THE KIRKWOOD SUPPORT LIFE

LIFE & TIMES

AUTUMN & WINTER 2021

RITA'S STORY

How gardening enthusiast Rita Flook is honouring a promise to her beloved husband, Bill

THE SNOWDOGS ARE COMING

Discover the exciting new event that's set to bring our whole community together in 2022

LIGHT UP A LIFE

Find out how you can dedicate a light to someone special this festive period



Welcome to our Autumn & Winter Newsletter



From Chief Executive Michael Crowther

Welcome to the latest edition of Life & Times, your bi-annual Newsletter from The Kirkwood. Inside this issue we show how your support is helping to care for people affected by life limiting illnesses, and showcase how members of The Kirkwood movement have raised funds to support us. I am also delighted to be able to introduce *Snowdogs Support Life, Kirklees* – an exciting new event coming to a town or village near you next year!

Since the publication of the last issue of this Newsletter, the success of the COVID-19 vaccine programme has begun to offer real hope for the future, and the easing of restrictions on our everyday lives has seen a return to a more usual, if not more cautious way of life for many of us.

For all connected with The Kirkwood, the coronavirus pandemic continues to loom large, affecting many of the decisions we make on a daily basis. Our teams continue to work incredibly hard to make sure those in our care, who are amongst the most vulnerable in our community, are cared for safely and continue to receive the very best care possible – despite everything else happening in the world.

I'd like to take a moment to thank you, and every single member of The Kirkwood movement – employees and volunteers, supporters, customers and advocates – for everything you have done to support us during the pandemic.

Whether you've supported your local shop, made a donation to our cause, volunteered your time or are part of The Kirkwood workforce, you have helped us to care for more people this year than ever before. Our care may have been delivered very differently over the past 20 months, but the impact The Kirkwood continue to have remains the difference between someone coping with an illness from which they won't recover and someone living with one.



Dedicate a light for someone you love this December and join us to celebrate their life.

As the festive period draws closer and we begin to reflect on the year just gone, we invite you to join with us for Light up a Life. It's a chance to come together to focus on better times ahead, celebrate the lives of those we love and dedicate a light on our beautiful tree in their memory.

After such a difficult year, we are delighted to announce that you can also be part of our Light up a Life events in person this December – as well as from the comfort of your own home.

This year, our Light up a Life events take place on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December in The Kirkwood Gardens, with two events on each day. Sunday evening's event will be live streamed for those who wish to take part in the privacy of their own home. A fifth Light up a Life event will be held at Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury on Saturday 11th December at 12pm.

Why I'm remembering someone special at Light up a Life

This December, Susan is taking part in Light Up a Life for the very first time to celebrate her dear friend, Jake, who sadly died earlier in August. Having no previous experience of The Kirkwood, other than hearing



glowing reviews on the grapevine, it wasn't until Jake fell ill that Susan had the opportunity to form her own opinion, learning how The Kirkwood could help her friend.

Earlier this year, Jake
Mangle died, aged 83, after
being diagnosed with skin
cancer. Well known by many
in the local and surrounding
areas, Jake had made quite a
reputation for himself. Often
referred to as marmite, his
antics and eccentric behaviours
either baffled or delighted his
onlookers. However, to "his very
best person", Susan Swanson,
he was the dearest of friends.

Jake had spent a few weeks in St James's Hospital in Leeds, having previously declined the invitation to be admitted to The Kirkwood's In-Patient Unit. His reasoning was that "he didn't feel like it was the right time". However, after a few weeks spent in hospital, and with his health deteriorating rapidly, he made the decision and requested to be admitted to our In-Patient Unit for his end of life care.

Susan said: "I'm so glad he died in The Kirkwood's In-Patient Unit instead of in hospital. He couldn't have visitors there. We're all from Huddersfield, and his friends and I found it very difficult to try get to see him there.

"The Kirkwood team were so friendly, helpful and warm,

they'd ask me if I wanted a cup of tea whilst I sat with Jake, looking after me as well as him. What a lovely, beautiful place it is to be, it was such a shame Jake was too poorly to see his fantastic room and the smiles of the nurses and everyone that came to see him."

Susan, who will be attending Light up a Life with friends, is particularly fond of the symbolism of a physical light representing a loved one.

