

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

www.lythamhall.org

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Issue 57



At our recent AGM our Chairman Lambert Dopping gave his annual report:

The first part of this report covers the accounting period **June 2011 to May 2012**.

We had a very busy summer supporting the outdoor theatre events and the Choral / Opera evenings at the Hall, raising nearly £400.

The Evening of Christmas Cheer at the Hall is our major fund raising event of the year and raised an impressive £1,600.

The Snowdrop Walks continue to be popular and we followed the successful formula of a small shop stall, Discovery Trail Quizzes for the grounds and varieties of snowdrops. These again raised over £900.

We were back at the Hall for Easter Bunny Hunt, which increases in popularity each year, raising over £350.

This year also saw a Masked Ball organised jointly by the Friends and Lytham Town Trust. This was a hugely successful event; the profits are held in the Lytham Town Trust accounts.

We dropped one of our regular events, the Autumn Fayre in the Lytham Assembly Rooms, as it was struggling to compete with other similar events and to give us more time to concentrate on our better attended events.

We have acquired a sword belonging to John Talbot Clifton that we will be donating to the Hall.

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.

We continue to work closely with the Heritage Trust for the North West (HTNW) in supporting their bid into the Heritage Lottery Fund.

May 2012 – October 2012

In the period since May, we have run a bar at four open air theatre events and at a musical evening in the Hall.

We again organised a Summer Ball jointly with the Lytham Town Trust, raising a significant sum.

We have run a competition with the Lytham St Annes Art Society for a design for a Friends' Christmas Card.

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.

Chairman

Dated: 22nd September 2012

Forthcoming Events

Evening of Christmas Cheer at Lytham Hall. - Friday 7th December,

Christmas will soon be upon us. A season that brings with it the 'Friends Evening of Christmas Cheer'. This is always our most popular event and one which always sells out.

The traditional canapés reception in the main hall will start the evening off before moving into the west wing for the remainder of the event. Paul Rowley will once again provide an excellent three course meal and there will be entertainment and the ever popular Carol singing to wind up 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 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.

Halloween Spooktacular – Tues. 30th Oct.

Children are invited to come to the Hall in fancy dress and join in the Halloween fun.

Time: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Entrance is free - car parking £1.

Christmas Cards



A Lovely Winter Scene by Margaret Rodwell

The Friends have a new Christmas Card available for sale. The Lytham St Annes Art Society held a competition for the card which was judged by the Friends committee - without knowing who the artists were at the time. It was difficult to choose between them and we are grateful to the Society and all their members who took part. This card will be on sale at the Art Society studio in Haven Rd.

The card is available at a cost of £3.50 for 5 (Post & packing £1.50 (up to four packs))

Last year's card, designed for us by Hugh Ellwood is also still available, another winter scene showing the North Entrance of the Hall. These are available for £3 per pack.

Both the cards - and our special Lytham Hall Fudge - ideal stocking filler at £2.50 - will be on sale in the cafe at Lytham Hall. Alternatively, contact Pam Greenhill by email (preferably) at p.m.greenhill@btinternet.com or phone (01253 735045).

Under the Christmas Tree - Mon 10th Dec.

This is an exclusive event for members. We thought it would be nice if Friends could come along to Lytham Hall and see the decorated tree this year. All members are invited to drop in for coffee, a log fire, and festive cheer from 10.30 am until about 1pm. If you'd like to help with the event or to decorate the tree the week before you are very welcome - just let us know.



Friends Decorating the Tree in 2011

Recent Events

Lytham Hall Appeal Masked Ball on the 26th August.

The FOLH and LTT committee once again came together to hold a very successful masked ball at the Hall to raise funds for the appeal. In excess of £6000 was raised on the night. Mercedes-Benz was the main sponsor and gave us the confidence to proceed in these difficult financial times. The event was held in a Beaumont marquee following a wedding the day before, this was a great improvement on last year. There was superb catering and service by Paul Rowley and his staff. Paul was successful in obtaining sponsorship for much of the food from Silverfish of Blackpool, Phil's Bakery of Lytham, Clifton Quality Meats, Proctors Dairy and Pemberton's Dairy.

