

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

May 2006

Issue 39

Forthcoming events

Summer Lunch at the Hall – July 2nd

We are pleased to announce that this year's Summer Lunch is to be held in the grounds of Lytham Hall. The event itself will be located within the parkland at the rear of the Hall and there will be indoor facilities in case of inclement weather. The price of £15 (£5 for Children) includes a comprehensive buffet lunch plus deserts and the first glass of wine or soft drink. Other drinks will be available in particular the very successful Pimms cocktail which went down so successfully at last year's event.

This will be a great opportunity to catch up with recent developments at the Hall, in particular the projects sponsored by the Friends i.e. the new chimney and range in the old Kitchen; Squire Clifton's Billiard table back in its rightful position with its new plaque that acknowledges the part played by the Friends in co-ordinating its return to the Hall. The silver platter acquired earlier this year will also be on show. Revellers can also appreciate the restored cobbled area at the rear of the Hall. We will also be taking a look at some of the other potential projects that we may get involved in like the restoration of the 18th century two seater privy.

The lunch will be our first of its kind at the Hall. We are hoping to make it an annual event but can only do this if the event is well supported. We therefore need all members and their friends to make the effort to attend especially during the formative years as it gets a foothold on the social calendar.

The press have been informed and we are expecting a number of local magazines to report on the event.

It is our intention to ensure that the Hall is utilised as much as possible, indeed its status as a registered museum depends on it. The

initial Snowdrop walks were a Friends initiative as was the Evening of Christmas Cheer. Both of these events are now firmly established on the local social calendar, but we need to keep adding other events to ensure the viability and future well being of Lytham Hall.

Ticket prices are £15 per person, £5 for Children. This is slightly more expensive than previous years but include costs involved with the Hall. Numbers are limited but members can reserve tickets by contacting Marilyn Smith on 01253 734804 or by using the slip at the end of the Newsletter.

Dates for your Diaries

Annual General Meeting – 19th September
The *Friends of Lytham Hall* AGM will be held at the Assembly rooms Lytham on Tuesday 19th September 2006 at 7:30pm.

Xmas Fair – Saturday 18th November.
Assembly Rooms Lytham. 10.00-12.00pm.

Evening of Xmas Cheer – 8th December
Make a date in your diary for this most popular event

Events at the Hall

Outdoor Theatre

There are a number of events planned at the Hall this year, the most popular of which is a return of the outdoor theatre productions. This year we will be treated to no less than three events:

- 17th June - Macbeth
- 4th August - Pride and Prejudice
- 2nd September - Wind in the Willows

Heritage Open days

7th - 10th September

Volunteers will be needed at all the events at the Hall. For those interested in helping they should contact Fiona at the Hall (01253) 736652

Lytham Hall
Shepherd's Lodge

We have had a very interesting study of one of the Hall's lodges sent in by Martin Read of Thornton Cleveleys. Martin contacted us to try and ascertain the exact location of Shepherd's Lodge. He had a family photograph of one of his relations outside a lodge called Shepherd's Lodge and wanted to know exactly where it had been located.

The photo below shows the lodge in question. Martin also had a pen and ink drawing of the same lodge with the Artist's signature, date and subject name of 'Shepherd's Lodge'. The only facts that he needed to know from us was the exact location and whether any of it was still standing.

We agree that this lodge was Shepherd's Lodge, however we believe that it was also called Kendal's as it was located near to the estate kennels. We have been previously informed that Nancy Carr, an upstairs maid at the Hall and her brother Frank lived at Kendal's Lodge until about 1953. They were probably its last inhabitants.

It was an important part of the layout of the Lytham Hall estate, as there were lodges on all approaches to the Hall, most have been demolished. Kendal's or Shepherd's Lodge, like Church Lodge, was built of mixed cobble and brick with a slate roof, with attractive drip moulds over the doors and windows. Situated in dense woodland, within the English Heritage Registered parkland but in the ownership of Fairhaven Golf Club, surviving for many years in a derelict state.

A plan was developing, supported by John Miller, Director of the Heritage Trust for the North West, to actually move the Lodge on to the Hall grounds. There it would have been part of the heritage interpretation of the estate. Sadly, the lodge was bulldozed and burnt in 2003.



This super photograph supplied from the Pearson family collection shows just how smart the lodge was. The detailing around the windows, the high quality chimney pots and immaculate condition of the roof slates show that the lodge was built to a high standard.

