

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442 www.lythamhall.org

Issue 67

October 2015

The Friends' AGM was held at the Hall on 29th September and it was good to see some new faces there. After the business was completed, we had a very informative update from Marianne Blaauboer, the Events Manager at the Hall. Marianne told us about the various events held at the Hall this year and plans for the year to come, and thanked the Friends for their help.



THE FRIENDS OF LYTHAM HALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for THE YEAR TO MAY 2015

The Friends of Lytham Hall is registered with the Charity Commission (number 1069442). It is an incorporated association constituted by Deed of Trust. The charity is administered by a Management Committee comprising:

Chairman	- Lambert Dopping-Hepenstal	Committee members:	Meg Hargreaves
Vice Chairman	- Bob Smith		Pamela Greenhill
Secretary	- Kath Smith		Elizabeth Guffogg
Treasurer	- Terry Jones		Marilyn Smith
Membership	- Pam Beeden		Marion Coupe
			Pauline Hamilton
			Susan Havenhand

President - David Coupe
Vice President - Jean Wilding-Walsh

During the year we have seen some changes to the committee and its officers. Zoe Rushworth has retired as Treasurer and has been replaced by Terry Jones. Pauline Hamilton has relinquished her role as Membership Secretary and has been replaced by Pam Beeden. Heather and Tony Calverley have retired as committee members. Our Newsletter editor of many years, John Martin, also retired and this role has been temporarily filled by our Secretary, Kath Smith. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Zoe, Pauline, John, Heather and Tony for all their considerable contributions to our charity and welcome new members Terry and Pam.

The objectives of the charity are:

1. To preserve for the benefit of the local community and the nation at large, Lytham Hall together with its works of art, furniture and contents.
2. To ensure that the Hall is used primarily as an art gallery, museum and visitor centre and to provide other amenities of a similar character for the benefit of the public.

The first part of this report covers the accounting period **June 2014 to May 2015**.

We again had a busy summer running a hot and cold drink stall for the four outdoor theatre events at the Hall organised by Julian Wilde. These events are well supported by adults and children and increase awareness of this historical asset on the Fylde as well as contributing over £1,200 to our fund raising. September saw the annual Masked Ball. In previous years this had been run by Lytham Town Trust with our support but for 2014, we took over responsibility for managing the fund raising and donating the profits to the Lytham Hall Restoration Appeal. In order to reduce the overheads of running the Ball,

the cost of the marquee was shared with St Peter's Church for their Ball and for their event we also provided a wine bar, bringing in further funds. Shortly afterwards we supported the Hall for their Heritage Open Day. In the autumn we again ran a Halloween "Spooktacular" aimed at introducing younger people to the Hall with a 'spooky trail' around the Hall grounds but also raised £1,000. Leading up to Christmas the Friends decorated the Hall, holding a joint coffee morning with the Civic Society. The Evening of Christmas Cheer at the Hall continues to be popular and this year raised £1,800. We have evolved the model for the annual Snowdrop Walks, passing sales of the Trail to the Hall and concentrating our efforts on an expanded shop in the Old Kitchen, also selling bought in snowdrops. This raised over £1,500. We were back at the Hall for the Easter Bunny Hunt which, like Halloween, is designed to bring children in to appreciate the Hall. It increases in popularity each year and also raised over £1,000.

We continued to sell Christmas Cards designed for us from a competition organised by the Lytham St Annes Art Society. Our second hand bookshop in the Old Scullery is proving to be extremely popular both as a repository for people's unwanted books and as an income to the charity, earning us nearly £60 per month.

Overall this has been another successful fund raising year making over £6,000 as well as giving us the opportunity to introduce many new visitors to the Hall through our support of events.

Our membership at the end of this period was 143 and 8 patrons.

Our quarterly newsletter continues to provide news and information about the Hall and our activities and we are encouraging more members to take this by e-mail to reduce the cost of postage and stationery.

We continue to be represented on the Board of Lytham Town Trust by Pam Greenhill, who makes a written report from the Friends into their quarterly Board meeting.

May 2014 – September 2014

In the period since May, and to be reported formally in next year's accounts, we have again run refreshment stall at four open air theatre events in the Hall grounds. We have taken over responsibility for the Masked Ball, raising a significantly increased sum on behalf of the Hall Restoration Fund.

The Friends Committee has worked hard during the year and I would like to thank them all for their support. I would also like to thank you, the membership, for your support and I hope that you will continue with this in the coming year. We particularly need help from the membership at our fund raising events.