Susan said: "Obviously Jake is with me all the time and in my thoughts, but this is something physical we can do, to go somewhere with other people in similar situations and share in a special moment together.

"I will be coming to the evening event; I want to feel the light shining in the darkness."

To remember someone special this December, make a dedication at: thekirkwood.org.uk/lightupalife or call: 01484 557 911

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME







Ruth and Helen first met through The Kirkwood's Befriender scheme. Here they share their story.

Ruth, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has limited dexterity and spends a lot of time in bed. Sometimes she finds doing anything manual is a real challenge for her.

Helen Wilberforce, a volunteer with The Kirkwood, has been supporting Ruth for the past three years through our Befriender scheme. Originally face-to-face, the coronavirus pandemic meant the majority of their conversations have had to take place over the phone more recently.

As restrictions began to ease over the summer months, Ruth

and Helen began to meet in person again, and are enjoying spending time together.

On supporting Ruth, Helen said: "Initially I would call in for a chat every week, but during the pandemic and periods of lockdown we could only catch up over the phone.

"Now we're allowed to meet face-to-face again, I have been going from my home to hers, picking up lunch for us to share. We have started to do things together too – painting bedside cupboards, crafts and a spot of gardening."

Ruth has recently moved to a new house with a fantastic garden, which, with the help of Helen, she has begun to grow flowers in.

Helen said: "Because of the pandemic I had only heard about Ruth's new house, but not seen it.

"On my first visit, Ruth invited me to look around. Her front garden, which her bedroom overlooks, is mainly a driveway with lovely shrubbery and a ramp up to the front door. Ruth said she'd like to plant some sunflower seeds there.

"By my next visit Ruth had got hold of some compost and seeds and we set to planting some old sunflower seeds. We visualised how lovely they would look and identified some pots in the front garden where the seedlings were destined to be planted out. Nothing happened!"

After a failed first attempt, Ruth and Helen persisted. And despite a mini-drought, it was second time lucky for the green fingered pair.

Of her sunflowers, Ruth said: "They're now tall enough for me to see them out of the window when I'm in my wheelchair,"

"We planted lots of varieties, so they are flowering differently and at different times. They are adding some interest along the side of the ramp."

Our Befriender scheme is a great way to help people affected by a life limiting illness here in Kirklees. If you would like find out more visit: thekirkwood. org.uk/volunteer or call our Volunteer Services team on: 01484 557 900



Earlier this year, the people of Kirklees dusted off their aprons, iced their cupcakes and brewed up to raise funds for The Kirkwood. One of those people was Elaine Holroyd.

Hundreds of people hosted and took part in events across Kirklees as part of The Kirkwood Get Together back in September. As well as raising money to help us care for people affected by life limiting illnesses, the events helped to raise awareness about the work of The Kirkwood Nurses, who support patients in their own homes, and in care homes, right across Kirklees.

One of those events was hosted by Elaine Holroyd, from Roberttown, and her family.

Elaine, who is currently being supported by The Kirkwood after being diagnosed with secondary cancer, held a huge event at the Roberttown Community Centre.

Alongside a virtual dog show and lots of stalls, selling everything from cakes to local beers, Elaine and her family held a raffle and a tombola.

Elaine's event raised an incredible £8,500 for The Kirkwood.

On hosting her Get Together, Elaine said: "The day was so special because it raised vital funds and gave something back to the people who helped me and many others suffering from life threatening diseases.

"The Kirkwood are not just here to help you in your last days, they are here to help you live and cope with cancer and various other long-term illnesses." As well as organising and hosting the event, Elaine and four family members bravely took part in a head shave on the day, helping to boost funds even further. It was an emotional moment for the family and everyone who was there to witness it.

Elaine added: "We did a similar thing seven years ago when I was first diagnosed with cancer. However, this time we were looking to raise funds for The Kirkwood."

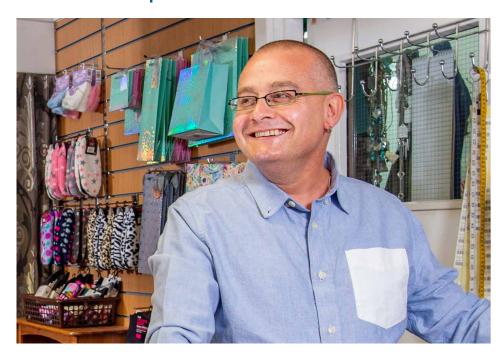
"We couldn't have managed without The Kirkwood. They helped us emotionally and helped us sort out our finances. The Kirkwood looked after my family, they supported them. Yes, I'm suffering with cancer, but it's the family members that also need support."