The beautiful sunny evening commenced with a champagne and canapé reception outside the Hall, followed by dinner and dancing to the Love Rats in the Marquee. We were honoured to have the services of a professional Toast Master George Turner who looked magnificent and greatly added to the success of the evening.

The tables looked superb with outstanding flower arrangements by Sylvia Kirby.



The Marquee provided a perfect venue

We held a live auction of the weekend use of a Mercedes-Benz SL Roadster for a weekend and a Mercedes-Benz Cabriolet or Limousine for a week. In addition to this we had a Silent Auction of tickets for a VIP Match day

experience at [Rowleys@Blackpool](#) Football Club, a Table for 2 people for a 5 course taster evening at Paul Rowley's new restaurant at Blackpool Football Club; an amazing flight in a Bell UH-H "Huey Helicopter; a Night at the Spa Hotel Ribby Hall with Aqua Thermal Journey; a Spa Day for Two at the DeVere Hotel; a Weeks holiday in a cottage in Dorset in Spring 2013; three days Sailing on Sceptre 12-K17 Britain's 1958 America's cup yacht; and two mid week Champion League tickets for Manchester United.

We received great support from the local community with raffle prizes.

The evening was a complete sell out of 160 tickets and we were delighted with the way the tickets sold very quickly and the positive feedback from everyone who attended.

We were able to showcase the hall as the perfect venue for weddings and other corporate events and the Jewel that the Hall is for the people of Lytham. Most importantly we were able to get across the message that although we have secured 41% of HLF grant we continue to need to keep working hard to achieve the level of funds we still require for Lytham Hall.

Big thanks go to the other ball committee members who were involved in making the ball the success it was: Meg Hargreaves, Kay Gill, Nicole Kitt, Linda Lee, Susan Havenhand, Paul Rowley, Lindsay Campbell (instrumental in securing the sponsorship from Mercedes-Benz), Roger Moore – photographer who gave his services free on the evening, George Turner our toastmaster and the hard working committee of the Friends of Lytham Hall who not only provided the drinks stall at the performance of the Twits in the afternoon of the ball but then some of them including Chairman Lambert Dopping managed the wine bar at the Ball in the evening.

An enormous amount of work took place prior to the event, two days before the Ball in

getting things ready, on the morning of the ball and the day after with clearing up. Without the support of everyone the Ball would not have been the success it was and the money would not have been made.

We are all now thin
king of how we can make the 3rd Masked Ball
a continued success.
Pam Greenhill

Lytham Hall
The Cliftons - Easter Daffodil Clifton



Muriel Easter Daffodil Therese Baird (Nee Clifton)

One of Lytham Hall's volunteers – D. Fraser Gardiner has been in touch with an interesting tale concerning one of the Clifton family.

Fraser's Mother Doris Gardiner (Nee Catlow) was a person of real interest in her own right. Whilst working as a schoolteacher, she survived the wartime crash of an American aeroplane into the Freckleton Holy Trinity C of E School where 38 schoolchildren died. She was ill on the day of the accident and Jennie Hall the teacher who replaced her was tragically killed after just 2 days in the job. Doris's husband was, at the time, in Burma fighting the Japanese and only became aware of the accident when he saw it in the Calcutta Statesman newspaper. He did not know if she

was alive or dead until he received a letter from her some 6 weeks later. She later became owner and Headmistress of a junior school in Helensburgh, Scotland where she employed a lunch-time supervisor by the name of Easter Baird (Nee Clifton).

Muriel Easter Daffodil Therese Clifton was born on 14 April 1914. She is the daughter of John Talbot Clifton and Violet Mary Beauclerk.

David is in the process of writing about his mother's life and in doing so he has spoken to Easter's second son Charles Baird and through him gained an insight into Easter's life.

She was born on Easter Monday. Her mother had wanted a second son and had not chosen names for a girl, and it was a maid servant who suggested Easter Daffodil. She had two sisters, Aurea and Avia, as well as two brothers, Richard and of course the future Squire Henry. She was educated by governess and convent in Ascot, being brought up as a Catholic.

