



# Friends of Firbeck Hall

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, APRIL, 2009

The 'Golden Years' history presentation at St. Martin's Church on Friday, 6 March, produced a remarkable response when 180 people attended and confirmed the continued great interest in Firbeck Hall, both within and beyond the village. As a result of this, a longstanding idea to form a 'Friends of Firbeck Hall' group was realised on Friday, 4 April, at an Open Forum in the Village Hall. We were unable to project the whole agenda, especially the period set aside for question time and this will be given priority at our next meeting.

The group was established with 77 members (now over 100) and it was made clear that our basic aim was to do all in our power to secure the Hall's future. We believe that previous planning applications have been refused but Friends of Firbeck Hall hope to talk with any individual or group to achieve this aim and be flexible with regard to future use of the Hall and its Grounds. We are, of course, aware that controlling factors are very much in the hands of RMBC Planning Department and the current owner of the property but we hope to make our views known and become a factor in any future outcome. To this end, increased membership is very welcome but be assured that we are not a protest group and only wish to discuss positive measures that are in the best interests of this wonderful piece of Architectural History that stands on our very own doorstep.

Firbeck Hall is a Grade 2 Listed Building which has been a part of our village for the past 400 years. The building is now at risk so we are determined to protect it in the short term and will use every reasonable means at our disposal to ensure this objective. The interiors are now in a serious state of decay, mainly due to the ingress of rain water caused by removal of lead sealing and other roof damage. This problem requires immediate attention to ensure safety and survival of the Hall. Its loss is not an option and our growing numbers are ample proof of the strength of feeling within our group and the community.

Please help our worthy cause by becoming a Friend of Firbeck Hall or by making a donation, to be used for materials and running costs. Committee will work on a voluntary/no expenses basis.

**Next Friends Meeting, St. Martin's Church, 7.30pm, Monday, 11 May, 2009**

(bring a cushion)

Friends of Firbeck Hall (Founding Committee)

Don Scott (Chairman)

Julia Colver (Hon. Sec.)

Sid Ellis (Publicity)

Simon Drohan (Membership)

Derek Bailey (Environment)

Valerie Oxley (Treasurer)