notes

- Contact: Samantha Jennings (Marketing and Communications Officer) 07811190193
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- Kiplin Hall and Gardens is currently operating on reduced hours and staffing during the government lockdown as part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Temporary Opening Hours– Hall and Gardens - 5 days per week (Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon/Tue) 10am – 5pm last admission 4pm.
- Kiplin Hall and Gardens, Near Scorton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 6AT www.kiplinhall.co.uk
- Kiplin Hall is an historic house museum set in 100 acres of grounds; the visitor attraction enjoys a peaceful location between Northallerton and Richmond with grounds comprising of woodland, parkland, a walled garden, lake side paths, and lawns.
- Tickets (valid for 12 months)- £12.00 adults, £10.00 conc, £6.00 child, under 5's free. £32.00 Family ticket.
- Tea Room currently closed – takeaway refreshments on site from Proper Pizzas
- Toilets OPEN

Image Captions (high res copies attached or available on request from marketing@kiplinhall.co.uk)

1. Annie Marchant a 'lively, talkative and strong-minded woman' who has bequeathed her extensive collection of Victorian Kitchen and Dairy objects to Kiplin Hall and Gardens



2. Director of Kiplin Hall and Gardens, James Etherington, pictured outside of the historic house museum holding antique swan shaped ice-cream mould, fitting given the swans living on the lake in the shadow of the Hall today.



3. An actual swan pictured on the lake at the 400 year old Kiplin Hall and Gardens in North Yorkshire. The lake is the result of gravel extraction, the income from which contributed to the Halls renovation. It is now a haven for wildlife including swans, geese, fish, frogs and wild flowers.



4. Director of Kiplin Hall and Gardens, James Etherington. Pictured in front of the museum holding an antique milk churn from Miss Merchant's extensive collection of antique kitchen and dairy equipment which will be displayed in the hall in 2021.



5. This shop display for meats from Selby is part of the vast kitchenware collection which finds a new home in North Yorkshire at Kiplin Hall & Gardens



6. Kiplin Hall's grand interior tells one side of the story of upper class country living; the new collection will help the museum to explore the lives of the people who worked at the house which had its own dairy and large kitchen and servants wing, now demolished.

