

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

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### **Snowdrops Walks**

As we go to print the Snowdrop walks have already started at Lytham Hall, the first day being Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. and will continue through until the Snowdrops are past their best.

Parking in the grounds will be limited to disabled drivers only. All other vehicles can be parked in the Aegon Insurance car park adjacent to the Main Gates on Ballam road. Benches will be dotted along the driveway to allow respite. Stout shoes are recommended and dogs, although welcome, must be kept on a leash.

Entrance to the grounds will start at 11:00am with last entry at 3:30pm. The costs are: £2.50 for Adults, £1 for Children and. Family tickets available for £6.00, which admits 2 adults & up to 3 children. The tea-room will also be open for Light Refreshments.

Further information can be obtained from Lytham Hall Office, Ballam Road, Lytham FY8 4JX Tel. No. 01253 736652 or e-mail [lytham.hall@htnw.co.uk](mailto:lytham.hall@htnw.co.uk)

Volunteers may be needed to help out in the tea-room. If anyone is willing to make themselves available for 2 hours or so on any of the Sundays, please ring the office on 736652.

### **Recent Events**

#### **Christmas Fair**

The Friends Autumn Fair took place on Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> November at the Assembly Rooms, Lytham raising £421 for the cause.

Thanks go to everyone who turned out, many of them familiar faces. Special thanks go to all those who donated prizes and articles for sale. Thanks also to all those that helped on the day, and finally Tom Eccles who turned out once again to support the event by selling

and signing Christmas cards.

### **Evening of Christmas Cheer**

What a great night! Without doubt the best Christmas Cheer event to date.

Everything about the evening went really well. The drinks reception in the main Entrance Hall with the log fire went on so long that some pretty forceful persuasion was required to get people into the Dining area. Once there though we were treated to a fabulous meal courtesy of Rowleys Catering.

The entertainment from Don Sheerin and his friends was the usual excellent standard and the sheer gusto displayed in the singing of Christmas carols gave the best indication of how well the evening had been received.

Thanks to all those who supported the night and who spent so generously on raffle tickets. A special, thanks go to the people who worked so hard to set up the evening and to the committee members and Friends who helped out during and after the event. The £843 made on the evening goes straight into the Friends savings account.

### **Dates for your Diaries**

**Annual General Meeting** – 21st September

The Friends of Lytham Hall AGM will be held at the Assembly rooms Lytham on Wed. 21st September 2005 at 7:30pm.

**Xmas Fair** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Assembly rooms Lytham. 10.00-12.00pm

### **Memories of the Hall**

#### **Harry's Bentley**

There was a very interesting appearance of Harry Clifton's 1936 Derby Bentley on the internet last month. It was on a web site called appropriately called 'Derby Bentley'. The site is dedicated to just three variants of this one model of motor car built between 1933 and 1939. Originally 2,422 examples were built and apparently some 1,770 of these remain

extant over 70 years later, a survival rate of 72.5%, remarkable for cars that had to live through World War II, not only in the UK but also in Europe.



The article devoted to Harry's car gives a potted history of when and why he bought it - apparently to assist him in his courtship of his soon to be wife, the American, Lillian Greswold. Harry even had the car shipped across to America to show it off.

The most memorable story associated with this car was set in the summer of 1938. Harry was returning to Lytham by train to Preston, where the chauffeur was waiting to meet him. The train was late. When Harry arrived, he got into the car and told the chauffeur to drive to the Hall without stopping and that if he stopped the car just once he would be sacked. Apparently the chauffeur was very concerned about this instruction as he knew that the main wrought iron gates with lodge would be normally be closed at 6pm, and there was no way in which he could meet that deadline. Arriving at the gates well after 6pm, he found them to be open and was much relieved. Having driven down the drive, there was a wooden gate about 50 yards from the house which, on approach, was noted to be shut. He slowed down, intending to stop and open it as he did not imagine Harry would want him to do otherwise so close to home. Harry turned to him and reminded him of the consequences of stopping and told him to drive straight through the gate, which he then did

What ties this story together is the car's chassis records which note that the car was returned to Derby for repair for a front end collision in August 1938. It was sold thereafter to someone in Liverpool.

Please keep sending in your own **Memories of the Hall**, whether they are personal stories about Lytham Hall or about one of its inhabitants; it all helps to piece together what life was like when the Hall was a lived in property.

Alternatively, if you know someone else that you know had some association with the Hall, please ask them to get in touch - or write in on their behalf. A phone call (01252) 728186 or something written down on paper would be appreciated.

#### ***Who said that!***

Continuing with our series of articles that attempt to explain where unusual sayings originated:

#### **Mind your P & Qs**

From when ale in Pubs was served in Pints and Quarts. When customers got unruly Landlords would remind them to watch their Pints & Quarts (P & Qs) and settle down.

#### **Posh**

Port Outwards Starboard Home – Comes from the old Empire days when people travelled to India via the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal. The more expensive cabins were the ones that faced north and avoided some of the heat and the sun.

#### ***LYTHAM HALL.***

A HISTORY OF GREEN DRIVE WOODLAND  
By Sandy Dopping, with thanks to Alan Ashton, local historian, and the Lytham archivist.

**Green Drive**, now a public woodland joining Saltcoates Road to Ballam Road, was once part of a lane that went from Lytham Hall to Lodge Lane Warton. In John Clifton's time, 1764 –1832, the Warton end became impassable at flood tides and was abandoned.

