

“Friends of Patterdale Hall” Newsletter

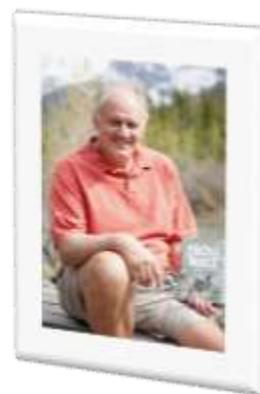
January 2017



Welcome to our third newsletter from the “Friends of Patterdale Hall” Group. I hope it updates you on all that has been happening over the past year and, also, gives you a number of things to look forward to along with some dates for your diaries!

Friends of Patterdale Hall

We launched this group in 2015. The group is made up of many supportive and interested friends and a few committee members who help to steer the direction of the Friends group. The inaugural President of the group is Old Boy of Bolton School and international adventurer and mountain climber John Amatt.



Centre Developments

The process of upgrading the roof, gutters, pointing and decoration continues and work is now part-way through on the Coach House Building. We hope that a large proportion of this is complete by February. Plans are slotting into place for the remainder of the redevelopment of the centre over the next couple of years.



The North Wing



the very best of any outdoor centre of its type” (Doug Jones – AHOEC Gold).

Alongside the newly refurbished South Wing, we are delighted to announce that we are pushing forwards with the North Wing renovations. The layout is being reviewed and the wing will be renovated in line with the South Wing. A recent quality inspection reported that “The standard of the accommodation is right up there with



Holiday Lettings



With the work underway on the Coach House, we have closed that holiday let whilst it is a building site. We continue to operate the Dairy which, with its log burning stove and quirky feel, is proving to be cosy and a great success.

www.patterdalehallholidaylettings.com



Grounds Management



Working with the Forestry Commission we have secured two grants recently, the first to remove the invasive rhododendron from the estate (following tree disease outbreaks) and secondly to develop a management plan for the site, particularly the woodlands. This management plan includes gaining a licence for thinning out some trees, replanting and footpath maintenance. It should open the door to other possible funding streams in the future, including countryside stewardship money.



Going for Gold!

We are delighted to have been awarded the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) "Gold Standard". This prestigious award recognises the high quality standards we have achieved across the operation, from catering to administration, activities and housekeeping. With the award we also achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge and Adventuremark. Apart from being a great accolade, having these badges makes it easier for customers to attend, reducing the amount of risk management documents we need to provide them with. We hope that they will also help our overall marketing campaign and bring us more external business in the future.



Open Day



It seems a long time ago now, but back in June 2016 we hosted an Open Day and launch event, where we celebrated the refurbishment of the South Wing and the vast amount of other work we have done since purchasing the hall



in July 2014. The event was well attended by over 100 visitors. The Chairman of Governors, Michael Griffiths, headlined the after party with a superb speech and plaque unveiling.

Working Weekends – The Volunteers of FOPH

Our dedicated bunch of volunteers not only keep amazing us with their enthusiasm, skill and motivation, but they are also growing in numbers. The amount of work they achieve over a few weekends a year is phenomenal. During the year we have removed vast amounts of rhododendron, fenced, created exclusions zones on the hill to allow natural regeneration, cleared bracken, cut and stacked logs and much, much more. I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to these volunteers. If you are interested in helping out on some volunteer days or weekends, please let me know: ttaylor@patterdalehall.org.uk



Keeping in Touch – Social Media

We tweet from Patterdale Hall most days and it provides a good way for you to keep abreast of the latest developments and information. Our tweets reach out to thousands of followers. Our Twitter name is @Patterdale_Hall.

Thanks for reading – we hope to see you soon