

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

February 2001

Issue 19

### **A message from our Chairman - Liz Guffogg**

2001 looks like being an exciting year for the *Friends* & Lytham Hall.

Considerable progress has been made towards greater community access to the Hall this year as the Hall & grounds will be open every Sunday from Easter to October. I am looking forward to being able to go for a Sunday afternoon walk in the grounds with the family.

I would also urge you all to take advantage of the special open days in February to see the snowdrops – they really are a sight not to be missed.

The *Friends* themselves are busy getting “on-line & hope to have the web-site up and running in the next few months. We have had a number of offers of assistance both financial and technical for all of which we are very grateful.

As you know on my election as chairman we have had a few changes on the committee and I would like to welcome Zoe Rushworth \* Marilyn Smith as new co-opted members. Kath Smith who has been involved with the *Friends* from the beginning has been elected Secretary.

Margaret Race who has also been with us from the beginning has decided to resign from the committee due to other commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret for her friendship and support to me and her dedication and hard work on the committee and wish her every success in the other ventures that she is involved in.

Finally, thanks are also due to David Coupe. Our President, for his continuing commitment to the *Friends* and I know he joins in hoping

that 2001 will be the year when the future of the collection is finally secured.

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

#### **Snowdrop Sundays - 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.

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 between 11.00am – 5.00pm (or dusk if sooner) and will cost £1.00 for Adults, 50p for Children. Refreshments will be available in the tearoom. The shop will also be open.

#### **Exhibition of traditional joinery & Crafts - 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April.**

An exhibition is being arranged by Lytham St Annes Civic Society together with English Heritage and Heritage trust for the North West, with support from the Society for the protection of Ancient Buildings, From Easter Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001. The purpose of the event, to be held in the West Wing of the Hall, is to illustrate the importance of restoring historic buildings sympathetically. This is seen as particularly important in relation to wooden sash windows and there will be plenty of information about them. There are quite a few of these at the Hall that are in need of repair around the rear courtyard.

The exhibition will be open every day from 11am to 4pm. There will be other interesting displays related to conservation, and we hope demonstrations of woodworking.

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

**Easter Treasure Hunt** – Easter Sun & Mon.

During both these open days the Friends will be once again staging an Easter Bunny Treasure Trail for children in the grounds of the Hall between 12:00 – 3:00pm. The trail will differ from last years. There will be a nominal charge per child.

### **Evening of Colour – April**

A Colour-me beautiful evening is being arranged for April at the Assembly rooms—details will follow.

### **Hog Roast – Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>**

We have booked the stable yard for our fourth HoG Roast & HoE Down. We have been fortunate to once again book the services of the ‘Festival Ceilidh band’ who provided such terrific entertainment for us last year.

### **Summer Evening of Song – 15<sup>th</sup> June**

HTNW have arranged an evening of song featuring the County Hall Singers at Lytham Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June. – details to follow.

### **Autumn Fair – 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

### **Evening of Christmas cheer at the Hall – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

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

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

The Friends annual Christmas Fair took place on Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Hewitt Lecture Room, Lytham raising £430 for the cause.

Despite the cold weather and the event a little out of the way there was a steady stream of people who made the effort and made the event a success.

Thanks go to everyone who turned out, many of them familiar faces. Special thanks go to all those who donated prizes and articles for sale, those who helped on the day, especially the ever-popular Tom Eccles who turned out once again to support the cause by signing Christmas cards.

It was noted that on the same day that we held

our fair that no less than 4 other Xmas fairs were being held in Lytham St Annes! We have therefor decided this year than rather trying to compete with numerous other good causes, that we will hold an Autumn Fair (10<sup>th</sup> Nov) at the Assembly rooms in Lytham.

### **Evening of Christmas Cheer.**

Our “Evening of Christmas Cheer” at the Hall was a really splendid evening. The Hall looked impressive in its Xmas livery, a real credit to the HTNW and Myerscough College. A sherry reception for Patrons of the FoLH was followed by a sit down hot turkey buffet on tables that filled both the Ballroom & Dining room. At the end of the meal, entertainment was supplied by one of England’s leading Barbershop quartets “**Rhapsody**” who put together a wonderful selection of.

The evening continued with a staggeringly good raffle (the Glenfiddich was taken as 8<sup>th</sup> prize!). A vote of thanks by our Chairman Liz Guffogg followed, before the evening was brought to a close with Christmas Carols, sung with great gusto, and mostly in tune, to the accompaniment of Mrs Jean Lees on the piano in the main Hall.

A splendid evening raised another £230 towards the cause. For those that did the fun quiz during the evening, the answers can be found on the back of the Newsletter, for those that didn’t and for the enjoyment of all readers, the quiz can be found on the reverse side of the answers – have fun.

### **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 Card Competition**

The Friends have decided to run a junior painting competition during 2001. The winning entries will be used for the next Friends of Lytham Hall Xmas card. The

subject is anything to do with the Hall and its grounds. With the Grounds being opened more than ever for public access there should be plenty of opportunities to acquire subject matter. The competition will be limited to Children of primary school age. More details will follow in future newsletters.