Martin's Father-in-law (John Pearson) was born in the lodge in 1911, his birth certificate proves this. He was the son of William and Jane Pearson (nee Anyon). Jane Anyon's parents were John and Ann (nee Townsend) who Martin believes to be the couple in the photo standing outside the lodge. John Anyon was gamekeeper to the Squire working and living with his family on various parts of the Clifton's Estate. The 1891 census shows them in the manor of Westby-with-Plumpton where they lived in keeper's cottage on Little Plumpton road. Later they moved to Shepherd's Lodge with their daughter Jane. By 1911 their daughter Jane was married to William Pearson, and was living at Shepherd's Lodge for the second time. Her husband was a nurseryman on the Clifton's estate, later becoming head horseman. By 1914, her parents, John & Ann, were known to be at another of Clifton's properties, Twiggy Hill at west End.



This sketch is of the same building and its signature block detailed below identifies it as Shepherd's Lodge



The signature on the pen & ink appears to read G Whitley. It is dated 1975 and names the cottage

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Martin would like to hear from anyone who may have any other stories or information on Shepherd's lodge. He can be contacted through any of the committee members listed on the back of the Newsletter.

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 (728186) email or something written down on paper would be appreciated.

New Blood Required

The Friends are this year celebrating their 10 year anniversary. Ten years since Guardian Assurance declared an intention of disposing of its assets in Lytham and in particular Lytham Hall. Since then the Hall has been saved by a combination of visionary wisdom and energies of a number of local residents and the generosity of BAE SYSTEMS. The Friends were established as a support and pressure group to ensure that irrespective of who ended up running the Hall did so in a manner consistent with the principles laid down in our constitution.

During this past 10 years the committee has worked diligently though without too much change, the odd person has changed but most of the positions have rotated around. The only change of any significance saw three people initially joining as associate committee members; this gave them a chance to look at the workings and make-up of the Committee whilst giving the Committee a chance to assess the potential for elevation to full committee status. In this instance all three ended up as full Committee members.

Committees always benefit from change, new ideas and energies as well as links and contacts with other people & organisations invariably result in a fresher more dynamic organisation. This September's AGM will see the standing down of one of the long serving members who will remain as committed Friend but not as active Committee member. This leaves the Committee two people down and we are therefore looking for a number of volunteers to replace them.

If you fancy contributing time to this worthwhile cause and feel you have something to give, please contact any of the committee members listed on the back of the Newsletter, they can answer any questions you may have.

Membership

The membership year expires on 31st May.

Membership renewals are attached to the rear of this newsletter. Those that pay by standing order do not need to do anything to renew. However, we are still urging anyone who does manage to read the newsletter on a regular basis to join the Friends in their worthy cause.

To save you the trouble of yearly from filling why not arrange a standing order, it does save an awful lot of time and trouble and merely requires the completion of the simple form attached to the newsletter.

We would also ask members to complete a Gift Aid Declaration if you pay UK Income Tax. The Friends, being a Registered Charity can reclaim the Income Tax related to your subscriptions and or donations to the Friends. This costs you nothing, but overall can be worth hundreds of pounds to the Friends.

All enquiries concerning membership should be directed to the membership secretary, Mrs Pauline Hamilton, Tel. (01253) 736857

Who said that!

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

RULE OF THUMB

An old English law declared that a man could not beat his wife with a stick any larger than the diameter of his thumb.

TURN THE TABLES

Tables only had one finished side. The other side, less expensive to make, was rougher. When the family was alone, they ate on the rough side to keep the good side nice for company. When company came, the whole top lifted off and was turned to its good side.

GETTING BOMBED

A bombard is a leather jug which holds 8 pints or 4 quarts. A full bombard of ale would make you drunk.

Contacts:

Liz Guffogg, Chairman: (01253) 727696

Kath Smith, Secretary: (01253) 737548

Zoe Rushworth, Treasurer: (01253) 731538

John Martin, Newsletter: (01253) 728186

Pauline Hamilton, Membership:
(01253) 736857

Marion Coupe, Events: (01253) 733563

Fiona Mackay, Hall Bookings:
(01253) 736652

I should like to attend the Summer Lunch on Sunday July 2nd at Lytham Hall.

Name.

Address.

Post Code. ***Telephone.***

Please send me ___ tickets at £15.00 each and ___ tickets at £5.00 for children

I enclose my remittance of £

Cheques should be made payable to: The Friends of Lytham Hall.

Please return with remittance to:

Mrs Marilyn Smith

Green Close

Laurel Avenue

Lytham

LYTHAM ST ANNES

Lancs FY8 4LQ

If any further information is required Marilyn can also be contacted on (01253) 734804

