

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

Nov 2006

Issue 41



### An Evening of Xmas Cheer at Lytham Hall



#### **Evening of Xmas Cheer – 8<sup>th</sup> December**

This very popular and special event will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Once again we have 'raised the bar' in our efforts to maintain its reputation in the social calendar. The event this year will be black tie.

Guests arrive from 7pm to enjoy drinks and canapés by a log fire in the 18<sup>th</sup> century entrance hall. We have a bar, and wine can be ordered for the meal to be waiting at your table in the West Wing. Pre-dinner canapés and nibbles are being provided by Bennett's Bakery and dinner will be served by Paul Rowley and his staff from the Lindum Hotel. This will be a traditional three course meal with roast turkey and Christmas pudding or cheese and biscuits. A vegetarian option will be available if we know in advance.

The evening will conclude with the traditional round of carol singing. Many of our regulars say that this traditional event is the beginning of Christmas for them.

We have had to raise the ticket price a little this year but are sure the value will be better than ever. This is a unique event in the area, so if you have not been invited to Chatsworth this year, this is the next best thing!

Tickets are £30 and can be obtained by filing in the tear-off strip at the end of the Newsletter (don't forget to read the other side first), or by contacting Zoe Rushworth on (01253) 731538 or Meg Hargreaves on (01253) 733098



### Christmas Fair – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

Lytham Assembly Rooms 10:30 – 12:30pm

Please come along to the Friends Christmas Fair at the Lytham Assembly Rooms on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Entrance is free this year

Tea/Coffee and mince pies will be on sale at a cost of just £1. Once you have munched your way through the refreshments you will probably be in the mood to indulge in the rest of our offerings. Tom Eccles will be there again and has promised to put aside a number of his limited edition Xmas card, although you will probably have to be early to get one. We will also have more of the lovely Xmas plants for sale Poinsettias, Cyclamen etc plus the ever popular Cake stall, Tombola, Bric-a-Brac Raffle etc.

Please contact any member of the committee with donations for the Raffle, Tombola, Bric-a-brac, Home Baking, or Christmas decorations. Alternatively they can be dropped off at the offices of Coupe Bradbury, Bath Street, Lytham. Most of all though come along and bring your friends.

#### **Recent Events**

##### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM of the Friends of Lytham Hall was held at the Assembly Rooms in Lytham on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The Chairman, Mrs Liz Guffogg presented the following report:

*The Friends activities this year have been focused in a variety of directions. We have held our usual events i.e. Christmas Fair and Evening of Christmas Cheer. We have also provided volunteer support for the Snowdrop*

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walks in February and the Heritage Open Day. We continue to keep our membership informed of our activities by means of a quarterly newsletter.

As you may be aware the Friends celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and to mark that occasion we held our annual Summer Lunch at the Hall. This proved to be a very successful afternoon. The weather was lovely and we were entertained throughout the day by a jazz band. During the afternoon guests were invited to see the billiard table and the completed works on the old kitchen chimney, both of which were funded by the Friends.

We continue to be represented on the board of Lytham Town Trust by Pam Greenhill, making a written report to their quarterly board meetings. We also maintain a good working relationship with the Heritage Trust for the North West who currently have the day to day management of the Hall.

We also facilitated the return of a silver tray bearing the Clifton crest to the Hall which had been in the ownership of a local resident. He felt the tray belonged back at the Hall and asked the Friends to help him to return it, which we were delighted to do.

We hope over the forthcoming year to fund the restoration of the bell in the rear courtyard and to proceed with the renovation of the privy.

We have continued through the year to pursue the issue of the archives held at Lytham Hall. Unfortunately they are still not available at the Lancashire Record office, but it is our understanding that arrangements can now be made via the Hall to view them on the premises by appointment, for which there will be a charge. This is not the ideal solution but it does mean that the archive is more readily accessible than it was. The Friends will continue to pursue the matter.

On a personal note the Friends could not function without the hard work and

dedication of its committee and I would like to thank them for all their efforts this year. John Martin has decided to resign from the committee this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his contributions over the years both as newsletter editor and barman! We will miss him.

I would also like to thank you the membership for your support over the year and I hope it will continue throughout 2007.

### **Lytham Hall**

#### **Diana the huntress**

The marble statue of Diana the huntress in the car park to the south of the Hall has taken a few knocks in recent years. She was not made to inhabit a car park but to be the centerpiece of a leafy grove or secluded garden. She has been attacked by the inclement weather and sadly, a reversing car.



