

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

November 2000

Issue 18

### **A message from our retiring Chairman.**

My involvement with Lytham Hall started over 4 years ago when a "David and Goliath" struggle developed to acquire the Hall for the benefit of the community.

I have been privileged to serve as the Chairman of the Friends group for most of this time. Good and lasting friendships have been formed with many people and not least with the wonderful members of our committee. I wish to pay tribute to each and every one of them for their hard work, enterprise and cheerfulness in good times and bad. Their enthusiasm and dogged determination have "moved mountains".

It is important that the Friends group remains vital and alive, bursting with new thoughts and ideas for the benefit of the Hall. Part of this process is that there should be a regular change of leadership. Accordingly, at the last AGM, I was pleased to hand over office to Liz Guffogg. I am delighted she has accepted. She will be an outstanding Chairman.

I was very proud to be asked to become President of the Friends and my involvement will continue in this new role.

*David Coupe*

### ***Forthcoming Events:***

#### **Christmas Fair. - 2<sup>nd</sup> December. 10.00 am**

Our Christmas Fair will take place at the Hewitt Lecture Room, behind Lytham Library, on Saturday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> December. 10:00 am start.

It will follow the same successful format as previous years, Tea/Coffee, Stalls, Bottle Tombola, Raffle, Poinsettias, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac etc. Tom Eccles will be on hand to sign Christmas cards. Please do your best to support this event and encourage your friends to support us, and give as many things as you can for the stalls – especially bottles and cakes. This year we are trying for our best

ever cake stall and biggest bottle Tombola.

If you can help on the day please contact Kath Smith. For collection of items contact any of the phone numbers given at the end of the newsletter, alternatively bring your donations with you on the day.

### **Evening of Christmas Cheer, Lytham Hall Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Our Christmas event at the Hall is an "Evening of Christmas Cheer" and will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. This event, which will see the Hall resplendent in Xmas decorations, is fully licensed and will include entertainment, in the form of "Rhapsody" a Barbershop quartet and Christmas Carols. A Hot turkey buffet supper is included in the price of £12.50.

Tickets for this event are severely limited. If you wish to attend please use the tear-off strip at the end of the Newsletter or contact any committee member. All proceeds will go towards the purchasing of the Clifton Collection.

### ***Recent Events:***

#### **Annual General Meeting – Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

Our AGM on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at the Assembly rooms Lytham was reasonably well attended (for an AGM).

Our Chairman David Coupe went through his report thanking those people who have been so actively involved in supporting us either in raising funds or at the Hall itself on Open Days etc. He stated his intention to resign as Chairman of the committee as he felt any such body needs a constant renewal in order to remain vital. However, he was delighted to announce that Elizabeth Guffogg had agreed to become Chairman and that this was to be voted upon at the next committee meeting.

The committee invited Mr Coupe to assume the position of President and Jean Wilding-

Walsh the position of Vice President. Both accepted.

The Treasurer, Kay Hopper, presented the accounts, and reported that the membership of the **Friends** now stands at 192, many of which were covenanted and we have had a number of gift aid donations. We would like to thank those members of the **Friends** who have chosen to support us in this way. If you would like further information on covenanting or gift aid please contact the Treasurer who will be only too happy to supply you with the relevant documentation.

Any member wishing to see a copy of the accounts presented at the AGM, please contact any of the committee.

#### **Visit to Tabley House – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

A group of 10 of us braved the pouring rain to visit Tabley in September. We immediately learnt something about John Carr, Palladian architecture, and why he never designed one like that again! Tabley had the biggest pillared portico in Europe, and being Palladian the front door is up a flight of (unsheltered) steps. This may be fine in Italy, but as we rushed up the steps in the rain we wondered what he could be thinking of! This was the only way in for the family, and in really bad weather a sedan chair was carried down the steps and placed, with its occupant, in the carriage below. Later, a more convenient entrance was added at the back of the house.

