

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

May 2007

Issue 43

### **Summer Lunch at the Hall** – Sun. 15th July.

We are pleased to announce that this year's Summer Lunch will again 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 2 course buffet lunch. There will be a comprehensive bar which will include the ever popular Pimms cocktail.

This event was most enjoyable last year and is open to anyone who would like to come and join us. Entertainment will be supplied by the Jam Trio who performed so well last year.



A good time at last year's Summer Lunch

Ticket prices are £15 per person, £5 for Children. Numbers are limited but members can reserve tickets by contacting Meg Hargreaves on 01253 733098 or by using the slip at the end of the Newsletter.

### **Dates for your Diaries**

**Annual General Meeting** – Tues. 18th Sept.  
The *Friends of Lytham Hall* AGM will be held at the Assembly rooms Lytham.

**Xmas Fair** – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November.  
Assembly Rooms Lytham.

**Evening of Xmas Cheer** – Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Make a date in your diary for this most popular event.

### **Lytham Hall**

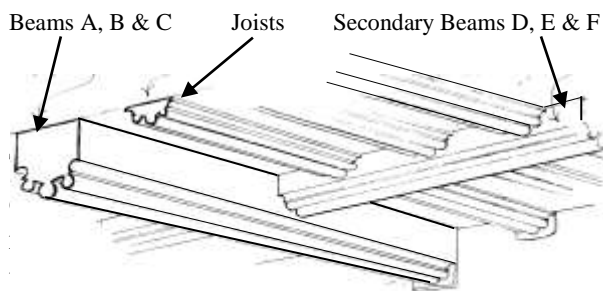
#### **Imagine a Tudor house**

It always seems that ancient monks picked the best spots to build. The monks of Lytham Priory would have been no different. It is likely that the priory inhabited roughly the same ground as the present day hall, but exactly where has been a bit of a mystery. So imagine the area without all the modern houses and roads, with the estuary much wider than today, with the river and sea the main trading routes along the coast and inland. The Ribble estuary was the main route used by the Vikings to get to Yorbik (York) from their base in Ireland in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. It took them past the ancient Roman port at Freckleton which had served the legionary fort of Kirkham. The importance of the estuary cannot therefore be underestimated and an area of slightly rising ground would be an obvious spot for a look out station. Some of us believe that the most likely spot for a Roman look out station was the mound at Lytham Hall. It is likely that there was continuous occupation of this same site over many hundreds of years.

We know that the priory was established some time in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was closed just before the dissolution, in 1535. It is very unlikely that each house to be built on the site was completely swept away for its replacement. Perhaps the priory is still there? In the County Record Office is a pictorial map of Lytham dated to about 1606 showing a three gabled Tudor or Jacobean Hall, with two windmills and some cottages. These illustrations tend to be fairly accurate in terms of building details. So where was it? It may have occurred to you that the front of the present Lytham Hall faces roughly east. It is difficult to take a good photo unless you are there early in the morning when the sun is on it. This would never be the orientation of choice. When planning the new hall in the 1750's, John Carr and Thomas Clifton decided that the old part of the hall should be retained and used to house the servants and

the kitchens. This saved money and helped when the building was underway, but meant that the fashionable new hall was not well favoured with the sun.

It is likely therefore that the front of the Tudor Hall was facing the other way - towards the west. The two houses are back to back. The front door was therefore the present rear door - which leads to the inner courtyard. The theory is borne out by the internal features which remain in the three sides of the courtyard, which was probably open at the eastern end. Inside the passageway are to be seen a number of ceiling beams and joists all of which are heavily moulded. They are typical of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and likely to date to its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the time of the suppression of the monastic houses. This magnificent wooden ceiling continues into the more newly created room to the left (now an office) where the beams are boxed in. The old house was encased in 18th century red brick and new sash windows inserted in the 1760's.



Beamed Ceiling in the old part of Lytham Hall  
Drawing by Richard Watson

The early 17<sup>th</sup> century map also indicates tall chimneys. These were a status symbol of the rich and the more you had the more prosperous you appeared. There are quite a few of these remaining in the "U" shaped building we are concerned with, at least below roof level. The Friends have just enabled one of them, in the kitchen, to be rebuilt. There are others, and they are Tudor or older. Another noticeable feature is the floor of the Long Gallery, on the other side of the courtyard. This is a wonderful mix of ancient oak boards, and this room may have been

created from a number of smaller ones.

It is likely therefore that the map is accurate in its depiction of Hall, cottages and windmills. It is certain that there is a great deal to be uncovered. The Tudor Lytham Hall is there waiting to be found and with it perhaps the Priory of the monks of Durham.

