

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

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Issue 54

Success of the Heritage Lottery Bid

At last the news that we'd all been waiting for for so many years - the positive outcome of the Heritage Lottery Fund Appeal. From the first failed bid in 1998 HTNW and Lytham Town Trust have been working towards a more positive outcome and, although it seems to have taken an indeterminable amount of time, the right result has eventually been achieved. A big 'Congratulations' has to go to the HTNW's John Miller, Paul Hodgkiss and their successful team.

Tempering the news of the success though is the fact that the matching funding element of the bid did not reach its target despite the massive effort by everyone concerned. It appears however that the Heritage Lottery Fund is sympathetic to the prevailing economic conditions currently being suffered by the whole country and has therefore made the award on the understanding that the relevant amount of matching funding will be raised by the time the last tranche of funding is forthcoming. So, fund-raising carries on for a number of years yet!

The team at the Hall will now be busy planning the schedule of works with work starting early next year on what is expected to be a three year schedule. Exciting times!

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 22nd Sept. 7.30pm at the Assembly rooms, Lytham.

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits will be served from 7.00pm onwards prior to the start of the AGM.

See the attached form for further details.

Evening of Xmas Cheer – Friday 9th Dec.

The highlight of our social calendar will be upon us sooner than we think. This is our

most popular event and one which always sells out.

The evening will begin with a canapés reception in the main hall before moving into the west wing for the remainder of the evening.

There will be a three course meal provided by Paul Rowley. The menu is not yet available but will, based on past record, be excellent.

There will be entertainment provided and carol singing to wind up the evening. The continued success of this evening is evident not only by how quickly we sell the tickets but also the difficulty we have in getting people to leave at the end of the evening!

Tickets are £35 and are great value when considering the quality of the evening, venue and facilities. Some of the tickets have already been reserved but the remainder can be obtained by contacting Meg Hargreaves (01253) 733098.

Raffles prizes are required for this event as well as items to make up one of the main prizes - the Christmas Hamper. If you have any you may wish to donate can you please contact Meg Hargreaves or any of the committee to arrange delivery/collection.

Recent Events

Lytham Hall Appeal - Masked Ball



This was a joint venture between the Friends of Lytham Hall and the Town Trust. A ball committee of Pamela Greenhill, Meg Hargreaves, Nicole Kitt, Kay Gill, Paul Rowley and Paul Hodgkiss planned the event. The evening was a complete sell out of 160 tickets. The evening was sponsored by Mercedes Benz and Rowley Catering.

Paul Rowley was able to encourage a large number of his local suppliers to provide the majority of the food free. The meal was excellent and we are lucky to have such an excellent chef as Paul providing the catering at the Hall. He gave a large amount of his time to ensure the evening was a success. Many other local businesses provided prizes.



Jonny Draper photographer took group photos of all on arrival and discs of the photos have been given out. A Lancashire Life photographer attended and it is expected to feature in a later edition.

Dinner was served in both the upper and lower west wing and dancing to the Love Rats took place in the courtyard that had been tented over. The whole place looked fabulous with lots of fresh flowers, lights, candles and decorations.

A Silent Auction was held for some amazing items donated – Mercedes Benz Chauffeur car for a day, Mercedes Benz Off Road experience and overnight hotel accommodation in Surrey, the use of a Mercedes Cabriolet car for a weekend, ladies and gents Mercedes Benz watches, Dinner for

8 cooked in your own home by Paul Rowley, Manchester United Football Club Match Day VIP tickets for 3 people, a weeks holiday in a chalet in Steiermark, Austria and an original watercolour painting by Allyson Wright.

The Friends of Lytham Hall committee did a superb job on the night helping with selling the wine for the tables, supporting all the different activities taking place and generally helping to ensure the evening was the great success it turned out to be.

The Silent Auction raised in excess of £3000 and it is expected the total amount raised for the Appeal will be in excess of £8000.

The event highlighted the excellent close working relationship between HTNW, LTT and the Friends of Lytham Hall. We all look forward to future occasions.

Christmas Cards

The Friends have a new Christmas Card available for sale. Produced from an original watercolour by Hugh Ellwood exclusively for the Friends it is a winter scene showing the North Entrance of the Hall.



