

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442  
www.lythamhall.org

Sept. 2013

Issue 60



**Annual General Meeting** – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 7.30pm at the Assembly rooms, Lytham.

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits will be served from 7.00pm onwards prior to the start of the AGM.

See the attached form for further details.

**Halloween Spooktacular** – Thurs. 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

### *Forthcoming Events*

#### **Evening of Christmas Cheer at Lytham Hall.** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December,

The highlight of our social calendar will be upon us sooner than we think. This is our most popular event and one which always sells out.

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](mailto: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.



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

Meeting Point: Estate Office, Lytham Hall. 1pm until 3pm Adults free kids £1 each. Children brave enough to participate will have to endure a spooky trail through the woods, goolish cake decorating and games.

There are prizes for coming in Halloween costumes. See you there – if you Dare!

#### **John Miller HTNW writes:**

The three year restoration programme at Lytham Hall has begun. Those who came to the Open Day held on 28 April (and 350 people did) will have seen the plans and met some of the people who are working to transform the woodlands. Three new members of staff have been appointed

including a Project Manager, and we will be introducing them later in the Autumn when they start work at the Hall.

This Summer the Hall has been buzzing with activity. The grounds are open each day (except Saturday) for public access thanks to Lancashire County Council who are providing the services of a Countryside Ranger. Look out for the courses she is arranging. Julian Wilde has once again organized three open air concerts which have been hugely popular and the Friends have done a brisk trade at the intervals at their drinks bar. There have been car rallies, dog shows, a Plant Fair and many other attractions each Sunday. Volunteers have been helping in the Tea Room which is becoming established, and others have helped with tours of the Hall. The Friends second hand book stall is another attraction. Many new volunteers have been recruited, and many thanks are due to Linda Salter, Sue Swatridge and John Hornyak who take a special role in co-ordinating all the many voluntary activities.

Sadly we have to report a number of 'break-ins', one in the old Hall and others in the Stable Block. All the work of young kids. Nothing was stolen, but there was vandalism, including gaining access to the Flat in the Stable Block and leaving the oven on. All these occurred in the early hours of the morning, but vandals have also been coming into the grounds during the Summer evenings, and causing damage (last year it was to a Marquee erected for a Wedding).

The restoration of the South Prospect Garden continues. The next steps before any further works can be undertaken will be a further archaeological excavation of a puzzling rectangular area shown on early maps, close to the 17<sup>th</sup> c Mount. Nigel Neil will be supervising the work. Over 40 budding archaeologists attended a briefing meeting on Sunday 18 August. We look forward to the results.

### **Books Still Wanted**

Our bookstall in the little room just inside the rear door to the courtyard is proving very popular. Books are £1 each, money to be put in an honesty box.

We need more books of all types as the stock is diminishing rapidly. If you can donate any books please drop them off at the Hall or telephone any member of the Committee who will arrange to have them collected. Every little helps!

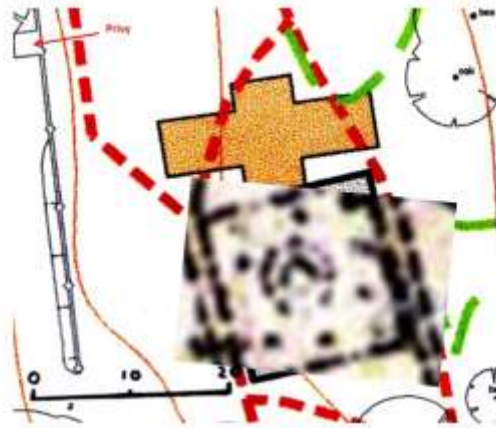
### ***Lytham Hall***

#### **Digging at Lytham Hall 2013**

A new season of excavation has started again under the leadership of archaeologist Nigel Neil. At the induction meeting Nigel gave a summary of progress so far on the site, now known as the Prospect Garden, to the south of the Hall and near The Mount. 39 people attended the talk and there is a lot of interest in taking part. Volunteers will be digging, learning some surveying, tour guiding, and washing finds.

The plan is to investigate an enigmatic square shaped feature which appears on a map of 1885 but which is not shown on Ordnance Survey maps. The extract below is from the plan of Randall Thorpe landscape architects, and also show the 1812 or earlier greenhouse to the north.





Detail of map showing area of investigation

Nigel reported:

On the first day, we had found archaeology in all three trenches opened. In the SW corner, nearest to the gate posts up to the Mount, the team found *in situ* the base of a cast iron railing with the remains of the rods at 2 inch intervals (photo **attached**, 500 mm and 300 mm scales). The alignment coincided precisely with the predicted boundary of the enclosure, and a fragment of the SW corner was present. Time will tell as to whether we find that the whole enclosure was surrounded by railings, or perhaps only at the corners.



