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Kiplin Hall
& Gardens

Silent Footsteps; explore untold stories of domestic service at Kiplin Hall and Gardens this spring.

The table is set. Laid with nine plates, representing some of the servant roles in this historic house. In life the servants and staff of Kiplin Hall moved through the house silently undertaking their duties. We see traces of them in the historical record through things like accounts ledgers and diary entries. Then and today, they are shadows, without whom Kiplin Hall could not have existed and thrived.

From butler and housekeeper, to maid and postboy, people made great houses like Kiplin Hall run smoothly for their wealthy owners. *Silent Footsteps* shines a light on the lives of the people who worked at Kiplin in the past. Exploring their duties and tasks through objects from the Annie Marchant Kitchen and Dairy Collection. Through research we have glimpsed more about the lives of these individuals, their families, and ties to the local community.

Learn about people like Elizabeth Wheatley the housekeeper from 1845 to 1851 who married the local draper, John Tutin. Alongside expectations of hard work, life for some much-loved staff was good. The rules were bent on occasion, like for butler John Alton. John worked at Kiplin for 50 years from 1808, *living out* with his own family in an estate cottage. Butler's were normally required to live in the house, without a family of their own, to be on hand at all hours.

Looking back into the duties of maids we can see the extravagances of the wealthy owner families. Ice cream in the 1800s, elaborate pies made in copper moulds, imported coffee & tea, and sweet treats. Valuable items like coffee, wine, and even the dinner service itself, were kept under lock and key to be managed by senior staff. Many of these indulgences can still be enjoyed today in the Tea Room, currently shortlisted for an award from the Flavours of Herriot Country.

Objects in the exhibition are displayed in thought provoking silhouettes of domestic furniture hand painted by local artist Sarah Jarman. The black backdrop a metaphor for the lives of the staff. Lived in the shadows, their duties carried out quickly and quietly. Today these untold stories have a shadowy nature in the historical record, giving us only glimpses into the day to day lives of the people who worked at Kiplin Hall.

Silent Footsteps opens to the public on Friday 11th March and is included with standard admission, day and annual tickets available. Kiplin Hall and Gardens is open 6 days a week, closed on Thursdays. Please note this exhibition is on the 3rd floor and is only accessible via the stairs. For more information visit www.kiplinhall.co.uk

Image Captions

1. Kiplin Volunteer Imogen Hayden pictured installing objects in the new exhibition, *Silent Footsteps*, which opens on Friday 11th March.
2. A shadowy dresser showcases objects used in domestic service in great houses like Kiplin Hall
3. The table is laid, a place for each of the nine main roles at a house like Kiplin Hall
4. Families at Kiplin Hall would have dined in style and hosted lavish parties with the support of domestic staff. Image credit Guy Carpenter.

5. Memorial for much loved butler John Alton at St Mary's Church in Bolton on Swale, near Kiplin Hall speaks of his 'worth'
6. Kiplin Hall and Gardens is located half way between Northallerton and Richmond and offers visitors ample grounds and gardens, the historic house museum and tea room. Image credit @bigladderphotographer
7. The Tea Room at Kiplin Hall serves sweet treats today, with a reputation for scrumptious scones!

Notes

- **Contact** – Alice Rose curator@kiplinhall.co.uk or Samantha Jennings marketing@kiplinhall.co.uk
- Office - 01748 818 178
- Kiplin Hall and Gardens – Grounded in North Yorkshire, making marks around the globe
- **Address** Kiplin Hall and Gardens, Near Scorton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 6AT www.kiplinhall.co.uk
- **Brief info** - Kiplin Hall is an historic house museum set in 90 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.
- **Opening Hours** – Gardens and Tea Room - 6 days per week (closed Thursdays) 10am – 5pm last admission 4pm. Hall 11am – 4pm from Friday 11th March (Until 2nd November 2022)
- **Collections** at the museums include the art, furniture and possessions of the four family who have owned Kiplin over the last 400 years. The Calverts, Crowes, Carpenters and Talbots. And the Annie Marchant Kitchen and Dairy Collection, acquired in 2020.
- **Tea Room** open with indoor service and take away options for outdoor dining.
- Artist for murals in this exhibition – Sarah Jarman - www.sarahjarmanart.co.uk
- **COVID procedures** (at the time of writing) face-covering are strongly advised indoors
- Kiplin Hall Trust is a registered charity 1155907
- **Day Tickets** and **Annual Tickets** available (new structure for 2022)

	Day (standard)	Day (with Gift Aid)	Annual
Adult	£10.00	£11.00	£19.00
Cons./Student	£9.00	£9.90	£16.00
Child 5-15years	£5.00	£5.50	£9.50
Small Family (1 adult + 2 children)	£16.00	£17.50	£29.50
Large Family (2 adults + up to 3 children)	£26.00	£28.60	£49.00