

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

www.lythamhall.org

April 2014

Issue 62

Lytham Hall Masked Ball – 6th Sept. 2014

In what is becoming the Fylde's most outstanding social event of the year the FOLH and LTT are announcing that they will again host another Masked ball in a marquee at the front of the Hall in aid of the Lytham Hall appeal.

Canapés and Sparkling wine will be served in the Hall followed by 3 course dinner provided by the ever superb Rowleys and dancing to the Touch the Pearl' in the marquee.

Last year saw fabulous prizes in the Silent Auction and the Raffle and the success of the evening was evident in the £7,000 raised for the appeal.



Revellers at a previous event

Tickets are £60 and we are hoping that people will take a table of ten for £600. Tickets are available from Meg Hargreaves, Tel. 01253 733098 meghargreaves@aol.com or p.m.greenhill@btinternet.com

This event is selling fast with already over 120 tickets sold at the beginning of April.

The event main sponsors are once again Marshall Mercedes-Benz and Smart of Blackpool but they would like to encourage other compatible businesses to partner them in this event.

There are varying sponsorship packages available from £1000 to £4000, please contact us to discuss a tailored package to suit your requirements.

This will give them the opportunity to have a unique opportunity to promote their business within the Fylde Coast Community and recognition as a leading corporate citizen supporting a high profile local cause

We are also looking for:

Businesses interested in taking a table at £600. They will be given the opportunity to advertise their business on the evening at the event.

Individual sponsors who would be prepared to assist us in ways such as:

- £50 by 4 people would help pay towards the printing.
- £100 by 8 people would help towards paying for the band.
- £50 by 6 people would help towards paying for the table flowers.
- Any donations towards the evening will be listed on the sponsor's climate.

Also, you can also support the event by providing a suitable raffle prize or an item for our silent auction. Last year people generously donated everything from luxury gifts and nights out to excursions and holidays.

Once again, any gifts will be gratefully acknowledged and are very much appreciated. Any cash donations are gratefully received, from the smallest sum, every penny will help to make the evening a success. If you are able to support us in any of these ways please contact: Pamela Greenhill Tel. 07739 312718 p.m.greenhill@btinternet.com or Susan Havenhand Tel. 01253 735513 susanhavenhand@tiscali.co.uk

Recent Events

Easter Sunday Bunny hops out again.

The Easter Bunny was hopping around the grounds of Lytham Hall once again this year welcoming approximately 400 children and their parents and grandparents to the annual Easter Bunny Hunt. Due to the extensive work carried out in the hall grounds we had a new and exciting trail this year with some challenging questions ie who lived in the small house and how many people could use the privy at once. The children enjoyed walking the trail, collecting their paper eggs and then enjoyed the prize of an Easter chocolate nest.



Lewis Warren (9) meets the East Bunny

The Bouncy castle was very busy and we did well with the bric a brac stall, children's book stall and children's tombola. Considerable thanks must go to all the Friends who kindly made the chocolate egg nests and helped on the day. A total of £1065 was raised for the Friends funds.

The Hall were very pleased with the good business in the cafe, the outside pop-up cafe and the gate entrance fees.

A very big thanks must go to all the volunteers who worked hard on the day to make the event such a big success.

The new Easter Bunny costume, skillfully made by Kath Smith, has now been packed away ready to be hopping out again next year.

Lytham Hall

Stanley Kitt recently took this photo from the top of the Mount. You can see just how much progress has been made with regard to woodland clearing.



He also snapped this picture of builders from HTNW's own construction company working on the fire-damaged Stable Block doing remedial work to make the building safe so that the path below could be used again.



New Fireguard



This is a photo of the new fireguard the Friends have recently bought for the Hall. During the Snowdrop weekends the Friends run a fundraising shop with a very popular log fire. Several years ago we paid over £10,000 to have the stack, which had been removed at roof level, rebuilt and the chimney restored. The hot hand warming ball brings a smile to many chilly faces. The old fireguard had been mended many times so we now have a safer and better looking one.