Find out more about The Kirkwood Get Together at: thekirkwood.org.uk/gettogether

CHRIS'S STORY

After starting out as a volunteer, Chris Steel is now the manager at our Holmfirth shop. Here he tells us how it feels to be part of The Kirkwood.



"I joined The Kirkwood Retail team about four or five years ago as a volunteer. I wanted a volunteering job as I was struggling a little with my back at the time following an injury.

"On my first few days working with The Kirkwood I could tell it was a fun environment, which very much suited me.

"I kind of felt very worthwhile, as if for the first time in a long time, I was doing something worthwhile.

"Once I had heard a little about the charity and what they did – the fact that everyone has a story about The Kirkwood in the local area – I felt that I was part of it.

"I initially started working as a volunteer in the Meltham shop. Very quickly the opportunity arose to be a General Assistant. Once the team knew I'd had a fair bit of managerial background, I was encouraged to go for it, and here we are today.

"The actual thought of managing a shop never really occurred to me. It was just a natural progression really. Things seemed to be going my way in that I was appreciated for what I was doing. The shop was doing well and it just seemed very organic, like it was the right thing to do.

"The opportunities made available to me to progress have been really quick, and really good. The Kirkwood have been nothing but good to me. They've given me loads of training and made me feel worthwhile. I literally cannot say enough good things about The Kirkwood. For the first time ever, I feel like I am where I belong.

"If anyone is considering becoming a volunteer for The Kirkwood, I would just say 'go for it'. You never know what's going to happen."

OUR SHOPS NEED YOUR DONATIONS

Our shops are in urgent need of new stock to help us raise funds for people affected by life limiting illnesses in your community.

Whether you're thinking of throwing out those clothes that just don't fit anymore, or you're simply hoping to get rid of your old books or small electrical items, please donate them to The Kirkwood. Your support will make a huge difference

Find your local shop at: thekirkwood.org.uk/shops

DID YOU KNOW? WE CAN COLLECT YOUR PRE-LOVED FURNITURE

Your old sofa, wardrobes or bed frame might not be worth much to you, but for our patients and their families, they're priceless.

If you're having a clear out, we'd be delighted to accept your donations.

To book your FREE furniture collection, please give our team a call on: 01484 557 917

We'll collect your furniture for free



VOLUNTEERS PRESENTED WITH THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service







The Lord
Lieutenant of
West Yorkshire
joined volunteers
from across
The Kirkwood
movement to
present them with a
prestigious award.

On Friday 17th September, our amazing volunteers were presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of their outstanding contribution to helping local people affected by life limiting illnesses across Kirklees.

The award, one of the highest accolades a voluntary group can receive, was presented to

The Kirkwood's founder and Life President, David Stocks and Chair of Trustees, Bernard Ainsworth OBE in our beautiful gardens at Dalton. Presenting the award on behalf of the Queen was Ed Anderson, The Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, with volunteers from across The Kirkwood watching on.

David Stocks, whose many years of hard work and dedication led to the foundation of The Kirkwood, was delighted to accept the award on behalf of our 800 volunteers.

David said: "Today is a very good day for The Kirkwood. To be recognised by the Queen is an unbelievable honour. The volunteers really deserve every bit of praise – what they do for us is just tremendous and I would like to personally thank them too.

"Without them we wouldn't be able to do half the things we want to do."

On presenting the Queen's

Award, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Ed Anderson, said: "It's a real honour being here today to present this award, I would like to thank every single volunteer who works with The Kirkwood. It's not often that a hospice wins an award like this, so it is a really big thing – but well deserved at the same time."

Pat Hewitt, who volunteers with our Fundraising team, said: "It's great to be invited here today to be recognised for all the hard work we put in as volunteers. We volunteer because we love doing it and we want to help make a difference."

The Kirkwood's diverse and dedicated volunteers are the life-blood of our charity, helping to raise funds, support people in our care and offering a listening ear to those in need. If you'd like to join them, call our Volunteer Services team on: 01484 557 900 or email: volunteer@thekirkwood.org.uk



The world-famous Snowdog is set to be unleashed on the streets of Kirklees next Autumn as part of an ambitious free public art event organised by The Kirkwood.

