

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

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Friends Support to Lottery Appeal

The fund-raising for the matching element of the lottery bid has been extended six months. The Heritage Lottery organisation has extended funding requirements for all of its ongoing bids in the recognition of the current tough economic environment.

Its great to report that wonderful progress has been made towards the required total and credit has to go to all those involved in the organisation behind the fundraising. However, there is still a shortfall of £650,000. This is a vast amount of money but hopefully one massive final push will see the result we all hope for.

The Friends have done what they can and in presenting a donation of £45,000 we drained everything bar pennies from our account. It was appropriate that our donation was the largest of all the local charities.



The Friends of Lytham Hall presenting their cheque to John Miller of HTNW

Paul Hodgkiss from the Lytham Hall team has sent us the following article.

Lytham Hall 2011 - A period of Transition

Over the past 12 Months we have put a lot of resources and focus on the preparation and submission of the Heritage Lottery Project bid.

The help and support that we have received from the local community and of course the Friends of Lytham Hall has been fantastic and we are truly indebted. We look forward with excitement and cautious optimism that the bid will be successful and the real work will commence in October of this year.

There is though however, over the next 6 months, a real danger that we have raised expectations on what we are able to achieve in the short term and it is important to emphasise the staff, resources and funding over the next 6 Months have not changed and in reality the demands on all has increased significantly. Whilst we have been focused on securing the £5 million funding our limited resources have been strained. The fund raising for the Appeal has been very successful considering the current financial situation, and again this has diverted attention away from normal revenue generating activities. This coupled with the difficult trading conditions especially with regards to conferences the revenue for the Hall is down this year compared to where we were last year. This has a real impact on the resources that are available to us with such an increased work load. It is important that we keep this perspective over the next few months.

The exciting developments at the Hall are not limited to just the Heritage Lottery Project. Our link up with Lancashire County Council opening the grounds Monday to Friday free of charge is one example of this and we hope to change the local communities perception from one of "the Hall is always closed" to that "it is open and accessible and used by the community" over the coming months.

Another important development this year is to open the Tea Room Monday to Friday in addition to Sundays when the Grounds are open. We intend to advertise for a full time

person to cook and run the Tea Room in the next couple of months.

The Outdoor Events Season is quickly approaching and we are grateful to the Friends for their support with these events and we look forward to working together on events at the Hall to facilitate the Friends fundraising activities over the next few years as the Hall develops.

Thank you for your support

Recent Events

Easter at the Hall

The Easter Bunny Hunt was very popular again this year with over 200 children enjoying the Trail and eating their crème eggs.

It was lovely to hear their whoops of delight in the woods when they followed the clues and found their eggs. The weather was gorgeous but far too hot for the Easter Bunny!

Many people were visiting for the first time and it was wonderful; to see so many families enjoying the Hall and its fabulous grounds.



Meg Hargreaves playing the Easter Bunny

Forthcoming events:

Masked Ball - 8th July

The Friends, in association with Lytham Town Trust are arranging a Masked Ball at Lytham Hall in support of the Lottery Appeal for the Hall.

The evening will begin with a drinks and canape reception with free photo's being taken by Jonny Draper, Photographer.

Dinner is to be served in the West Wing with superb food which has been sourced locally and some donated by suppliers who are aware of the importance of supporting the Halls appeal fund. The menu will be prepared and served by chef Paul Rowley and his staff.

On each table there will be a beautiful flower arrangement sponsored by Flower Design which will be for one lucky lady to take home. In addition to there will be favours provided by Dawn at Therapy House.

Following the dinner, the action will move into the courtyard, tented over and sponsored by CK Marquis, a dance floor laid and music being provided by the Love Rats.

During the evening there will be a raffle with some amazing prizes sponsored by local businesses, including the evenings main sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Blackpool Mercedes.

Unfortunately, after all this build up I have to report that all the tickets for this outstanding event have already been sold. However its great news for the Hall and its rapid sell-out endorses the fact that this initiative is another example of the creativity shown by the local community in support of the Lottery Appeal.