Chairman
For and on behalf of the Management Committee.

Dated: 2nd September 2015



The Friends' Bookshop

The second-hand bookshop in the old scullery continues to flourish and we are delighted to have two volunteers, Jo and Eddie James who have taken over the tidying and organising of the shop on a regular basis. They are doing a great job.

The fiction section has been split between paperbacks and hardbacks and arranged alphabetically. Many of the non-fiction items have been grouped according to subject. Also, there is a 'Recent additions' section. So do pop in regularly and have a browse! The success of the shop depends on regular donations. Books and DVDs, in good saleable condition, are welcome – please leave them in the container provided and they will be sorted into the appropriate categories.

Packs of Friends' Christmas cards, featuring the Hall will also be available in the bookshop.





Local historian, Peter Shakeshaft's careful research into 'Lytham Manorial Court' reveals that there was a Clifton at Lytham Hall earlier than we thought, with the marriage of Ellin Clifton to George Rogerley in 1542.

Peter has written the following article for us:

The history of Lytham manorial court has been published by the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society. Written by local historian Peter Shakeshaft, it spans the period from 1504, the year of the earliest surviving court record, to 1946 when the last manorial court was held at the County & Commercial Hotel, Lytham.

A manorial court was the lowest court in England and governed those areas over which the lord of the manor had jurisdiction, it applied to those who resided or held lands within the manor.

Lytham manorial court, which embraced present-day Lytham St Anne's, was, like many other manorial courts, a court of two parts. The court baron regulated matters relating to the manor, and was used to confirm the preservation of the rights of the manorial lord against the tenantry, and the rights of the tenantry against the lord; it was also the means of maintaining a record of changes in tenancy. The court leet dealt with civil matters such as punishing wrongdoers, hearing pleas, and making byelaws.

The first manorial court would have been held under the jurisdiction of the prior of Lytham Priory which stood on or near to present day Lytham Hall. At Lancashire Archives, there are pre-dissolution manorial court records for the years 1504, 1513/14, 1516-1518, 1522-1524, 1526, and 1532-1533. The priory was dissolved in 1536/7.

From c1539 to c1606 the tenants at the former priory were the Rogerley family, and there are surviving records of the manorial court being held during their tenure at Lytham. In 1606 Cuthbert (later Sir Cuthbert) Clifton purchased the manor of Lytham and held his first manorial court in May the same year.

A composite volume of court records for various Clifton family manors (in addition to Lytham it also includes Westby and Little Marton) contains a detailed coverage of the courts that were held from 1611 to 1712. A further twenty court books cover the period 1731 to 1772. There are no known surviving court books after 1772, but evidence that the Lytham court continued to be held is provided by various miscellaneous documents in the Clifton family papers, and by newspaper articles in both the *Lytham Times* and *Lytham St Anne's Express*.

In April 1978 James Hilton of Lytham, the present lord of the manor of Lytham, and to whom Peter is most grateful for allowing him full and free access to all court documents, bought the title and manorial rights from the Clifton family. A year earlier the legal (criminal) jurisdiction of all manorial courts was abolished by the Administration of Justice Act. Although the Act stated that 'any such court may continue to sit and transact such other business, as was customary for it', such as the taking of presentments relating to matters of local concern, no such court has been held at Lytham.

Peter has also written an unpublished account of St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham for the period 1536 to 1834. The status of the church throughout this period was far more complex than is sometimes appreciated, and is an intriguing story of religion and politics.

Arguably the most interesting aspect of Lytham history, that the research has revealed, is the previously unrecognised role of the Rogerley family. From documents held at both National Archives, London, and at Lancashire Archives it is now clear that the family were tenants at the former priory from c1539 when the manor was granted to Sir Thomas Dannett, and remained so during the subsequent ownerships of the Holcroft and Molyneux families.

There is mention of the Rogerley family throughout the period 1539 to 1606 in relation to both manor and church. And as early as 1541 George Rogerley acted as deputy steward, for the chief steward, the earl of Derby, at the manor court of that year. Perhaps more significant is the fact that in 1542 George Rogerley

'de Litham' married Ellin (Ellen) Clifton at Kirkham parish church. Ellin was the aunt of Cuthbert Clifton the grandfather of the Cuthbert Clifton who purchased the manor of Lytham in 1606.