Snowdogs Support Life, Kirklees is inspired by the much-loved animated film, The Snowman™ and The Snowdog, the sequel to Raymond Briggs' classic picture book and film The Snowman™, and will see 60 uniquely designed Snowdog sculptures popping up in towns and villages across Kirklees for visitors to discover.

Organised in partnership with Wild in Art and Snowdog Enterprises Ltd, Snowdogs Support Life, Kirklees will be a free event for everyone to enjoy. It's set to bring a real buzz to our region, attracting thousands of visitors and helping families to enjoy the great outdoors together.

Thirty uniquely designed Snowdog sculptures, all hand decorated by talented artists from across our region and beyond, will form a unique trail that stretches across Kirklees, bringing colour and conversation to our towns and villages and celebrating local culture.

Thirty smaller Snowdogs will form a mini trail. Running alongside the main art trail, our Snowdog pups will be designed by children from local schools and groups, giving our younger generation a unique opportunity to be involved.

Michael Crowther, Chief Executive with The Kirkwood, said: "We're really excited to be involved in this exciting project. It's the first time anything on this scale has been attempted here in West Yorkshire, which is a real feather in our cap.

"It's going to attract lots of

visitors to our area and we hope it will inspire local families to get out and visit our amazing towns and villages again next year too."

As well as a being an exciting public event, Snowdogs Support Life, Kirklees will create a platform to raise awareness about our services and to reach people who aren't aware of the many ways we can help.

"This is an incredibly exciting project that will inspire the whole community and bring people together. We hope by creating something for everyone to enjoy and share, we'll be able to reach more people in need, support more families and carers who don't know where to turn and create a lasting legacy for our vital local charity.

"We can't wait to see you out on the trail next Autumn."

If you're an artist, represent a business, school, college or community group and want to find out more or get involved, visit: snowdogskirklees.org.uk



Does your business want to gain media exposure, be part of an event which brings thousands of visitors to your local community and build brand awareness in a unique and memorable way?

Sponsoring one of our Snowdogs is a fantastic opportunity for your business

to gain attention as part of this first of its kind public event in West Yorkshire. It's your chance to engage with your customers and stakeholders and be part of a cultural campaign which brings people together to celebrate the very best of our region.

If this sounds like a great opportunity, you can find out more, download our Sponsor Pack and sign up at: snowdogskirklees.org.uk/ sponsors



We're inviting schools, colleges and community groups to join in the fun in 2022 by adopting their very own Snowdog pup.

When your school or group signs up, they'll receive a blank Snowdog pup, which they'll be able to design and decorate, along with a special

creative learning pack to help teachers bring the subject to life in the classroom. We'll send an exclusive fundraising pack

Only a limited number of sculptures are available so get in touch today to sign up!

If your school or group would like to get involved, visit: snowdogskirklees.org.uk/ schools, call us on: 01484 557 911 or email: fundraising@ thekirkwood.org.uk

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If you're a creative with

You don't have to be a

a design. Whether your work sells for millions or you're just starting out, if you've got the talent to stand out from the pack, we want to see what you can do!

Every single submission will be considered for selection, with our favourites being shortlisted by an expert panel in early 2022.

Download our Artist Information Pack and discover how you can get involved at: snowdogskirklees.org.uk/ artists



We're on the hunt for talented artists to bring Snowdogs Support Life, Kirklees to life.

a keen nose and a big imagination, you may have sniffed out your next big commission!

well-known artist to submit



When Bill Flook was diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer, The Kirkwood were there to support him and his wife. Now, keen gardener Rita is honouring a promise she made to her beloved husband – to grow plants in his memory for others to enjoy.

When Bill Flook's pain became difficult to manage at home, The Kirkwood Community Nurse suggested he be admitted to the In-Patient Unit for support with his pain and other symptoms. It was expected that Bill would be able to return home to be with Rita once his pain was under control.

"Unfortunately what happened was Covid." said Rita. "It meant I could only see my husband for a small bit of time each day."

