The TRUST

1971 – Present

A lost summer house, a diverted road and hundreds of years of history are just some of the things hidden beneath Kiplin.

In 2014, a team of archaeologists, volunteers and local school children worked to uncover the previously unknown archaeology of the Kiplin estate. Excavations revealed a medieval road in Lady Tyrconnel's Garden and a lost summer house in the Peninsular Wood, along with pottery, glass, and other items from up to 800 years ago.

Who knows what else lies beneath the ground waiting to be found?

Kiplin has always needed a team of people to care for the building.

Hundreds of people have lived and worked here over the last 400 years, each helping to preserve it for the next generation. Today staff and volunteers continue to care for the hall and gardens and tell Kiplin's stories.

There are always new and exciting stories to be told. In 2020, Kiplin acquired the Annie Marchant Kitchen and Dairy Collection to help explore the stories of the people who lived and worked on the estate in the past.

In the 1990s, gravel extractions helped to raise money for a new roof. The resulting pit was later filled with water to become the lake you can walk around today.

Today visitors can explore the Hall and 90 acres of gardens and grounds.

As part of the Charting Chipeling project, local school children worked alongside archaeologists to search for evidence of Kiplin's past.

Annie Marchant (1951 – 2020) was a collector of historic kitchen and dairy objects. Her collection was donated to Kiplin Hall after her death in 2020.

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Character close-up: The Trust

Work still goes on at Kiplin every day. Teams of staff and volunteers help to maintain and develop Kiplin inside and out throughout the year.

Inside, the team cleans the rooms from top to bottom, giving care and attention to each object. Humidity, temperature and light levels are closely monitored to make sure the rooms and objects are being preserved for future visitors. Research continues to uncover stories that have been waiting to be discovered for hundreds of years.

Outside there is much work to do to maintain the 90 acres of gardens and grounds. There are many everyday tasks like planting, weeding and mowing. The garden team works on projects to reinstate gardens from Kiplin's past and continue to develop new areas.

The Walled Garden was restored back into a working kitchen garden in the 2010s. Fruits, vegetables, and flowers are grown, just as they were in Kiplin's heyday. Image courtesy of Edwin Remsberg.

In 1971 Bridget Talbot, the last owner of Kiplin, died. The Hall and Gardens entered a new era under the care of the Kiplin Hall Trust. This includes trustees, staff and volunteers.

Work started almost immediately to restore the Hall and Gardens. Over the next 30 years, the roof was restored, parts of the service wing demolished, and the lake created as a result of gravel quarrying.

The first rooms of the Hall were re-opened for the public in 2001, with further rooms restored and opened in the following years. Many new areas have been developed in the hall and gardens since then. This includes the acquisition of the Annie Marchant Kitchen and Dairy Collection in 2020.

Often referred to as the fifth family, Kiplin would not be open today without the hard work of its many volunteers. Their work in the Hall, gardens, and behind the scenes is invaluable.

Audio listening area

- Description of the service wing being removed in the 1970s, 1 minute.
- Gardener talking about the Walled Garden, 1 minute.