The most conclusive evidence for the presence of the Rogerley family at Lytham is that of George Rogerley, junior, who in 1608 recalled that, from c1539 until 1598, his father and mother and he himself had been 'farmers and occupiers of the same Lordship for the space of three score years or thereabouts'. The Rogerley family continued to reside at Lytham after 1598, as lessees of Sir Richard Molyneux, until the manor of Lytham was purchased by Cuthbert Clifton in 1606. Thereafter the Clifton family were lords of the manor of Lytham for another three hundred and seventy two years.

Secret Doors Trail



The introduction of the hidden doors in the woodland at the Hall has been a great success over the summer, bringing in families to enjoy the park. We took the grandchildren to try it out and had a lovely afternoon. First we had lunch in the tea room and then we set off on a voyage of discovery together.

Reading the map was not always easy but we did

eventually find all of the doors and much more besides. One of the highlights was the sighting of lots of tiny froglets in a log pile. It wasn't until we looked at the photos, that we found a dragon had been watching the very excited children too! The funniest part for us was when they stopped to listen, convinced they had heard a fairy. We hadn't the heart to tell them it was just Grampy's hearing aid whistling!

Kath Smith.



Heritage Open Day 13th September

Lytham Hall again took part in Heritage Open Day scheme, offering free entry to the Hall and grounds. The Friends put up a display in the Dining Room and were available to chat to visitors, answer questions about our activities, and maybe encourage people to join us.

The dancers, 'Regency ReJigged', entertained in the Gold Room transporting visitors back in time, and there were guided tours of the Hall and Grounds.



The Friends' information display in the Dining Room and Regency ReJigged in the Gold Room.

Prospect Mound at Boscobel House



Marion Coupe took this picture (L) of the Prospect Mound at Boscobel House in Shropshire.

It is clearly man-made and much smaller than the one at Lytham Hall. It has a view of the oak tree where Charles Stuart hid in 1651, after the Battle of Worcester. On top was an arbour where Charles is said to have spent a few hours reading in the same year.

The second picture shows the Knot Garden with rectangular parterre beds, of the type which would have been at the house in the 17th century.

Halloween Spooktacular Friday 30th October



We will be holding another Spooktacular at the Hall from 11.00am to 3.30pm.

There will be a Car parking charge of £1.

Entrance and outdoor trails are £2 per child and there will be a selection of Craft workshops including cake decorating for 50p per child per workshop.

The Hall will also be open for Spooky Tours, costing £5 for an adult accompanied by up to three children.

There will be small prizes for dressing up so come along and have some spooky fun!

Evening of Christmas Cheer at Lytham Hall. - Friday 4th December

This is one of the highlights of our social calendar and, tickets sell out quickly. 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 followed by entertainment 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. Tickets can be obtained by contacting:

Meg Hargreaves (01253) 733098 or email meghargreaves@aol.com



Raffles prizes are needed 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, please contact Meg Hargreaves or any of the committee to arrange delivery/collection.

Coffee Morning at the Hall, Tuesday 8th December

The Civic Society & Friends of Lytham Hall invite you to enjoy a festive coffee and mince pie at 10.30am.

There will be a charge of £3 per person.



If any members presently receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, would be willing to receive it by email, please contact Pam Beeden <pam.beeden@btinternet.com>
This will help to reduce our expenditure on stationary and postage, and make the job of our 'posties' a lot easier.

Open Days 2015

Entry to the grounds is free every weekday (excluding Bank Holidays) from 10am to 4.30pm.

*From April to October, the Hall is open for visitors every Thursday and Friday from 1pm to 4pm.
Admission: £5.00 per adult / £2.50 per child, under 5's free.*

*On Sundays and Bank Holidays the Grounds are open from 10am until 4.30pm.
Admission: £1.00 per adult, £0.50 per child.*

*The Hall is open for Guided Tours at 12pm and 2pm.
Admission: £5.00 per adult / £2.50 per child, under 5's free.*

The Tea Room is open Tuesday to Friday & Sundays serving light lunches between 10am and 4.30pm.

For details of events throughout the year, please visit the website <lythamhall.org.uk>

Contacts:

Lambert Dopping, Chairman (01253) 736408 email: lldopping@gmail.com

Kath Smith, {Secretary (01253) 737548

{Newsletter

Terry Jones, Treasurer: (01253) 794524

Pam Beeden, Membership (01253) 733418 email: pam.beeden@btinternet.com

Hall: Bookings: (01253) 736652

Internet: lythamhall.org.uk