

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442
Issue 72

www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk
Spring 2017

An Evening of Christmas Cheer at Lytham Hall

We are now well into the New Year and our Evening of Christmas Cheer seems like a distant memory, but we are very pleased to report that it was a great success. All the tickets were sold and 92 guests enjoyed canapés in the festive Dining Room before moving through the Hall to the Upper West Wing for dinner. The room and tables looked lovely and the catering was done, for the first time, by In-House staff led by Peter, Paul and Elizabeth. The food was delicious and very plentiful.

After dinner entertainment by our usual stars, Billy, Ann, Trevor and Anne was superb. Everyone enjoyed the carol singing and the night was a wonderful start to the Festive Season. The Committee donated all the canapés, many raffle prizes and ran the wine bar throughout the evening. With their valuable help and the generosity of the guests we raised £1,800 this year.



Snowdrop weekends at the Hall

The Snowdrops in the parkland are in full bloom and never fail to delight. After those long, dark days of winter they are a welcome sign that Spring is on the way. Enjoy those wonderful drifts of snowdrops at the Hall on Saturdays and Sundays in February. There will be an entry fee of £3 per adult [children admitted free of charge] to help raise much-needed funds for the restoration of the Hall and grounds. Picture frames have been 'planted' along the snowdrop trail to frame the best viewpoints so don't forget your camera!

The Friends have set up their shop in the Old Kitchen where you will find snowdrops on sale along with Bric-a-brac and a Tombola. There may even be a log fire burning to warm you after your walk.



Did you know?

The Latin name for a snowdrop, Galanthus means 'milk white flowers', indeed a snowdrop may be said to look like three drops of milk hanging from a stem.

Snowdrops are one of the white flowers regarded as unlucky to bring into the house. Despite acceptance by the Catholic Church as a symbol of Candlemas, some people still view them as 'death-tokens' and the flower has been described as 'a corpse in its shroud'.



Ritual Burn Marks Found at the Hall



Burn marks found under stairs at Lytham Hall



'Apotropaic' scorch marks at Tower of London

Two of these have recently been found in the Medieval/Jacobean part of Lytham Hall. We can assume that there will have been more, but the area they are in is one of the few areas which have never been plastered or decorated. Recent research strongly points to their creation as deliberate, whereas in the past they had been seen as just accidental burn marks. No written reference to their use has been found.

Experiments have been carried out using traditional candles, tapers and rushlights made with tallow and beeswax. The research has benefitted from the opportunity to examine candles from the Mary Rose (sunk in the Solent in 1545). The wood used has been oak. It was found that close application of a flame is necessary to create a burn mark and is most efficiently done with a taper. It takes about 10 minutes to create a mark 3mm deep on seasoned oak.

The date range seems to be late C16th to C18th but this research is in its early stages so it could well be extended, and it has not been assessed regionally.

But what were they for? When we see no practical use, for something deliberately and frequently done, the words ritual and votive are often used. Could they have been accompanied by a recitation? To ward against evil spirits?

Burn marks are seen in particular locations, the most popular being the timber beam over a fireplace. They can be found beside doorways, on roof trusses, across timber partitions and some have been found on Jacobean furniture. They are usually at a convenient working height between waist and shoulder and mostly vertical so likely to have been made in situ.

The haphazard positioning of these marks indicates that it may have been the process of making the mark which was important, rather than the end product. We hope to find more at Lytham Hall.

Archaeologists found dozens of 'ritual protection' marks on the roof timbers of the Tower of London.

M. Coupe

Damage Caused by Winter Gales

The January gales, with gusts exceeding 47mph, brought down several trees in the parkland at the Hall. One crashed through the fence of one of the properties overlooking the drive, which must have been frightening for the residents.

Another, larger tree came down on Ballam Road, damaging the grade 2 listed cobblestone boundary wall dating from the mid 1800's.



The Friends Bookshop



The bookshop continues to do well and keeping it in good order has become an almost daily task. Eddie and Jo were therefore delighted to take up the recent kind offer of assistance from FOLH members, Joan and Jim Edwell, who brought with them a new bookcase for the shop.

Lots of books have been donated over recent months but unfortunately many of them were ones that sell slowly and our stock of these has reached its limit for the foreseeable future.

Stock we desperately need is:

- **Paperback general fiction**
- **Local interest books**
- **CDs and DVDs**

Donated items should be in good saleable condition, of course.

If you have items *other than* those listed above, please first contact:

Eddie / Jo James via friendslythambooks@btopenworld.com"



Friends of Lytham Hall Bags

The jute bags are on sale in the book shop, in two colourways as shown and soon to be available in green.

They are a handy size and the proceeds will help to boost funds for the Hall.

The price is: £6 each or £10 for two.

Friends' Website

Our website:< friendsoflythamhall.org.uk> has details of news, events and information. A members-only section has been added that requires a password, which is being emailed to members.

Volunteers

We always need volunteers to help make events successful. If you would like to offer a helping hand, we would love to hear from you – especially for Easter Sunday and any of the outdoor theatre dates.

Dates for your Diary

Visit the Lytham Hall website for details of the full programme of events for the year.

Easter Bunny Hunt - Sunday 16th April

The Friends of Lytham Hall host their annual Easter Bunny hunt, with trails through the parkland, cake decorating, bric-a-brac stall and a bouncy castle. Come in your prettiest Easter bonnet!

Timings: 11am - 4.00pm (last entry 3.30pm)



Outdoor Theatre Events



Tickets for these will go on sale in springtime. Please contact the Hall estate office to be kept informed when they are available.

Great Expectations

Chapterhouse Theatre Company

Sunday 11th June at 6.00pm

The Lost World – Jurassic Park

Illyria present Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Lost World', on which Jurassic Park was loosely based.

Sunday 9th July at 6.00pm

The Mikado

Illyria present Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta

Sunday 20th August at 6.00pm

The Emperor's New Clothes (family show)

Illyria present: The Emperor's New Clothes by H.C. Andersen

Sunday 27 August at 4.00pm

Contacts:

Lambert Dopping, Chairman (01253) 736408 email: lambert@friendsoflythamhall.org.uk

Kath Smith { Secretary (01253) 737548
Newsletter

Terry Jones, Treasurer: (01253) 794524

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

Lytham Hall – bookings etc. (01253) 736652

Websites: Friends of Lytham Hall: www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk

Lytham Hall: www.lythamhall.org.uk

