

Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter

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The snowdrop season brought many visitors to the Hall although the weather was very mixed, and one visitor, Christine McCherry was inspired to write a poem which she kindly gave us permission to use in our Newsletter.

The Friends' Shop in the old kitchen was run by an army of volunteers and many thanks go to them for all their support in raising over £1,000 towards funds.



The Snowdrop Walks

*A swathe of snowdrops 'neath my feet,
their delicate flower in swift retreat.
Like clouds upon a windy day
they bloom and swiftly fade away.
Spring is here, they seem to call,
across the grounds at Lytham Hall.*

*People come from far and near,
to see the snowdrops growing here.
Weary of dark winter days,
And in the beauty all around,
their hearts are filled with Joy unbound.
In years to come they will recall,
the Snowdrop walks at Lytham Hall.*

*In times gone past, did folk, like me
see the splendour that I see,
and walk amongst the fragrant flowers,
in dreamlike rapture through the hours?
Did the people, do you know,
In seventeen hundred and sixty four
tread the paths, and see at all
The Snowdrop Walks of Lytham Hall?*

By Christine McCherry, September 2015

Secret Door Mystery

My seven year old granddaughter and I have walked the Secret (Fairy) Door trail a few times and failed to find number 12 fairy. Her explanation was that as this was down as the home of Oberon and he is king of the fairies, he would be out at lots of meetings so had hidden his door from callers. We all know that leaders of society spend lots of time at meetings!

Marion Coupe



The Easter Bunny Hunt

The weather was not kind to us on Easter Sunday and the band of enthusiastic volunteers had to cope with wet, cold and breezy conditions. The Bunny kept smiling through [probably because she had a fur coat] and encouraged those families who braved the elements to have a go at the egg hunt round the grounds. The Friends' had been very busy making Easter nest cakes which were handed out to those who completed the trail. When the sun did break through, the bouncy castle was dried off and open to business. There was also cake-decorating which proved very popular with the children.



The Friend's Bookshop



As many of you will be aware, the Bookshop moved in the New Year, as part of the refurbishment to the cafe and adjacent areas. Its new location, in the lobby near the toilets, has resulted in excellent business (the increase in visitors to the new-style café has helped too). The Kitchen shop, open during the Snowdrop season, also made some good book sales.

So, having been overwhelmed by large donations in the early part of the year, we're now looking for more stock. Donations of the following, in good saleable condition, are welcome:

- **Paperback fiction** is particularly needed
- **Hard back non-fiction** such as Cooking/ Gardening/ Biographies/ Art/ Music
- **CDs and DVDs**

If you have items other than those listed above, or if you wish to make a large donation (say more than 20 books), it would help if you would first contact Eddie / Jo James via friendslythambooks@btopenworld.com.



The Honours Board



Affixed to an interior door in the gloomy depths of the stables at the hall and not accessible to the casual visitor is an honours board showing 48 winners owned by the Cliftons. Each winner is recorded in gold paint within a horseshoe design and shows the year, the name of the horse, the amount won and the venue for its success.

The years shown range, with one exception, from 1789 to 1795 the exception being 1889 when a horse named Scorpion has a single entry. In 1791 only one winner is recorded while four years later, in 1795 there are as many as eleven. Many horses had multiple wins – Citizen 9, Chariot 8, Attraction 7 and Abba Thulle 5. This last name is intriguing: according to the Internet Abba Thulle was king of Pelew, a small island in the Pacific, now named Palau. What the connection with Lytham Hall was at that time probably remains a mystery.

The winnings of each horse are recorded in pounds or guineas ranging from a minimum of £50 up to 500 guineas won by Citizen at Doncaster in 1792, a considerable sum in those days, probably equating to about £10,000 at present. When a horse called Ninety-Three won the St. Leger in 1793, the winnings are shown as 400 guineas.

The venues of the race meetings range across the north of England from Newcastle to Knutsford, Nantwich and Chester. The nearest to the Fylde are several winners at Preston and Manchester, this latter being where Scorpion won £300 in 1889.

The Honours Board is well painted and is unlikely to be the work of an enthusiastic stable employee but it could have been instigated by a racing manager. The squire at the time was John Clifton, known to be a racing enthusiast but he went on as squire to 1832 and most likely there were other successful Clifton racehorses of his in the intervening years, but they are unrecorded.

Geoff Hayman

Tulips are Blooming in the Parterre Garden



It was lovely to receive this message from Marianne at the Hall this week:

“A huge thank you again to the Friends of Lytham Hall for funding the bulbs in the parterre garden. Edward Thorp took these photos last week. It’s looking great!”

The transformation of the grounds is impressive and now the Hall have been awarded second place in the Tesco ‘Bags of Help’ scheme. The £10k award will help fund a new kitchen ‘potager’ garden project.



Outdoor Theatre Events



The Friends will again be providing refreshments for the open air theatre this year. There will also be a pre-theatre dinner option for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The programme for this season is as follows:

Sunday 12th June, **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Brontë - Chapterhouse Theatre 6.00 pm

Friday 1st July, **A Midsummer Night's Dream** by William Shakespeare - Illyria 7.30 pm

Sunday 10th July, **Ruddigore** by Gilbert and Sullivan - Illyria 6.00 pm

Sunday 28th August, **Danny the Champion of the World** by Roald Dahl - Illyria 4.00 pm

Tickets: Adult £13 Concessions: Senior/student £10 Schoolchild £6.50

ON LINE BOOKING: from Illyria and Chapterhouse's own websites

www.illyria.uk.com

www.chapterhouse.org

LOCAL TICKET OUTLETS:

Lytham Hall phone 01253 736652

Plackitt and Booth, Booksellers, Lytham 796958

Lowther Pavilion 794221

Stringers Homelife 740700

Storytellers Inc., St. Annes 781690

Bennetts Bakery, Ansdell 736318

The Boardroom has a make-over



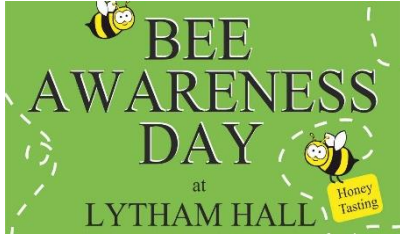
The Boardroom in the west wing has been transformed and now looks very smart with period furniture and copies of the Clifton family portraits. The tartan carpet reminds us of the Cliftons' Scottish connections. It is available to hire for meetings and conferences.

Spring Art and Craft Fair

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May - 11am-4pm

Admission: free entry to fair, parking £1

Hopeful & Glorious Spring Art Fair returns to Lytham Hall with over 20 amazing artists, designers and makers showing and selling the best of British art and craft.



On Tuesday 31st May, the Blackpool and Fylde Beekeepers Association are holding a Bee Awareness Day at the Hall from 11am to 3.30pm. Admission is free, with a charge for optional craft activities. Learn about bees and taste some honey. No need to book - just drop in during the day.

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