The flagpole on the Mount

Friends will notice that there has been a good deal of woodland clearing, besides the over 60 trees which were lost in the recent storms. The Mount (or Mound) can now be seen clearly from the Hall, as was intended by 18th century landscapers. The path leading up it has been discovered, and also the flagpole on top of it. It would have been visible from out at sea.



Edward Thorp, of Randall Thorp, landscape architects, has sent these pictures of what they found. He writes:

Someone, somewhere, should remember what it looked like before it fell, and perhaps have photos of it standing upright, and maybe even some other information. If your newsletter can help, I'd be grateful.

What we have on site is the tubular steel base, rusted off at ground level, the main steel pole lying on the ground as seen on the photos, with the remnants of a timber top piece with a pulley system for the flag. We've found three anchor points for the steel cable stays, and some rusty lengths of cable, but beyond that we're in the dark.



We intend to preserve what is left, and at the very least provide some interpretation of what it was in its prime. This was a big pole, maybe 50 feet tall, on a 30 foot mound. It must have been a striking feature, and deserves remembrance.

Any information would be gratefully received.

New Display Boards



We have recently bought some new display boards which were used to tell people about the Friends at a volunteering day in February, and at a Fylde and Wyre Showcase Day at Lowther Pavilion. They have been on display in our shop so are already well used.

Club Day returns to Lytham Hall

The Lytham Club Day committee has announced that Club Day will be returning to Lytham Hall.

The day will, as usual, start with the parade through the Town finishing in Westby Street. The Roses Queen will then process down to Lytham Hall ready for the crowning ceremony and entertainment.

To celebrate the 120 years anniversary of the inaugural crowning of the Rose Queen, there will be a display of the last 120 years in a Heritage exhibition hosted at Lytham Hall.

The afternoon will be a family focussed affair. There will be Sports events for children organised by AFC Fylde: Donkey Rides; Coconut Shys etc. People will be able to bring their own picnic or buy something from the various food stalls

The evening will see the return of the Ceilidh Band and the ever popular Steel Band. Again people can bring their own Gazebo's and food (no BBQ's).

The Lytham Heritage No 19 Bus will be running all day and evening to take clubbers up and down the Hall drive. It sounds like a wonderful day.

Frank Roe CBE



We are sorry to announce the passing of Frank Roe, a supporter of many community organisations, including our own. Frank was an aeronautical engineer and designer who became Managing Director, Military Aircraft Division at British Aerospace/BAe Systems. The TSR2 was very much his project.

Frank was a founding member of Lytham Town Trust and instrumental in securing the donation of £1m from British Aerospace as a gift to the community of Lytham. At the time there was a huge groundswell of support from local people as there was a real danger that the Hall would be sold by the Guardian Royal Exchange to a private developer. Time was short and Hall was saved. Frank continued to support the Hall and was often to be seen there. He was a quiet man who made a difference.

Marianne Blaauboer – Lytham Hall Activity Plan Officer writes:

As we write this we are just about recovered from a very successful Easter Sunday, for which we say thanks to the Friends and our own volunteers. It was enjoyable to see so many families getting to know Lytham Hall, guided by the Easter egg trail. The one-way traffic system worked well to stop pile-ups aided by new walkie-talkies which mean we can direct traffic better.

As you will have noticed, there's lots of work happening. The Mount has been re-sculpted by Wilkinson's landscape contractors from Longridge, with an archaeological watching brief from Nigel Neil. The next step is to lay the spiral path using risers made from timber felled on the estate. Once grass seed has taken we should be able to allow people to the top in a few months.

We've had three evening events which generated much needed income for the Hall and the Friends very generously taught us how to run the bar.

The Hall is now open on Thursday and Friday afternoons between 1-4pm for free-flow visits. A few new volunteers have jumped in to help make this possible. We have created room sheets to provide information in lieu of guided tours. The uptake has been promising so far! If you are interested in helping with this, do get in touch.

