

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

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www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk
Summer 2017



Bluebells and blossom fill the parkland at the Hall with colour and fragrance. There's always something waiting to be discovered in the parkland.

Friends' Easter Bunny Hunt

After the amount of work put in to planning and organising the Easter Bunny Hunt, it is always worrying when the weather doesn't play its part, so we were delighted with the support shown throughout the day. Families enjoyed the activities on offer: the Easter Egg trail, bouncy castle, cake decorating and a children's tombola, helping us to raise over £860.

The tearoom was busy all day too, which means extra funds for the Hall.

Thanks go to the happy bunny and all the cheerful volunteers who helped make the day a success.



The rain may have dampened the Easter Bunny's outfit but not her spirit.



Families braved the weather to follow the trail and collect tokens for a prize.

Membership Renewals

May we please remind you that membership subscriptions renewals become due on the 1st of June. For those of you who pay by Standing Order, this will have automatically happened through your bank. Your continued support of the Charity is much appreciated and vital in securing the future of Lytham Hall.

Gift Aid your subscriptions and any donations.

If you were not a tax payer when you joined the Friends of Lytham Hall, or last gave a donation, but your circumstances have now changed and you pay United Kingdom Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax that is at least equal to the amount the Charity reclaims on your subscriptions/donations (from April 2008 this is 25p for each £1.00 you donate) please complete a Gift Aid Declaration which can be printed out from The Friends' website or obtained from our membership secretary, Pam Beeden.

Claiming Gift Aid makes a significant difference to our income. If, however, you are no longer a UK tax payer please inform the membership secretary so that we can update our records.



One of our bees is missing.....

There used to be two bees outside the gates to the Hall, advertising the Bee Awareness Day, but now there's only one and he's missing his friend! One of the bees was borrowed/ stolen and the beekeepers would really love to have him returned. A lot of work went into making these bees so we are asking everyone to help to find the missing one and let us know if you see it resting anywhere.



New Secret Door Trail at the Hall

The secret door trail in the parkland has taken on many new forms since the original 'Fairy Doors' were donated by the Friends. There have been 'Winter Doors' and 'Fairy-tale Doors' which have proved to be very popular with visitors. The latest development has an 'Alice in Wonderland' theme, with doors painted by Hall volunteers to spark the imaginations of young and old alike. The trail is available from the Tearoom or the Estate Office and costs £2.



Friends of Lytham Hall Jewellery

We now have a selection of attractive upcycled and hand-crafted necklaces, bracelets and key fobs for sale, so watch out for it at future events.

If you have any broken or unloved costume jewellery that you would like to donate to the Friends for re-vamping, please contact Kath Smith [01253737548] or any of the contacts listed at the end of this newsletter, and help us to boost our funds.



The Friends Bookshop



The Bookshop opposite the tearooms in the West Wing is very popular with visitors and we are always in need of more stock. Donations of the following in good, saleable condition are welcome:

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

Please place any items in the box by the bookshelves.

If you have items other than those listed above, please first contact: Eddie / Jo James via "friendslythambooks@btopenworld.com"

Augustus Wykeham Clifton Self-Portrait



Looking through some early issues of the Friends' Newsletter I came across an article regarding a self-portrait by Augustus Wykeham Clifton. Having located the copy of the painting donated by Betty Beasley and the accompanying notes, I thought the story worth retelling.

The story was one of many passed down to Betty by her father Reuben Pemberton, a local businessman:

One morning around the turn of the century Reuben was invited by Captain Augustus Wykeham (the youngest brother of John Talbot) to visit him at Warton Hall to discuss a charitable project he was planning. After the talk was over, Captain Clifton showed him a self-portrait of himself playing his self-made musical instrument. Reuben was very enthusiastic about the painting but the Captain passed it off saying that the family were not interested, whereupon Reuben said, "You should give it to me".

The Captain replied, "Why should I?"

Reuben answered, "Because I would appreciate it".

The Captain grunted saying, "I don't know about that", and so, the matter rested.

When he returned home later in the day, Reuben found a parcel waiting for him. On opening it, to his delight, he saw the portrait with the Captain's compliments.

Reuben eventually hung the painting in his study and it was one of the first his children remembered and adored because of the many stories he told them about Captain Clifton, his family and Lytham.

Mrs Beasley contacted the V&A museum in an attempt to identify the type of instrument in the painting and received the following reply from Dr. James Yorke, Ph.D., F.S.A., Assistant Curator:

Dear Mrs Beasley,

I have had to give up on this instrument. The nearest approximation I can come to is an oboe. The mouthpiece looks reeded, like that of an oboe, and Captain Wykeham Clifton's hands are certainly playing a keyed instrument. However, the instrument does not swell into a bell-like end, which makes me less than 100% definite. Perhaps we might plump for an oboe, as I have come across no illustration that resembles it more closely.



Scarecrows - John Talbot and Violet Clifton enjoying tea in the new garden!

The Kitchen Garden is Officially Open

Thanks to a £10,000 Grant from Tesco's 'Bags of Help Fund', and an enormous amount of hard work by volunteers, an impressive kitchen garden has been created at the Hall.

The garden opening, by Tesco Store Manager, Emma Barret, was also attended by Emily Clifton, a descendant of the Cliftons of Lytham Hall. The garden will provide fruit, vegetables and herbs for the Tearoom and an added attraction for visitors of all ages.



Great Expectations Sunday 11th June at 6.00pm

Chapterhouse Theatre Company

The Lost World – Jurassic Park Sunday 9th July at 6.00pm

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

The Mikado Sunday 20th August at 6.00pm

Illyria present Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta.

The Emperor's New Clothes (family show) Sunday 27th August at 4 pm

Illyria present 'The Emperor's New Clothes' by Hans Christian Andersen

TICKETS: Adult £13 Concessions: Senior/student £10 Schoolchild £6.50

ON LINE BOOKINGS: from Illyria and Chapterhouse's own websites: www.illyria.uk.com / www.chapterhouse.org

LOCAL TICKET OUTLETS - book in person or by phone:

Lytham Hall phone 01253 736652

Lowther Pavilion, Lytham 794221 (booking online also available)

Plackitt & Booth, Booksellers, Clifton Street, Lytham 796958

Stringers Homelife, Haven Road, Lytham 740700

Storytellers Inc., The Crescent, St. Annes 781690

Bennetts Bakery, Woodlands Road, Ansdell 736318

A Date for your Diary

The Friends of Lytham Hall AGM will be held on Friday 13th October at 10.30 at the Hall.

Contacts:

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

Kath Smith, Secretary & Newsletter: (01253)737548

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

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