In the SE corner trench we quickly found the pebble path surface adjacent to the outside of the fence, but we will have to extend the trench slightly to find the fence and the interior. The third, larger, trench in the centre of the enclosure has produced brick fragments, and a suggestion of post or stakeholes.

The finds from 2009 -10 will be on display and we look forward to seeing more intriguing bits and pieces – all of which help to tell the story of Lytham Hall.

### **Kiki the cat**

There are several memorials to dogs in the grounds and garden at Lytham Hall, but only one to a cat.



On looking closely at the memorial, which is propped against a tree, it is clearly not like the others. To start with Kiki the cat lived from 1958 to 1983, an old cat indeed at 25. It must have begun its life as a Clifton cat but lived well into the era of Guardian Royal Exchange. Does anyone remember this cat - and how did GRE know when it was born?

The other thing is - the lettering is totally different in the 2 sections (or as we say, the font). It looks as though a piece of old gravestone has been re-cycled for Kiki, yet great care has been exercised in the engraving of his or her name. Any ideas, anyone?

### **Remember Lytham Hall**

Lytham Hall dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is a precious asset which belongs to our community. Since it was bought from Guardian Insurance with the help of British Aerospace (Bae Systems) in 1996 those who love Lytham Hall have struggled to keep up with the costs of running it.

We are delighted that Heritage Trust for the North West has achieved a successful Heritage Lottery grant in 2012/13 - but we are thinking of the future. Only very basic repairs and restoration are being carried out with the grant and there is so much more

which needs to be done to ensure this beautiful place remains ours forever.

Please consider leaving a gift to the Friends of Lytham Hall in your will.

You don't have to make a difficult choice between family or charity. You can specify either a fixed amount, or a given percentage of your estate or you can specify the amount of your estate to go to family and friends and leave any residue to the charity you wish to support. Your lawyer can advise.

The Friends charity was set up before the Hall was acquired and is the only charity where every penny of our funds goes to Lytham Hall alone. We gave £45,000 (all we had) as match funding to help with the recent Lottery bid.

Please help us by:

- Joining – you can become a friend by contacting Pauline Hamilton.
- Funding a project
- Leaving a legacy

Many thanks!

### **“Plays in the Park” at Lytham Hall**

The success of the four outdoor plays at Lytham Hall this summer has been based on strong support from a host of helpers.

That's the view of Julian Wilde, organiser of the open air season which has seen audiences doubled this summer, with a total of 1500 people attending the first three plays, *Pride and Prejudice*, *As You Like It* and *The Mikado* in June and July.

Julian Wilde feels that the hard work of the Friends of Lytham Hall has been the key to a successful summer.

“People like the welcome from a friendly face at Lytham Hall. On the evening of each of the plays the team of helpers who have organised the parking, the refreshments and the meeting and greeting are skilled at

creating just the right atmosphere. I have appreciated their commitment enormously.”

Lytham families relished the chance of a final special opportunity for an afternoon picnic in the park prior to the performance by Illyria of the family show *Babe the Sheep-Pig* on Bank Holiday Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Wilde expects that the donation to the Lytham Hall Appeal Fund from the open-air season will be well up on last year's £2600 and credits the Friends for this.

“They put in a huge amount of effort, entirely unpaid, and have made a very significant contribution to this pleasing total.” he said.



The Friends supporting the ‘Plays in the Park’

### **Strawberry Haul**

We were excited to hear from another of our fund-raisers, almost certainly the youngest. Seven year old Anna Filipo writes:

*Dear Friends*

*I collected this money (£2.50) for the Hall. My friends guessed how many strawberries were in the bowl at our BBQ.*

*I love going to the Hall with my Granny, especially when she is the Easter Bunny!*

*I want to save Lytham Hall for my children to enjoy when I grow up*

*Love from Anna Filipo xxx*

Thank you Anna. Every penny helps and I'm sure your efforts will also inspire others to do what they can to ensure the Hall continues to captivate and interest people for generations to come.

### *Events at the Hall*

#### **Open Days: to Christmas 2013**

There is free entry to the Grounds every weekday (excluding Bank Holidays). 10.30am to 4.30pm.

The grounds are also open to the public every Sunday: £1 per Adults; 50p per Child; £1 Car Parking.

The Tearoom is open serving Hot and Cold Food on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Fridays & Sunday

### *Other Events*

**Heritage Open Day** -Sunday 15th September

**Autumn Fashion Show by Matchmakers Clothing of Lytham** - Wednesday 25th September

**Lytham Hall 5K Run** - Sunday 6th October

### **Countryside Ranger Events**

**Bat Walk** - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

**BushCraft Day** - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October

For details of above events refer to Lytham Hall website: [www.lythamhall.co.uk](http://www.lythamhall.co.uk)

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