A free HLF Open Day on 16th April was kicked off with the unveiling of a brand new rocking horse by the Mayor Cllr Linda Nulty, donated by Mr Colin Ballard. 140 people visited and heard Simon, Alan and Marianne talk about the past and future plans for Hall and grounds.

May will see Rossall School take over the Hall on Sunday 11 – this promises to be a family event, with Teddy bear tours of the Hall, performances from school musicians, and games on the lawn. Friday 16 May in the

evening A Company of Voyces celebrate their 45th anniversary with a choir concert – all proceeds will go to Lytham Hall, so please join them. Tickets are £10 on the door including a glass of wine.

Sunday 18 May Craven Old Wheels visit the Hall again and 20 May is the first of Ruth Thurnhill's garden lectures – this is a full day and includes coffee, lunch and a tour of the garden. Ruth Thurnhill is a founding member of the Lancashire Gardens Trust; she will talk about Lytham Hall's grounds during the Benedictine Priory times up to the early seventeenth century. Tickets £25 for this full-day event, or £20 for concessions. You can sign up for all three days (20 May, 24 June, 22 July) for £65/£55 concessions.

From Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May we will host Zumba, Pilates, Bootcamp and Fitness on the lawn under the guidance of Sue and Jackie; you can join in for £5 per session or book all 4 for £15 (£3 per session for under16s).

Finally, we have another valuation afternoon with Capes Dunn Auctioneers on Wednesday 28 May and a Kids Camera Club on Thursday 29 May from 1-3pm.

We hope to welcome you at one of our May events. Thank you for your continuous support of Lytham Hall.

Membership

The membership year expires on 31st May.

It was recently decided by the Committee that membership fees should rise so as to keep pace with inflation Fees have not changed since 2005 and are only the second rise since our inception in 1997. We believe they still represent value for money and will increase our ability to support the Hall for the challenging times ahead. The new rates are £10 per year for Adults and £15 per year for couples. The cost for Patrons remains at £50.

For those Members that do not pay by standing order a renewal form is included with this Newsletter.

Members that do pay by standing order need not fill in or return the renewal form. However they need to use the attached form to change their standing orders to reflect the new rate of £10. Thank you.

Events at the Hall

Open Days: Easter to Christmas 2014

There is free entry to the Grounds every weekday (excluding Bank Holidays). 10am to 4.30pm

From April to October the Hall is open for visitors every Thursday and Friday between 1pm until 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 a 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.

Other Events

Plays in the Park

The Chapterhouse and Illyria, two of England's leading outdoor touring companies will perform the following outdoor plays:

Friday 13th June - Jane Austin's **Sense and Sensibility**. Charterhouse 7.30 pm

Sunday 6th July - Gilbert & Sullivan's **Pirates of Penzance**, Illyria. 6.00 pm

Tuesday 15th July - Shakespeare's **Macbeth**. Illyria. 7.30 pm

Sunday 24th Aug. - Roald Dahl's **George's Marvellous Medicine** by - Illyria. 4.00 pm

Tickets cost:- £13.00 Adults, £10.00 Senior Citizens, £6.50 School children. Tickets can be purchased from Lytham Hall (01253 736652), Lowther Pavilion (01253 794221) and a number of retailers around LSA plus online at the following websites:

www.illyria.uk.com

www.chapterhouse.org

www.lowtherpavilion.co.uk

These events are great fun, great entertainment and are always well attended. You will need to bring your own seating and a rug. The **Friends** will provide a Licensed Bar and refreshments on sale at the interval

See Lytham Hall website or ring for details of these and other events.

Contacts:

Lambert Dopping, Chairman (01253) 736408

Kath Smith, Secretary: (01253) 737548

Zoe Rushworth, Treasurer: (01253) 731538

John Martin, Newsletter: (01253) 728186

Pauline Hamilton, Membership:

(01253) 736857

Marion Coupe, Committee (01253) 733563

Liz Guffogg, Committee (01253) 727696

Meg Hargreaves Committee (01253) 733098

Hall: *Bookings:* (01253) 736652

Internet: lythamhall.co.uk