We are grateful to administrator and Friend of Tabley Mrs Brenda Folds for her superb guided tour. Brenda took us into the church to dry out first. This C17th building was moved from the centre of a nearby island in 1927, where it had been next to the old hall. Tabley was the home of the Leicesters who owned the manor of Nether Tabley for 700 years. We were not only taken round the rooms normally open to the public, full of interesting furniture and paintings, but also to parts of the building now leased as a rest home. This included the ladies withdrawing room and the coffin drop!

Brenda was very knowledgeable about the building and the family and it was interesting to find that the elegant buildings either side of the house were actually servant's quarters. The family were integrated into local society and cared about their staff. They were never charged in the shops in Knutsford.

This visit has whetted the appetite for more visits to John Carr buildings. Details will appear in future newsletters.

*Marion Coupe*

#### ***Other dates for your diaries:***

#### **Snowdrop Open days - 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February**

We are pleased to inform you that due to the runaway success of the first two Snowdrop walks, that the Hall will be holding two special open days for the **Snowdrops in 2001** - the 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Those of you who have been before will need no encouragement. For those that haven't yet seen the snowdrops in the grounds of Lytham Hall in full bloom, don't miss what is a lovely highlight to, what can be, a very long winter.

Entrance to the grounds will be allowed between 11am – 3pm and will cost £1.00 for Adults, 50p for Children. Refreshments will be available in the tearoom.

#### **Any Ideas!**

The Committee of the *Friends* still wants to hear from anyone with ideas for fund-raising and even better would be from people/organisations & businesses prepared to stage and organise or even sponsor events.

#### **Christmas Cards**

We are coming to the end of our stock of Christmas cards depicting the Hall in winter. They still cost £1.25 each but to help clear our stock we are selling presentation packs of 5 cards for just £5. Cards can be obtained from any committee member or alternatively from the Christmas Fair.

#### ***Memories of the Hall***

We have further extracts from the letters sent by Christine Nuttall, the fourth and youngest daughter of Capt. and Mrs W E Nuttall who rented Lytham Hall for about 15 years. She writes...

We used the Morning room, for ordinary days, it had a big log fire, and was very light and comfortable. The China Room was kept for rather special occasions, a beautiful room, with windows facing two ways, and (as its name implies) furnished in a rather oriental style, with beautiful yellow upholstery, though what I remember best was the wall covering. I think it was silk, and patterned with flowers and birds on a creamy background. The Library was rather dark and gloomy, entirely lined with books. I think my father used it as his study.

I have a very vivid memory of the Dining Room, because one day I was in there by myself, everyone else having got tired of waiting for me to eat my rice pudding. I was a slow eater, but this time, it was an advantage. Because, while I was gazing out of the window between mouthfuls, I saw the huge Cedar of Lebanon, quite close to the house, blown down by the gale that was roaring away outside. Cedar trees have shallow roots, and this one was a giant specimen; as it fell, the whole of the lawn where it was growing came up with the roots. So that it was really an extraordinarily dramatic moment that I witnessed, all on my own. I can still picture it, in my mind's eye. It all seemed to happen very, very, slowly.

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. A phone call (728186) or something written down on paper would be appreciated.

### *Lytham Hall* **Christmas Lunches at Lytham Hall**

Why not enjoy a traditional Christmas Luncheon in the gracious surroundings of Lytham Hall?

Following the success of last year's Christmas lunches, the Hall has decided to expand availability. This year, lunches will be available daily during December.

The festive atmosphere will be enhanced with decorations by students of Myerscough College, and include blazing log fires and a Christmas Tree decorated by the Friends.

The cost for a 4-course lunch is £19.50 (inc. of vat) and comes heavily recommended by this editor, who was lucky enough to get a booking last year. Prior booking is essential. For further details Tel. (01253) 736652

### **The Grey Lady**

Mrs Anne Pinder of the Hall has met someone who has actually seen the Grey Lady. During this Summer, whilst hosting a wedding, she was introduced to the Father of the Bride, who, as a young man used to deliver meat to the Hall during the time it was last occupied by Violet Clifton (1957-61). On one occasion, as he was enjoying a cup of tea with the Butler & Cook in the upstairs lounge (Billiard room), he saw a grey lady walk past the doorway of the Long Gallery. Following her into the Long Gallery, he was just in time to see her disappear through the door at the bottom. He described the sighting as "clear as day".

