

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

[www.lythamhall.org](http://www.lythamhall.org)

July 2012

Issue 56



### **John Miller HTNW writes:**

There are exciting times ahead at Lytham and many changes too. The first transformation will be the construction of the South Prospect Garden which will involve the felling of many self sown sycamores, to reveal the former garden, and the historic mount, that presently can't be seen because of the overgrowth. A great deal of research has been going on behind the scenes led by Ruth Thurnhill of the Lancashire Gardens Trust and Alan Ashton an Arboriculturalist. Sarah Dornan, the Lancashire County Council Ranger, has also been involved and surveyed all the trees in the Park. There will be archaeology work to be done too. We have identified all the former paths and hot houses, but a large square shown near the Mount on the 1812 map needs to be identified.

Tree felling licences and all planning consents have been obtained. Work will commence in the autumn (the best time of year for this work) and new planting will be done in the Spring. For the first time for over a century, there will be a Garden at Lytham Hall to enjoy.

Finally, look out for two new promotion leaflets; one advertising the Hall and the events programme 2012, and another which will be given to all visitors on arrival at the Hall showing where to go and what to see. Both leaflets have been funded by Lancashire County Council. **End**

### ***Forthcoming Events***

#### **Masked Ball - 26th August**

Following the success of the Masked Ball last year the FOLH and LTT are pleased to announce that they will be hosting another ball in a marquee at the front of the Hall.

Canapés and champagne will be served in the Hall followed by dinner and dancing in the marquee. Rowleys will again be doing the catering and Marshall Mercedes-Benz & Smart of Blackpool will be the main sponsors supported by many other sponsors from the local community.

We raised £8,000 for the appeal last year and we had fabulous prizes in the Silent Auction and the Raffle.



Revellers at last year's Ball

If you feel that you could donate a prize this year please contact any of the Friends committee listed at the back of this newsletter.

Tickets are £50 and we are hoping that people will take a table of ten. Tickets are available from Meg Hargreaves (tel. 01253 733098).

Tickets are selling well so an early deposit will secure your place at one of the social events of the year.

Visit the Friends Website on: [www.lythamhall.org](http://www.lythamhall.org)

## ***Recent Events***

### **Easter at the Hall**

The Easter Bunny Hunt was very popular again this year with numerous children once again enjoying the Trail and eating their crème eggs. This year the Friends also provided a bouncy castle, a tombola and even sold bunny ears all of which proved popular. Total profit for the day was £378.00. Well done to all who helped out

### ***Dates for your Diaries***

#### **AGM -Thursday - 20<sup>th</sup> September**

Lytham Assembly Rooms 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

### ***Lytham Hall***

#### **A Racing Heritage – continued**

#### **The Stable Block**

The Georgian Stable block is one of the defining elements of Georgian architecture. Previously stables had been attached to the houses to which they belonged and had therefore to blend in with the same architectural style. The decision to allow its development as a stand-alone structure allowed it to develop its own architectural identity.

The reasons for detaching the stables from the main body of the house were compelling; the removal of the obvious smells and noises associated with such buildings were reason enough, but most realistic would probably have been the removal of a very great fire risk away from the house.



The Stables at Lytham Hall

One of the major compromises to moving the stables away from the house would have been the consideration of security; however two factors allowed this to happen. Firstly Georgian stable blocks were predominately contained within large walled estates with gate houses positioned at most exits, which alone would make the stealing and removal of horses difficult. Secondly the design itself is ingenious; a rectangular construction with inner courtyard but importantly only a single main exit adjacent to the head Head-Groom accommodation allowing him a prime view of every coming and going.

The stable block at Lytham Hall is an interesting case study in itself. It contains elements that pre-date the Hall we see today and evidence suggests that it was adapted to Georgian design rather than built as one structure. This holistic approach mirrors that of the Hall where elements of the former Jacobean structure are used in the Georgian design.

Vertical joints in the brickwork at both end of the east block indicate that this was the original stable with the north, south and west blocks probably added towards the end of the C18th by Thomas Clifton who built the Georgian building we see today and his son John Clifton (who had a real passion for horse racing).

The Stables, particularly the East and South blocks were extensively altered during the late C19th and early C20th mainly to accommodate the introduction of automobiles on the estate.



Fire damage at the Stables (East block)

The fire in 2010 caused considerable damage to the east wing. However the insurance and HLF monies should be sufficient to provide a quality restoration of this important building. Exactly how it will be presented is probably still a matter under discussion. We would hope that the C20th additions such as the garage doors would be removed and replaced with something more sympathetic to the original buildings. Personally I would prefer the stables to be presented as exactly the purpose they were intended for – as the transport, power and recreation hub of an important country house.



The stalls in the North block are in good condition

It would be a shame if the stables were turned into a coffee shop or souvenir shop as has happened in so many other locations around the country. There are better ways of displaying the historical importance of one of the Georgians finest architectural legacies. **Ed**

### ***Membership***

The membership year expired on 31st May. For those Members that do not pay by standing order a renewal form is included with this Newsletter.

However, we are always urging more people to join the Friends in their worthy cause. All enquiries concerning membership should be directed to the membership secretary, Mrs Pauline Hamilton, Tel. (01253) 736857

### ***Events at the Hall***

#### **Open Days: Easter to Christmas 2012**

There is free entry to the Grounds every weekday (excluding Bank Holidays). The Tea Room is open Tuesday to Friday.

Times: 10.30am - 4.30pm

#### **Sundays & Bank Holidays to October 2012**

There will be a small charge. Adults £1, Children 50p, Car £1

Times: 10.30am - 4.30pm, (last entry 3.30pm). Tea Room open 12.30pm – 3.30pm.

The House is open every Sunday until the end of October for conducted tours at 12.00pm and 2.00pm. Adults £4, Children £2.

### ***Other Events***

#### **Classic Car Show – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

There is an Admission charge for this event.

#### **Plays in the Park**

The Chapterhouse and Illyria, two of England's leading outdoor touring companies will perform the following outdoor plays:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July - Gilbert & Sullivan's **HMS Pinafore** - Illyria. 7.30 pm

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. - Roald Dahl's **The Twits** - Illyria. 4.00 pm

All plays: £12 for Adults, £9.50 for Senior Citizens, £6 for Schoolchildren. Tickets can

be purchased from Lytham Hall, Lowther Pavillion and a number of retailers around LSA

For more details on any of the events listed visit the Lytham Hall web site

### **Did you know?**

- That Squire Talbot Clifton was the first person to drive a 'four' horse drawn coach through San Francisco just for pleasure!
- That the same Squire was within a day of being shot by the Irish Sinn Fein. So frustrated was he about the non-return of his commandeered Lanchester motor-car, that he laid an ambush to get it back. However during the recovery he shot and almost killed a Sinn Feiner. On advice he wisely fled the country only hours before they arrived looking for him at his house.

### ***Contacts:***

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*Liz Guffogg*, Committee (01253) 727696

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