

# Friends of Lytham Hall

## Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442

February 2003

Issue 27

A New Year's message from your Chairman.  
Mrs Liz Guffogg.

Dear Friends

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2003. Thank you for your support over the past year, we would not be able to function effectively without it.

2003 will, we hope see the re-opening of the Hall to the public. The renovations to the West Wing have been all but completed to a very high standard and several weddings have already been held there. The Friends are hoping to participate in the opening celebrations in the spring.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Samuel Johnson to the Hall as Operations Manager and are encouraged by the commitment this demonstrates to Lytham Hall by the Heritage Trust for the North West. We look forward to working closely with him.

The Snowdrop walks will once more open the calendar for the Hall for 2003. Further details can be found later in this newsletter. I would encourage any of you who can volunteer to help in the tearoom. This kind of activity is where the Friends come into their own. It can be great fun and raises valuable funds for the Hall.

We hope this year will see the plans for the Hall come to fruition so that it may become one of the major attractions on the Fylde Coast and something for us all to enjoy. I hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are, I'm sure it will prove ideal for pram pushing!

Thank you once again for your continuing support and I look forward to seeing you at the Hall.

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

**Snowdrop Sundays** – 2nd, 9th 16th & 23rd February.

We are pleased to announce that once again Lytham Hall will be hosting its annual Snowdrop walks. There will be four special days for the Snowdrops in 2003 - Every Sunday in February.

Parking in the grounds will be limited to disabled drivers only. All other vehicles can be parked in the AXA car park adjacent to the Main Gates on Ballam road. Benches will be dotted along the driveway to allow respite. Stout shoes are recommended and dogs, although welcome, must be kept on a leash.

Entrance to the grounds will be between 11.00am – 4.00pm and will cost £1.00 for Adults, 50p for Children. The tearoom will be open with a menu limited to soup, cakes and hot beverages.

**Volunteers** are needed to help out in the tearoom. If anyone can manage to give 2 hours or so on any of the Sundays, please ring the office on 736652.

### ***Recent Events***

**Autumn Fair** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

The Fair this year managed to raise an impressive £354.70. A fine achievement. Thanks again to all those who contributed in time, money, effort and attendance and in particular Tom Eccles.

**Evening of Christmas cheer.** – 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Our “Evening of Christmas Cheer” this year at Green Drive Golf Club, was again a spectacular success.

The Club served an impressive 3-course meal managing in the process to convince everyone present that the largest chickens in the world are corn-fed and come from Goosnargh! (did anyone finish?). The meal was served onto tables decorated with Christmas centrepieces

produced by the skillful hands of Pam Greenhill and friends.

At the end of the meal, local celebrities Don Sheerin, Bill Mercer, Jacqui Veazey, Jacqui Cookson & Joyce Smith supplied some wonderful entertainment under the title "Songs for You", this editor's favourite being the John Denver song "Perhaps Love" sung as a duet by Don and Jacqui Veazey.

A vote of thanks by our President Mr David Coupe went to all that had attended, contributed and worked to make the event a success. Bob Smith then gave the answers to the clever 'Christmas Carols' quiz he had put together. The raffle was then drawn before the evening was brought to a close with a number of Christmas Carols - always a special ending to a Xmas evening. A splendid evening raised another £459 towards the cause.

### **Memories of the Hall**

We have more reminiscences from Len Roslyn whose father was Tom Roslyn the blacksmith on Smithy Lane.

Len ran his own pig farm from the tender age of just 13 – situated next to where the St Annes tip now is. Later when his Father released the lease on the land, he went to work on the pig farm owned by Kathleen Eyre. Later still he turned his hand to property development, buying, renovating and selling properties, the most notable being one of the two houses made from the old Trawlboat Inn located on the junction of Heyhouses lane and Northhouses lane.

The Trawl Boat Inn is significant to Hall devotees as its licence was withdrawn by local magistrates shortly after Lady Drummond, Mother of Squire John Talbot witnessed a drunken brawl outside the Inn just as she was passing in her carriage!

