

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

May 2001

Issue 20

### **Message from the Hall**

#### *Foot & Mouth*

We have been informed by the Hall that they are not affected by the restrictions brought about by Foot & Mouth, however, as from Public opening at Easter all Dog owners will be required to keep their Dogs on a short lead at all times.

#### *Volunteers Required*

Because of the increased opening dates, a larger pool of volunteers is required to help at the Hall. We would urge all Friends to seriously consider volunteering, the greater amount of access being provided by the Heritage Trust for the North West is entirely consistent with our own ambitions for the Hall. Even if you can only manage the occasional day please offer it, no prior experience is required. Those who are interested should contact Ann Pinder or Ruthmary Paul on 736652.

The information course, run for volunteers has proven very popular, despite this the Hall is not considering running any more courses this year. However, new recruits/ volunteers will receive the course notes as handouts.

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

##### **Evening of Colour – May 17<sup>th</sup>**

For your delight & entertainment the Friends have secured the services of Mrs Gillian White, Image consultant to the House of Colour, to give a talk and demonstration. This will take place on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the Assembly rooms, Lytham.

Sit back with a glass of wine and discover the particular blends of colours, which will be in the closest harmony with your skin and hair tones. This will give you a renewed sense of confidence and perhaps will avoid costly mistakes when shopping for cloths!

All this fascinating information is yours for the wonderful price of £5, which includes a glass of wine. Tickets are limited, so please

contact Pauline Hamilton on (01253) 736857 to reserve.

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

The Friends are once again delighted to announce their 4<sup>th</sup> annual HoG Roast & Hoe Down again at the Stable yard, Lytham Hall.

The success of the evening has already been assured by securing the services of the ever popular 'Festival Ceilidh band.' This will be their third appearance for us (long may it continue). Their enthusiasm and personality is really infectious, there are not many pairs of feet that can resist the urge of tapping along with the music they play.

After last years experiment, it has been decided to continue with dancing in the Stable yard, it really does have bags of atmosphere. The rooms off the yard will be used to seat everyone unless, in the unlikely event of a warm evening, we will arrange seating outside.

Dancing will start at 7:30pm, no previous country dancing experience is necessary as the band gives step by step instructions on all the dances.

Prices for the evening are £11 for Adults and £5 for Children. Tickets are now available from any committee member or by sending off the attached form at the back of this newsletter.

Please make every effort to attend and also to promote this event with Friends relations and colleagues.

#### **Volunteers required**

The Friends have been offered stalls at the Rugby Club Fun Day on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June and the Express Gala Day at the Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August. We would like to take advantage of these opportunities but require a small number of Volunteers to help. If you can offer your help, even just a few hours on

either of the dates, please ring Kath Smith on (01253) 737548.

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

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

There is an evening of song featuring the County Hall Singers at Lytham Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June – contact the Hall for further details.

**AGM** – Our Annual General Meeting has been set for Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. in the Ribble room of the Assembly rooms, Lytham.

**Autumn Fair** – 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Assembly rooms, Lytham.

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

***Recent Events:***

**Snowdrop Walk – 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February**

This year saw the Hall realising the full potential of their Snowdrops. The Hall was opened for two weekends and, despite unfortunate, rainy weather attracted large numbers of people who were fortunate to see a really good display of Snowdrops.

Care was taken to lessen the environmental impact of visitors by arranging, with AXA, for parking in the car park adjacent to the Main gate. This protected the grass verges that flank the main drive, a great idea.

The Hall looked as lovely as ever, it was nice to see that the courtyard had received a new coat of paint. However it was sad to see that winter had seen a piece of masonry from one of the Ionic capitals broken off from the front of the building, a worrying reminder of the fragility of old buildings.

**Easter Bunny Treasure Trail**

The Friends are delighted to announce that this year's Easter Bunny Treasure Trail was extremely well attended. Exactly why people turned up in such great numbers is unknown, however it was gratifying to see so many families enjoying the Hall and the grounds. Approximately 240 children, plus parents,

enjoyed following the clues and trail, and answering a quiz which was aimed at the children but which stumped even one or two of the parents!

Every child received a prize of a crème egg. A Raffle was also held. Despite an awful forecast the weather held off and indeed became quite warm during parts of Sunday and Monday. Thanks go to all those who helped out on the day and especially the Bunnies – Meg Hargreaves and Margaret Martin

**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.

**Grand Draw**

The early hectic pace of Fund raising has slackened over the past few months, however, we must always be mindful of the amount of work that is still required to be done to bring the Hall up to a state of good repair. Much is still to be done to turn it into the historical visitor attraction we all believe it can be. All that plus the securing of the Clifton Collection is the formidable challenge that is facing all those that care for the Hall. Lytham Town Trust and the Heritage Trust for the North West are doing a fine job with the resources they have but they will require the support of many other bodies and trusts including ourselves to make it work. The corner stone of our efforts for 2001 will therefore be a **Grand Draw**.