"The Kirkwood team were so supportive.
The way the nurses looked after Bill was
just amazing, but they also supported me.
Sometimes they'd take me into a room where it
was quiet, and I could just have a few moments
to myself. They would explain things to me, I
could ask them questions and they would listen.
I found that very important and supportive."

"Bill and I always said 'Good night, God

bless darling' to one another. I used to ring up and whichever night nurse was on that evening would take the phone to Bill so we could continue to say those words to each other.

"People have no idea what it's like on the In-Patient Unit. It's so welcoming, so friendly. It's just like one big family.

"I thought Bill would come home and that he'd just be in for a few days whilst they controlled his pain, however he died in the hospice.

Following Bill's death, Rita reached out for support from our Counselling team, which continues to support her. She also wanted to give something back to The Kirkwood.

"When Bill was diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer, you realise you're on a journey that you can't stop. You've got to keep going." said Rita. "The love of other things, like gardening keeps you going – it was something Bill and I had always done together.

"One of the things that I promised Bill was that I would grow from seed and give them to The Kirkwood for other people to enjoy. That kept me motivated throughout the whole of 2020.

"When I rang the Volunteer team to tell them I had grown these plants, I was asked if I wanted to become a volunteer gardener, and I was thrilled to be asked. I can now keep my promise to Bill going forward and grow my plants every year. I can't express how it makes me feel that I can keep growing my plants in the garden."

"Being able to talk to someone who understands my cultural values, and is able to relate to my experiences means that I'm comfortable asking for help."



SHABANA'S STORY

"Before I accessed The Kirkwood's support I was scared just hearing the name. I hadn't shared details of my condition with my friends or family because I didn't just want their sympathy. I have a condition which isn't going to get better, and as a single mum I have had a lot of anxiety about the future.

"I have been supported by the Care Co-ordination team who have helped me access equipment, specialist care, organise adaptations to my home and given advice on benefits. I've been able to contact them on my own terms, whenever I have needed support and the fact there is no time limit means I have been reassured that the support is there for me as long as I need it.

"Being able to talk to someone who understands my cultural values, and is able to relate to my experiences means that I'm comfortable asking for help. Someone knowing your ups and downs and being able to give you advice to improve your day to day life has been fantastic.

"When you are going through a difficult time, you need someone who stands alongside you, with support and encouragement. It's so reassuring to know that whenever I have had a problem I've not known how to handle, I've been able to call someone who can talk it through with me and make me feel like I am not alone. Many people from our community think that asking for help is a weakness but if there is support out there to manage your health we should take it.

"I want to make sure people know that no matter their background, The Kirkwood are here for you. It's not just for those with cancer, they are here for people with so many conditions; illnesses such as dementia, heart failure and COPD, and for people who are caring for someone with these conditions.

"Thinking back, I had a completely different idea of The Kirkwood. These misconceptions meant I was scared to accept help.

"Thank you to everyone from The Kirkwood for listening and offering guidance and support with such dedication – there are no words to adequately thank you."

"I want to make sure people know that no matter their background, The Kirkwood are here for you."

Names have been changed for the purpose of anonymity.

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THE KIRKWOOD STORIES

TRACTOR FEST

The Huddersfield Tractor Festival took place on the 24th of July this year and aised an incredible £13,000! The now annual event was first held in 2019, and all between its two charities; The Kirkwood and Yorkshire

KOLETKA

walked the Camino de Santiago mum, Teresa, raising over £2,500 for The Kirkwood. Koletka has dreamt of taking years and finally achieved her

OLIVER & SOPHIE WATSON

Oliver & Sophie Watson raised £5,000 for The Kirkwood back in July, hosting a football match at Littletown FC in memory of their mum, Suzanne Watson. Suzanne was cared for on our In-Patient Unit earlier this year. Oliver and Sophie are hoping to make the match an annual event.





COLNE VALLEY CHIROPODY

Four colleagues from Colne Valley Chiropody & Podiatry battled against the pain to complete their gruelling Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge in an incredible 11 hours and 7 minutes. And they raised an amazing £3,700 for The Kirkwood in the process.

HEALEY

Rick Healey had his hair cut for the first time in 27 years to raise funds for The Kirkwood! Rick, who is married to wife Helen, hasn't had a haircut since their wedding day. He braved the shave in memory of Helen's mum, Marion, who The Kirkwood cared for 31 years ago.