Her parents spent a great deal of their time at their estate in Scotland at Kildalton Castle on the isle of Islay. At the age of eleven Easter fell in love with the handsome young estate Factor from Helensburgh, the then 22 year old Gerald Baird, and although he was not a Catholic she resolved to marry him when she became an adult.

She travelled to Florence to complete her education. then did London "season" as a debutante, being presented at court to Queen Mary, She was one of the acknowledged beauties of her generation and leading photographers including Dorothy Wilding and Painters Augustus John- of the time clamoured to picture or paint her.

Her family of course expected her to marry nobility, but she remained faithful to her dream and in 1936 on her 22nd birthday, looking resplendent in a dress of ivory

summer velvet, she married Gerald Baird. Her appalled family renounced her. However, despite the family snub one of her sisters did attend the wedding which was quite a society affair at the St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh. The guest list was strewn with Lords, Ladies Marquises, Marchionesses and even a Viscountess. The approval of the staff at Kildalton Castle was evident in their wedding gift - a silver salver.



The Wedding of Gerald Baird & Easter Clifton

The couple started married life in a cottage in Garelochhead and about 1939 moved to Helensburgh, where they settled and set about creating a family of their own with three boys: John, Charles & James, all born between 1941 & 1948. It was only after Gerald passed away at the relatively young age of 58 that Easter, then still only 47, started working. As well as her time with the school she became instrumental in establishing a service called 'Headline Helensburgh' a talking newspaper serving the blind and otherwise visually handicapped.

Gerald Baird was, incidentally, the cousin of John Logie Baird – the Scottish scientist accredited with inventing the world's first practical television system.

Doris and Easter became good friends whilst working together in Helensburgh. She once showed Doris a silver coffee pot and milk jug both emblazoned with the Clifton crest from Lytham Hall. It was all she had left from her time as a Clifton. The friendship lasted even after Doris sold the school and retired to Lytham St Annes. In 1976, quite late in her life, Easter came to visit.

Easter died on Jan 13th 1978 aged 63 but was described by Doris as a kind person, possessing extraordinary tranquillity and enthusiasm.

Outdoor Theatre at the Hall

Through the summer, we ran a refreshment stall in support of each of the outdoor theatre events. The first one had to be moved to King Edward's School Hall because of the very poor weather but we were very lucky with the rest and particularly the final one, The Twits, which was blessed with sunshine and a record attendance.



Some of the Committee & Helpers

Heritage Day

The final event of the summer was the Heritage Open Day in September. Despite being one of the better weekends of this poor summer, we weren't overwhelmed by the crowds taking advantage of free entry to the

Hall but we ran a stall selling trails and Christmas Cards.



The Friends Heritage Day stall

Volunteers for the Snowdrops Walks!

We would love a few more hands to help out in the Friends shop during the snowdrop walks. Its located in the old kitchen and the main task is to sell snowdrops and other bits and pieces, chat to people and feed the log fire. We pass the metal handwarmer around from the fire too. Please phone any of the committee if you are interested.



The Friends Shop in the Old Kitchen

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 in October

Admission: Adults £1, Children 50p, Car £1

Times: 10.30pm - 4.30pm, (last entry 3.30pm). Tea Room open for light lunches.

The House open for conducted tours at 12.00pm and 2.00pm. Adults £4, Children £2.

Sundays in November - Admission: Free

Times: 10.30pm - 4.30pm, (last entry 3.30pm). Tea Room open for light lunches.

The House open for a conducted tour at 1.30pm. Adults £4, Children £2.

Other Events

Halloween Spooktacular – Tuesday 30th Oct.
Meeting Point: Estate Office, Lytham Hall.

Dare you go down to the woods and brave the ghosts and ghouls of Lytham Hall??

Christmas Lunches – 17th – 21st December

The 3 course Christmas Lunches, served in one of the principle reception rooms in the Main Hall are £26.00 per person. To make a reservation please contact the Estate office on 01253 736652.

Light Festive Christmas Lunches

Throughout December the Tea Room will be offering a light festive lunch at £6.95.

Spicy Parsnip Soup With roll & butter.
Turkey Baguette with Sausage Meat Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce. Mince Pie with Cream.
Mulled Wine is also available at £2.95.

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

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