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

We have still 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 before moving into a house called Riversleigh, on the sand dunes at Lytham. She writes...

There was a part of the house that was, I think, older than the part we used. One of the rooms in this part was called the Long Gallery, and it was here that many pictures were hung. It was a room that seemed a bit sinister to us children, partly because nobody went there much, and it was rather dark, but mainly, I think, because of the enormous picture that filled the whole of the end wall. It was a painting of vultures tearing at a dead tiger, and very, very life-like. My eldest sister, when she was 11 or 12, said she would give half-a-crown (a substantial sum in those days) to the next sister, two years younger, if she would walk the length of the Long Gallery, in the dark, and touch the picture at the end. This was obviously seen as a very courageous act, which was duly carried out! There were tales of a Grey Lady, who was reputed to walk in the old part of the house, but she never appeared to any of my family. We occasionally went to explore some of the places we did not use; the courtyard, out at the back of the kitchens, led to what were called the lumber rooms, and I remember seeing several very large and beautiful model yachts, which were stored there.

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**

It is always a pleasure to attend any function at Lytham hall, and especially at Christmas time when everywhere is so beautifully decorated for the festive season. Three friends and I were, therefore, so pleased to be able to go to one of the special lunches arranged each day during December for about 20 people. We were welcomed in the hall and taken to the morning room, where a log fire blazed and we were served with pre-lunch drinks. We then proceeded to the ballroom where the table was laid in true decorative style, and we were served a three course lunch (with choices for each course but including the usual Christmas fayre), and coffee and mince pies.

My meal was delicious and everyone enjoyed theirs, and it was altogether a most convivial way of spending a Thursday lunchtime!

*Marilyn Smith*

#### **Volunteer Stewarding at Lytham Hall**

A number of people, who volunteer to steward at the Hall, have expressed an interest in learning more about the Cliftons and Lytham Hall though they do not want to lead tour groups. They would like to be able to answer more of the queries posed by members of the public on Open Days. In response to this it has been decided to run a short information course for volunteers who have or are prepared to give on a fairly regular basis, some of their time stewarding at the Hall.

It is proposed that the main Hall rooms, which are stewarded by volunteers, will be discussed one by one. Information on the paintings, particularly the Clifton family portraits, will be given so that volunteers have a better understanding and knowledge of the period of time in which each Clifton lived, also what contribution, if any, they made to the rise or decline of the family fortunes. Handouts will

be made available so that each volunteer can have a ready reference to look at in their own time.

The course is not intended as an in depth study and volunteers are not expected to become experts on the Cliftons and Lytham Hall overnight! It is hoped however that it will give volunteers more confidence to answer questions that, for the most part do not require a great deal of knowledge imparted but give the public a broad outline of the Hall and the landed gentry who owned it for nearly 400 years.

Some volunteers have also shown an interest in becoming tour guides and are invited to attend the course to increase their knowledge. It is hoped that they can then try giving short talks in front of an audience and eventually progress to taking tours themselves. I hope to discuss tour guiding further with interested parties, during the course.

Please note places must be limited to those people who are prepared to give some time to stewarding at the Hall. The course will start on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm to 9:00pm, 1 night a week and run until 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Those volunteers interested should contact the Hall office on 736652 no later than Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

I hope that it will prove to be an enjoyable experience and look forward to seeing perhaps some new faces among the stalwarts who make our Open Days possible.

*Ann Pinder – Custodian*

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

To say that we have been overwhelmed by offers to help us establish our own Web-site would be an understatement. One of the Friends has offered to sponsor the site during its first years of operation, also:

- ◆ Mr Dave Jones of Thornton has agreed to design the site and support its development during the first few years.

- ◆ Mr John Bentham of “fyldecoast.com” has agreed to host the web-site.

A sub-committee has also been formed to agree on the design and content of the site, and to look into future developments & expansion once the site is established.

### ***Lytham Hall open dates for 2001 are:***

#### **The Hall**

Every Sunday, beginning Easter Sunday until October 28<sup>th</sup> (not 6<sup>th</sup> May or 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July).

Easter Monday and Bank Holiday Mondays:-  
7<sup>th</sup> May; 28<sup>th</sup> May & 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Admission: Adults £3.00, Children £1.50.

#### **Grounds, Tearoom & Shop.**

The Grounds, Tearoom & Shop will be open free of charge on the same Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays as the Hall plus each Sunday in November. 11.00am to 5.00pm (or dusk if sooner).

#### **Lytham St Annes Express Family Funday**

27<sup>th</sup> August (Bank Holiday). Admission £1.50 (Hall entrance not included).

#### **Snowdrops Sundays**

(Grounds, Tearoom & Shop open) – 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February, 11.00am to 5.00pm (or dusk if sooner). Admission: Adults £1.00, Children 50p.

#### **Contacts:**

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