KING CROSS JUNIORS

and Sons, are long-standing the firm have decided to put





was a huge success last year. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, The Kirkwood movement came together in huge numbers to create an exciting, fun-filled event for school children across Kirklees to get involved in.

Our first ever Reindeer Run

An amazing 4,500 pupils took part across 27 schools here in Kirklees in 2020, raising thousands of pounds to care for local people, and we're delighted to announce that our Reindeer Run is back for 2021!

The Kirkwood Reindeer Run is all about children having fun as the excitement for Christmas starts to build - whilst helping The Kirkwood care for people in their local community.

We also aim to introduce children to The Kirkwood. helping them to understand how we care for people, and the ways we can support younger people too.

Sound like fun? Want to get your school, nursery or playgroup involved?

Find out more at: thekirkwood.org.uk/ reindeerrun

"Fantastic charity

"The children and the staff loved taking part! We would love to take part again this year!"







WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY.



Making a will isn't an easy thing to think about. It can even be a bit daunting. You may not be comfortable discussing your future plans, think it's expensive or simply don't know where to start. We're here to help.

We've teamed up with local solicitors and an online will writer to offer you a free basic will writing service all year round, and you'll find lots of useful information about making your will on our website too, so you can decide if it's right for you.

To find out how you can make your will for free, visit: thekirkwood.org.uk/makeawill

Ellie Hirst from Chadwick Lawrence solicitors answers common questions around will making



Why should you make a Will?

When someone passes away without a Will, their estate (which usually comprises of everything they own including property, money and digital assets) passes to direct family members in accordance with a statutory checklist called the 'Rules of Intestacy'. This may not necessarily be to the individuals who you would wish to receive your estate, so it is important to ensure that a Will is put in place to safeguard your personal wealth.

If you cohabit with a partner, a Will enables you to pass your estate to your cohabitee who otherwise, may not inherit anything. This is important as if they are left out, they may have to apply to Court to obtain provision under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975, a process which is often time-consuming and costly.

What should I include in my Will?

In general, it is important to stipulate who you would wish to appoint as an Executor (the individuals who will have the responsibility of dealing with your estate and distributing the same in accordance with your Will). In addition, it is prudent to appoint guardians to look after your children in the event that you pass away and a Will is the appropriate vehicle to do that as you can pass your parental responsibility to an individual provided the appointment is in writing.

You should then specify whether you would wish for any individual in particular to obtain a specific cash sum or item, and then you must dictate who is to receive the 'residuary estate' which is the sum left after legacies, testamentary expenses and liabilities have been deducted.

What about charities?

A will enables you to make provision for charities, who would not receive any funds under the Rules of Intestacy. Many charities rely on gifts made in Wills and you can either leave a gift or share of the residuary estate by Will.

Did you know? Gifts in wills fund care for 1 in 3 of our patients



Love a real Christmas tree but hate the hassle of getting rid of it? Let The Kirkwood collect and recycle it for you!

There's nothing quite like a real Christmas tree. That special trip to pick it out with your family. Getting all wrapped up and braving the cold winter air as you choose the perfect tree for your home.

Real Christmas trees look amazing (and nothing can beat the amazing scent of fresh pine drifting through the house). But when those needles start to drop and it comes to thinking about how you're going to dispose of your tree, it all becomes a bit of a hassle!

Take the stress out of Christmas and let The Kirkwood collect your tree next January! For a small donation, we'll pick up your tree from outside your home and recycle it for you. It's great for you and good for the environment too!

Let The Kirkwood take the hassle out of Christmas at: www.charityxmastreecollection.com



The Kirkwood Christmas Card Collection

Have you discovered The Kirkwood's amazing Christmas Card collection yet? Our bespoke cards are perfect for sharing the season's greetings with those you love this Christmas.

This beautiful and exclusive collection is available to buy right now in The Kirkwood shops across Kirklees as well as on our online shop.

Our exclusive collection is available in all The Kirkwood Shops and online at: **Shop.thekirkwood.org.uk**



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COMING SOON

The Kirkwood Midnight Memory Walk will be back for the first time in three years next July! Register your interest today to be the first to find out when we launch and gain access to exclusive special offers and promotions!

Sign up for updates today at: thekirkwood.org.uk/mmw





Web: thekirkwood.org.uk

Tel: 01484 557 900