Fund-raising at the Pink Vanilla Patisserie

The Pink Vanilla Patisserie, 5 Clifton St, Lytham, are offering a Special Lytham Hall Afternoon Tea in July and August. They are donating £1 from every tea they sell to the Lytham Hall Appeal.

They specialise in delicious cupcakes, wedding cakes and celebration cakes and stock a range of hand made chocolates.

The patisserie also serves continental breakfast and light lunches. This is a wonderful way of supporting the hall and having a lovely afternoon tea out with friends. So please go along, enjoy the tea and support the Lytham Hall Appeal.

Dates for your Diaries

Evening of Xmas Cheer – Friday 9th Dec.

Make a date in your diary for this popular event which always sells out. Alternatively, let Meg Hargreaves (01253) 733098 know if you would like to be put on a list for tickets.

The Cliftons

The Sword

The Friends were contacted earlier this year by Christopher Scott a sword dealer. He had in his possession a sword that originally belonged to John Talbot Clifton that he offered to the Friends to purchase.



John Talbot Clifton's sword

The authenticity of the sword was confirmed by Richard Milner, Arms Research. The sword is number 29125 a Medium Infantry Sword it was made and completed by the Wilkinson Sword Co. Ltd on the 11th April, 1888 and sold to John Talbot Clifton.



John Talbot was born on the 1st December, 1868. He was the son of Thomas Henry Clifton and Madeline Diane Elizabeth Agnew. He married Violet Mary Beauclerk on the 1st February, 1907. He died on the 23rd. March 1938 at age 69 in Tenerife and is buried on Islay.

He was educated at Eton College and Magdalene College Cambridge University.

He gained the rank of Lieutenant in the service of the 3rd Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for Lancashire. He gained the rank of Temporary Lieutenant in the service of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

He lived at Lytham Hall and at Kildaton Castle, Port Ellen, Argyllshire.

John Talbot was rather wild during his youth and his restlessness found an outlet in travel and exploration. He made his first visit to America when he was 22, and during this visit he had a lengthy affair with Lillie Langtry which only came to light in 1978. He spent much time living rough, but spending money in the Far North, extending his travels to Russian, Africa, India and the Far East. He was a great benefactor of Lytham St. Annes.

It is intended the sword will be returned to the Hall. An old photograph exists of two crossed on the left side of the hall wall on the grand staircase. It is thought that the sword could be one of these swords. If the whereabouts of the other sword is known the Friends would be interested in purchasing it. There is no scabbard with the sword. James Hilton Esq. has a uniform of John Talbot and the Friends are hoping that one day the two items will be exhibited together at the Hall. More research is needed and if anyone has any further knowledge of the sword the Friends would be interested to hear.

Ansdell Exhibition - 10th June - 30th July

Here's something that will be of interest to FoLH. The Friends of Lytham St Annes Art Collection are holding an exhibition of Richard Ansdell paintings in Booths from 10th June until 30th July. Definitely worth a trip to see.

Membership

The membership year expires on 31st May. For those Members that do not pay by standing order a renewal form will be 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 31st October 2011

There is free entry to the Grounds every weekday (excluding Bank Holidays) until the end of October.

Times: 10.00am - 4.00pm, (last entry 3.00pm)

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 until the end of October.

Other Events

Family Fun Day – Sunday 3rd July

North Star Opera Evening - Sunday 3rd July

Specialist Plant Fair – Sunday 17th July

Classic Car Show – Sunday 14th August

Dog Grooming Competition - 21st August

Heritage Open Day – Sunday 11th September

K9 Capers – Sunday 18th September

Autumn 5K Run – Sunday 9th October

Halloween at the Hall – 29th & 30th October

Plays in the Park

The Illyria Theatre Company will perform the following outdoor plays:

Twelfth Night - 6th July

The Pirates of Penzance - 14th July

The Fantastic Mr Fox - 28th August

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

Help needed

The Friends have been asked to help on the Outdoor Theatre Productions. If you can spare an hour or two to help out please get in touch with Liz Guffogg on (01253) 727696.

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