Marion Coupe.

### **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

### **Email Addresses**

The Friends newsletter is one of the most vital activities of the Friends. It keeps the local community apprised of what is going on at the Hall and lets supporters further afield know of the events that are happening.

A lot of work goes into collating articles, printing, envelope stuffing and delivery. With this in mind the Friends are keen to take advantage of modern technology and email

the newsletter to as many supporters as possible. This would save a considerable amount on printing costs, paper, postage and time taken to stuff envelopes as well as Posties legs!

We would be hugely grateful therefore if as many of you as possible could let us have your email address, either by getting in touch with us via the web on [www.lythamhall.org](http://www.lythamhall.org) or by contacting our membership secretary Pauline Hamilton on 01253 736857. We can assure you that your details will NOT be passed on to a third party so you will not be bombarded with spam! Of course if you would rather receive a paper copy we will be happy to continue with our Postie rounds.

### ***Lytham Hall***

#### **New Disabled Toilets:**

There are to be much needed alterations to the toilets in the courtyard area of the Hall. The existing Ladies will be moved to make way for a new disabled toilet. The new Ladies toilet will be in the next room, where there is a fine late 18th/early 19th century fireplace, not normally seen. HTNW will do the work carefully, retain the fireplace, and repair the 18th Century sash windows and shutters with their catches. The wood floor in the new ladies will be retained and polished. The existing door and opening will be retained and repaired if necessary. The pipe-work will all be above floor level in the disabled and the ladies with no disturbance to the existing stone and timber floors.

Roger Dyson, Deputy Director of HTNW said: The present condition of the lavatories is a cause of constant complaints from visitors and we hope that the proposed improvements will address these without detriment to the fabric of the Hall.

### ***Events at the Hall 2007***

#### **Sunday Walks at the Hall**

- Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October - See the colours of Autumn.

Admission at gatehouse £1 Adults, 50p Children. Parking on site (£1). Tours of the Hall will be available.

Tea room open for light refreshments

For the first time a 3 course carvery is available (booking advisable), please contact 01253 721534.

#### **Other Open Days**

- Sunday, 3rd June
- Wednesday, 6th June
- Wednesday, 18th July
- Wednesday, 25th July
- Wednesday, 1st August

Grounds 10.30am - 4pm (last entry 3pm).

Admission at gatehouse £1 Adults, 50p Children. Parking on site (£1). Tours of the Hall will be available. Tea room open for light refreshments

#### **Outdoor Theatre by Illyria**

- 'Much Ado about Nothing' Sunday, 8th July
- 'Robin Hood' Tuesday, 7th August (family show)
- 'Hound of Baskervilles' Sunday, 19th August

Gates open at 5pm - free parking. Tickets from Lowther Box Office Tel: 01253 658666. £12 Adults, £7 Children.

Gates open 1 hour before.

Seating is not provided so bring your own low-backed chair/rug, a picnic and insect repellent! Light refreshments are available. Cancellation in the event of hurricane only! Tickets non-refundable.

#### **Heritage Open Day**

- Saturday, 8th & Sunday, 9th September.

Free Admission to Hall and grounds.

Parking on site (£1). Tea room open for light refreshments.

**Lytham Hall - The War Years**

Thursday, 25th October at 7.30pm - An Illustrated Talk by local historian Ann Pinder.

Tickets £6.50 including glass of wine and canapés.

**Christmas Lunches**

- Tuesday, 11th December
- Wednesday, 12th December
- Thursday, 13th December

Mulled wine on arrival with a 3 course traditional Christmas lunch with coffee and mince pies. £20 per person.

Advance booking required (large groups welcome). Arrival at 12.00pm / lunch served at 12.45pm

**The Friends Evening of Xmas Cheer**

- Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

A sumptuous evening of fine food and entertainment. Ticket price to follow.

**Who said that!**

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

**Spill the Beans**

In ancient Greece, voting for membership into some organisations was done using beans. White beans were dropped into a container who favoured the candidate and brown or black beans if you didn't. Only the officials knew the actual vote results of black vs. white beans. However...on a few occasions a clumsy voter would knock over the jar and reveal the beans! This is how the phrase got to refer to someone who reveals the truth or hidden secrets.

**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

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*I should like to attend the Summer Lunch on Sunday July 15th 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 and self-addressed envelope to:*

*Mrs Meg Hargreaves  
12 Riversleigh Avenue  
Lytham*

*Lytham St Annes. FY8 5QZ*

*If any further information is required Meg can also be contacted on (01253) 733098*