The cards are available at a cost of £3.50 for 5 (Post & packing £1.50 (up to four packs)) and are available from:

- The Hall
- Marion Coupe Tel. 01253 733563
marion.coupe@gmail.com
- Meg Hargreaves tel. 01253 733098
MEGHARGREAVES@aol.com

Ann Pinder

The Friends were extremely sad to hear about the recent death of Ann Pinder. Ann was the first 'face' of the Hall way back in the early days of LTT ownership/HTNW management. She quickly became fiercely protective of the Hall and its history and we soon learned that the Hall was in good hands. As a tribute however we can do no better than re-print the excellent piece written by John Miller of HTNW:

“Ann was the first staff appointment made by the HTNW when it took over the management of Lytham Hall, and there is no doubt that she 'lived and breathed' Lytham Hall, managing events, group tours and every aspect of opening the site to visitors.

She was actively involved with the plans for the early restoration work, particularly the adaptation of the West Wing for conferences. Ann was determined to learn everything about the Clifton Family and their influence on the community at large.

She qualified as an Archivist and established the Lytham Hall Archive Group of volunteers and oversaw their research of family papers including those held at the Lancashire Record Office. She gave lectures all throughout the Fylde and her guided tours were refreshingly good humored and full of anecdote.

Her death is a great loss not only to the Trust but also to the many volunteers at the Hall.

Ann was involved with the Heritage Lottery Fund for the funding to restore and refurbish the Grade 1 listed building, and we were pleased that she knew of its success before she died.

She will be missed by all at the Hall and the many whose lives she touched. The Lytham Hall project will ensure that her memory and contribution live on.”

John Miller, Chief Executive.
Heritage Trust for the North West

Membership

The 2011/12 membership year began on 1st June. Thanks to all those who chose to renew and a big welcome to all the new members who have joined for the first time this year. These are exciting times at the Hall and the Friends expect to play an important part in the ongoing development and support of the Hall and its promising future.

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

Plays in the Park

The Friends were more than happy to support the summer outdoor productions at the Hall providing refreshments and snacks for the benefit of the outdoor theatre goers. A new Gazebo was purchased to protect us and our stock from the wilder of the elements inflicted on some of the productions.



The Friends outdoor Café in their new Gazebo

Promoted by Julian Wilde and wonderfully performed by the Illyria Company, the productions experienced a variety of weather conditions but overall were considered a huge success. Attendances were well up on previous years and there are promises for another programme for 2012. A huge bonus was that a sum of over £2,000 was raised towards the Lytham Hall Appeal – a wonderful result.



The audience at Much Ado About Nothing enjoying pre-performance picnics in the sunshine.

The Friends would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who came out and manned the refreshment stall.

Did you know?

- That there is a species of mountain sheep named ‘Ovis Cliftonii’, modestly named by John Talbot Clifton after he discovered it during his Siberian expedition of 1901/02.
- That plans were passed during the mid 1930s by LSA Borough Council for a Zoo/Animal Park on Lytham Hall estate. Squire ‘Harry’ Clifton had thought it a good idea and had ordered an assortment of animals including: Lions; Tigers; Elephants; Giraffes; etc leaving it to the estate manager to the details of how, where and at what cost. However, when the finalised details were presented to Harry he changed his mind and knocked the idea on the head.

Events at the Hall

Open Days:

There is free entry to the Grounds every weekday. Times: 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Sundays and Bank Holidays there will be a small charge. Adults £1, Children 50p.

Times: 12.30pm - 4.30pm, (last entry 3.30pm)

The House is open every Sunday for Conducted Tours. Adults £4, Children £2.

The Tea Room is open every Sunday and Bank Holiday 12:30 – 3:30.

Other Events

Heritage Open Day – Sunday 11th September

Autumn 5K Run – Sunday 9th October

Bird Restaurant - 25th October

Bird feeders and how birds prepare for winter

Contacts:

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Zoe Rushworth, Treasurer: (01253) 731538

John Martin, Newsletter: (01253) 728186

Pauline Hamilton, Membership:

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Liz Guffogg, Committee (01253) 727696

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