A map dated 1812, found in RA Haley's book 'Lytham St Anne's a Pictorial History', shows Green Drive surrounded by fields, whose boundaries are in approximately the same position as existing dykes. As part of the general improvements to land East of the Hall around 1828, the Drive was resurfaced with compacted clay and shingle. More pits and an outlet dyke, Donkey Dyke, were dug to join Liggard Brook.

**Thomas Clifton**, 'Thomas the Tree Planter' 1788-1851, continued his father's improvements, with the help of the Estate Manager, James Fair, and it is thought that he employed the Landscape Architect Edward Kemp to design the park, including we assume, Green Drive.

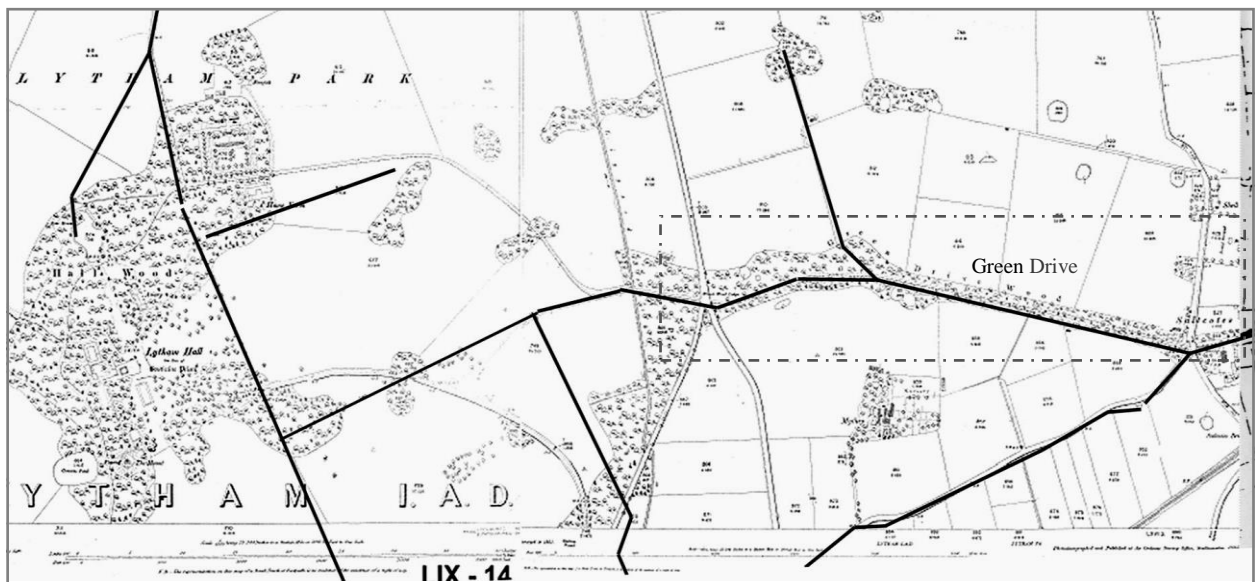
(Edward Kemp was an assistant to Joseph Paxton and author of 'How to Lay Out a Small Garden' published in 1850. There is apparently a reference copy of this book in the British library. It would be interesting to see whether there is any mention of Lytham Hall in it).

From about 1840, a belt of trees was planted from Saltcoates along Green Drive to the Liggard Bridge. Thomas ordered ten trees to be planted, to ensure that one would survive on such an exposed site. He used Oak, Beech, Ash, Lime and Elm and other non-native species. He was not keen on Pine trees or on Sycamore trees.



1900, a pleasant tree lined avenue

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1925, the Clifton family gave Green Drive Woodland to 'The Corporation', [which preceded Fylde Borough Council], for 'the free use and enjoyment of the public'. Local folk can remember a time when it was cared for by a particular gardener who 'had a hut and planted daffodils'.



Lytham Hall Estate, including Green Drive

Roads that were marked on the 1812 map have been superimposed in black on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. The change in layout resulted from the landscaping of the park and the coming of the railway in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

They remember well-spaced trees that you could picnic under and catching tiddlers in dykes. But later it was neglected. Many trees were lost to Dutch elm disease. Dykes and pits were filled in. Land was often water logged and the trees suffered. Years' worth of litter and dog excrement dominated the senses. 'Behind every cloud is a silver lining'. The woodland became a haven for wildlife.

'Friends of Green Drive', in association with Lytham in Bloom, was formed in 2003 to work with Fylde Borough Council to ensure the future of Green Drive as Woodland to be enjoyed by the community and as a continued home for wild life.

The first problems to be addressed were drainage, litter and dog fouling. A Management Plan recommended the removal of invasive weed species, such as young Sycamore and Himalayan Balsam, plus surveying and monitoring, and these tasks are ongoing. We are mindful of the importance of wildlife habitats, and as we learn more we hope to add to them.



Clearing the pond

Last year, to our great surprise, Green Drive was given an Environmental Award by North West in Bloom; the only such award in Lancashire.



Installing bat boxes

Contacts – if you would like to help us maintain this local woodland or simply would like more information please contact: Cllr Tim Ashton (794808); Sandy Dopping (736408) or Mike Schofield (737092) or visit our web site [www.greendrive.org.uk](http://www.greendrive.org.uk)



Winter bird feeding

### **Email!**

Receiving Newsletters and other *Friends* literature via email would cut down printing and delivery costs and makes distribution a lot easier and quicker. If you are interested in receiving your Friends correspondence by this method, please send your email address to [lythamhall.org](mailto:lythamhall.org). stating your name and address and whether you prefer documentation in Microsoft Word or HTML.

### **Contacts:**

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