Diana at Lytham Hall

It is hoped that both Diana and her surroundings will be restored soon. This could be a project that the Friends help to fund. The figure is slightly less than life size, Diana's left hand is clutching a deer by the horns as her right reaches over her shoulder to draw an arrow from her quiver.

Who was Diana?

In Roman mythology, Diana was the virgin goddess of the hunt (associated with Artemis in Greece), also of the moon, forests, animals and women in childbirth. She was praised for her strength, athletic grace, beauty and hunting skills. Born with her twin brother Apollo (the sun god) on the island of Delos, Diana was the daughter of Jupiter and Latona.

The portrayal of Diana with bow and quiver accompanied a deer or hunting dogs has been a popular one with artists and sculptors for hundreds of years.

The statue at Lytham has a deer rather than dogs (which more often appear in paintings of Diana) and is similar to the classic 4<sup>th</sup> century BC pose below.



### **Rupert Clifton 1946 - 2006**

We were sorry to hear of the death of Rupert Clifton, nephew of Harry Clifton, the last incumbent of the Hall. The following has been written by his brother Hamish:

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006 my elder brother Rupert Michael Clifton, passed away in Reading, Berkshire, aged 60.

He had many qualities reminiscent of his father (Michael) and grandfather (Talbot). Physically similar to Michael, six foot four, swarthy almost Spanish looking, with thick black curly hair and a large frame. As a child he walked and looked like Michael, causing his Grandmother Violet to say “There’ll be trouble one day”.

Rupert was good looking and had an easy manner with women – marrying four times (we think) in his life. After an affair with the schools matron he left for South America as a teenager to make his way as a ranchero or “Gaucho”. Something he loved, and was also very good at. He was about thirty when he returned from South America having meanwhile married Melody Greene from County Wicklow and sired Talbot, his only known true son and heir. (Melody remained a true and stalwart friend to his end.)

Variously he lived in Argentina, Bolivia, and Ireland, rarely for long periods in England which he despised as petty and bourgeois. It was, ironically, always England that put him back on his feet though the NHS and other support services.

An important part of his life was his marriage to Patricia, the daughter of the (ex) President of Bolivia. Although her children were from a prior marriage, he loved them as his own.

Rupert should have been (and was, I think) portrayed in various novels. His life was out of step with today’s grey world. But he paid a price for his adventuring. One the one hand generous, on the other hand without ever seeming to have funds, his arrival often

presaged some tragedy. His “vicious mole of nature” was alcohol, which bought out a dark and Machiavellian being. Sober he was usually charming and considerate.

On the ranches, when not rounding-up cattle he would tell stories to the other Gauchos, around camp fires in the wilderness of the pampas. The telling of stories and adventure were dear to him, and he charmed friends with wild and amusing tales.

As he drew nearer to the end of his life, he reconciled himself with his true son, and also came closer to Catholicism, which he had managed to cling to through most of his life.

Rupert had some of the best and some of the worst of humankind, but he was a full being who demanded you react to him with love, or with loathing, sometimes both, and sometimes at the same time! In the context of his heritage – he was yet another in a recent line of adventurers, in the context of our grey world, he was very different indeed.

His wake at the Leander Club was fitting, and having drunk the Club dry of Champagne, he was seen on his way, buried at Henley-on-Thames.

**Who said that!**

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

**Rise & Shine**

Was adopted by sergeants in the British army when gently advising soldiers that it was time to get up. Soldiers were expected to shine their boots every morning.

**Out of Sorts**

Originated in the printing trade. Letterpress characters were kept in wooden boxes, one box per character and size. When characters were found in the wrong box they were 'out of sorts'

**No room to swing a cat**

Used to describe a confined space and refers to the 'cat o'nine tails', the flail-like whip used to punish sailors in the British Navy.

**Contacts:**

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- Kath Smith*, Secretary: (01253) 737548
- Zoe Rushworth*, Treasurer: (01253) 731538
- John Martin*, Newsletter: (01253) 728186
- Pauline Hamilton*, Membership: (01253) 736857
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- Fiona Mackay*, Hall Bookings: (01253) 736652

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***I should like to attend the Evening of Christmas Cheer on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at Lytham Hall***

***Name*** . . . . .

***Address*** . . . . .

. . . . .

***Post Code*** . . . . .

***Telephone*** . . . . .

***Please send me \_\_\_ tickets at £30.00 each***

***I enclose my remittance of £ . . . . and a stamped addressed envelope.***

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

***Please return with remittance to:***

***Ms Zoe Rushworth***

***Church Lodge***

***Church Road***

***Lytham***

***Lytham St Annes. FY8 5PX***

***If any further information is required Zoe can also be contacted on (01253) 731538***