In support of the draw we are appealing to the membership to donate a number of prizes befitting a Prize Draw. The Friends are looking to the business community to donate, or offer at cost price, a main prize. Donations can be pledged to any of the Committee.

It is our intention to send all our Members a small number of tickets to sell. However we are aware that some people are sensitive to

requests of this type, therefore we are asking that any member not wishing to receive **Grand Draw** tickets to notify us via any of the numbers at the back of this Newsletter (excluding Mrs Pinder).

### **Christmas Card Competition**

The Friends decision to run a junior painting competition has run into conflict with the Heritage Group who, apparently, have run a similar scheme for the past few years.

It is not the Friends intention to cause friction with other voluntary groups, especially the Heritage Group who have done so much good work for the Hall. Therefore we will not continue with our own competition and would urge as many people as possible to join in with the Heritage Group's competition.

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

The last Newsletter contained an extract from the letters sent by Christine Nuttall, who lived as a child at Lytham Hall for about 15 years, she wrote...

I have a very vivid memory of the Dining Room, because one day I was in there by myself, ..... I was gazing out of the window between mouthfuls of rice pudding, 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.....

Anyway quite remarkably, but entirely coincidentally, Ann Pinder, the Hall's custodian has come into the possession of an old photograph, taken at the Hall, of a family sat astride a huge blown over Cedar tree, large enough to be the one mentioned by Christine. We have sent the photograph to her for confirmation and, hopefully an explanation of the other people on the photograph. We hope to publish the photo and her reply in the next 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. A phone call (728186) or something written down on paper would be appreciated.

### ***Lytham Hall***

#### **Colours at the Hall**

The Hall would like to here from anyone of vintage age who worked at the Hall, or can remember for other reasons what colour the paintwork was in the courtyard & stable area. If you have any information please phone Ann Pinder or Ruthmary Paul on 736652.

### **Gatehouses**

We are pleased to announce that the Hall has been successful in applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant under a "small projects programme. HTNW's application was for the restoration of the Gatehouses at Lytham Hall. The grant of £49,000 represents 75% of the cost of restoration work.

The work will allow some dramatic improvements to the main approaches to the Hall and also allow someone to live in the buildings.

What is pleasing is that the award will not compromise the main Heritage Lottery Fund bid and it is hoped that the award is a show of confidence in the two Trusts by the Heritage Lottery.

### ***Membership***

Thanks go to all who have joined as members of the Friends of Lytham Hall. Membership runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> June and is shortly due for renewal.

To renew your membership please complete the forms attached to the back of this newsletter. If your membership is paid by standing order, you need do nothing.

In order to keep postage costs down we would ask anyone requiring a receipt to enclose a stamp addressed envelope with their membership renewal form, otherwise receipts will be kept back and handed out at FOLH events or at the AGM in September.

Remember, every penny raised by the Friends of Lytham Hall goes exclusively towards the Hall and the Clifton collection.

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

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

Considerable progress has been made on the Friends Web-site.

- ◆ Content has been agreed.
- ◆ Production of that content is well under way.
- ◆ A number of suitable images have been identified and scanned ready for use.

The Friends had originally intended for the Web-site to be up and running for the end of March, however the volume of work involved was grossly underestimated and a more realistic target of mid-year has now been set.

### **Found on the Web**

Continuing with the Internet - one of the 'Friends of Lytham Hall' Zoe Rushworth has found and purchased, during a routine browse of the Internet, a book entitled "Catalogue of Books in the Library of Lytham Hall." Dated 1878 the catalogue gives a fascinating insight into the contents of a catholic library of the English landed gentry in the C19. It is our intention to include a full review of the catalogue in the next Newsletter.

### **John Carr**

The Friends have recently purchased a new book entitled "The Life and Works of John Carr of York." Published by Oblong. Researched and written by Brian Wragg but completed by Giles Worsley due to Wragg's death in 1995.

The book is one of only a comparatively minor number of works dedicated to Carr. It is however a very comprehensive catalogue of his work and contains numerous supporting pictures and drawings. In it Wragg & Worsley argue the case for Carr to be recognised amongst the top tier of British architects.

We are appealing for a volunteer to review the book for inclusion in the next newsletter. If anyone would like the opportunity at producing a review of no more than 200 words could they please contact John Martin on (01253) 728186.

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

#### **The Hall**

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

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). Free entry offers a great opportunity to see the grounds throughout the flowering season, the daffodils are now in full bloom and the rhododendrons will soon follow. We would urge all to use the grounds and Tearoom for a regular Sunday stroll.

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

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

#### ***Contacts:***

*Liz Guffogg*, Chairman: (01253) 727696

*Kath Smith*, Secretary: (01253) 737548

*Kay Hopper*, Treasurer: (01253) 736688

*John Martin*, Newsletter: (01253) 728186

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

*Marion Coupe*, Events: (01253) 733563

*Ann Pinder*, Hall Custodian: (01253) 736652