### **Friends of Lytham Hall Web-Site**

The Friends are in the process of establishing a Friends of Lytham Hall web-site. This will enable us to do a number of things:

- ◆ Allow greater promotion of the Friends of Lytham Hall - aims, achievements, events etc.
- ◆ Allow wider promotion of Lytham Hall.
- ◆ Allow storage of Newsletter back-issues, archive material etc.
- ◆ Allow more public debate/involvement in the issues surrounding the Hall.
- ◆ Updates on the Clifton Collection.

Future Internet developments include the delivery of Newsletters by E-Mail, and the linking to other "Friends" groups around the country.

We are appealing for sponsorship of the Website. It will cost about £100 to set up and run during its first year of operation. If anyone is interested please contact our Treasurer.

### **Benches**

Lytham Town Trust have informed us that all the solid hardwood benches, commissioned by Lytham Town Trust for installation in the grounds at Lytham Hall, have found sponsors. This is another indication of the strength of feeling the local populace has for the Hall.

The Trust now intends to commission the building of a number of picnic tables and benches. These will be located sensitively, behind the Hall, and installed during 2001.

### **Membership**

There has been a good response to subscriptions which are due on 1<sup>st</sup> June each year. Thank you to all our members who have decided to pay by Bankers Order and to the tax-paying members of our Society who have further boosted the Friends of Lytham Hall funds by completing the new Gift Aid form which allows us to reclaim the tax on their subscriptions.

192 Members have joined the Friends since we opened our membership in May 1998, this now includes the 13 new members who have joined since June this year. We have members that live all over the country who keep in touch with the latest developments at Lytham Hall through our newsletter. We really appreciate their letters of appreciation and information.

We would also like to thank those who have renewed their patronage this year and to all our new patrons. If anyone would like to become a patron of the Friends of Lytham Hall the cost is £50 per annum.

*Pauline Hamilton*

### **Open Day - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

The last open day at Lytham Hall, during 2000, will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please spread the word as the Hall will be fully decorated for Christmas. Also the Courtyard shop will be open for Christmas gifts and cards.

Admission charges will be:

Adults £3.00 Children £1.50 for entry to Hall & grounds.

For entry to Grounds only: Adults £1:00 Children 50p

### **Delighted**

We are delighted to announce that, during 2001, the Hall and Grounds are to open every Sunday beginning Easter Sunday until December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Entrance to the grounds will be free (special events excepted), the only charge being entrance to the Hall, (tea-room excluded). The Friends applaud this decision as it ties in with our vision of greater public access to the estate.

The Heritage Trust for the North West is to be congratulated, this initiative will provide the finest walk in the Fylde with access to a splendid tea-room at the end of it. We recommend all to take full advantage of this facility, take friends, use the tea-room, support the Hall!

### **Contacts:**

*Liz Guffogg*, Chairman: (01253) 727696

*Kath Smith*, Sec/Volunteers: (01253) 737548

*Kay Hopper*, Treasurer: (01253) 736688

*John Martin*, Newsletter: (01253) 728186

*P. Hamilton*, Membership: (01253) 736857

*Marion Coupe*, Events: (01253) 733563

Anne Pinder, Hall Custodian: (01253) 736652

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

Name . . . . .

Address. . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

Post Code. . . . . Telephone . . . . .

Please send me \_\_\_ tickets at £12.50 each

I enclose my remittance of £ . . . . .

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

Please return with remittance to:

Mrs Pauline Hamilton

30 Derby Road

Ansdell

Lytham St Annes. FY8 4BZ

If any further information is required  
Pauline can also be contacted on (01253)  
736857

**Carole can you please spread  
this, as a tear off strip across a  
page. Feel free to go to a 5<sup>th</sup> side**