His wife, but girl friend at the time, had an Auntie Dot Riding who was a stable hand at the Hall. One day, whilst looking for something, she went into one of the many

out-houses. Upon opening it she found it full of dead hanging creatures – Rabbits, Pheasants, Pigeons etc. From the smell she deduced that they had all 'gone off' and decided to throw them all on the 'Midden pile'. A short while later all hell let loose when the cook discovered that the 'game' she had been hanging to ripen had been stolen and a big inquest ensued. Dot never let on that she was the culprit!

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 occupied.

### *Lytham Hall*

John Miller, Director of HTNW writes:

The completion of the ground floor of the west wing was finally secured in September after months of hard work by builders, architects and HTNW employees. Two highly successful weddings have used the facility for their wedding breakfast and evening reception and all involved have remarked on the outstanding nature of the facility and service provided. The ground floor comprises of a large function room with a beautiful oak floor, an industrial sized and equipped kitchen and a reception area with comfy chairs. A lift has already been installed in anticipation of the restoration and refitting of the first floor. Indeed, the layout of the first floor which is to incorporate another large function room and a bar has been agreed and all preliminary work completed. Grant applications have been submitted and work will start as soon as funds are obtained, but this may take a while, so it is impossible to give a formal opening date.

In addition to the west wing project, renovation work has been carried out on the gatehouse. The roof has been reslated which uncovered the original ingenious gutter work. An internal refitting is schedule for the spring. To commemorate this project HTNW is hoping to compile an exhibition demonstrating the use and history of the

gatehouses, partly researched by members of Lytham Heritage Group, together with the restoration process including the process of securing funding. Indeed, HTNW would like to thank North West Regional Development Agency, Architects Heritage Fund, Lancashire County Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Fylde Borough Council, Lancashire Tourism Partnership, Lytham Town Trust and Lancashire Environmental Fund for their continuing support of the work at Lytham Hall

Work is progressing well at the Hall, but in anticipation of further developments HTNW has created a new post of Operations Manager. Dr. Sam Johnson began work at the hall in October 2002, with a brief to develop and manage income-generating activities at the hall, and assist the Director with the development of the Hall and particularly with the preparation of the Heritage Lottery Bid, which is a huge undertaking. He has worked as an Office Manager in an architects firm and has recently completed his Doctoral thesis in Modern Urban History at Lancaster University. Ann Pinder continues to support the work at the hall in a part-time capacity (Thursday and Friday), taking particular responsibility for weddings and guided tours.

Everyone at HTNW is looking forward to a year full of exciting developments, and to the continued co-operation and support of all the Friends of Lytham Hall.

### ***Who said that!***

Ever wondered where unusual sayings originated? Over the next few newsletters, for your interest and amusement, we will be attempting to explain a number of them:

During the C15 Church graveyards in England started running out of places to bury people. Coffins started to be dug up and the bones taken to a "bone-house" to allow the grave to be re-used. When these coffins were reopened, 1 out of 25 were found to have scratch marks on the inside and it was realised that people had been buried alive. To prevent

this from happening string was tied to the wrist of the corpse, lead through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would sit out in the graveyard all night the "graveyard shift" to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

### ***Georgian Architecture***

The period of we call Georgian is very roughly equivalent to the C18. Although George IV did not die until 1830, the style(s) of architecture most commonly associated with the Georgian England is at its most strongly identifiable in the period 1730-1800.

Georgian architectural design was highly, and at times exclusively, influenced by classical architecture and in particular that of Greece and Rome. An entire generation of aristocratic youth travelled throughout Europe on "Grand Tours" that exposed the most influential class in Britain to the classical traditions of style and architecture. These young people came home to Britain fired by an enthusiasm for classical architecture and design.

Georgian classicism was most heavily influence by Palladianism. Palladianism is a philosophy of design based on the writings and work of Andreas Palladio, an Italian architect of the 16th century who tried to recreate the style and proportions of the buildings of ancient Rome. Its features are characterised by grace, understated decorative elements, and use of classical orders (Doric, Tuscan etc).

English Georgian architecture differed from Classical Revival buildings elsewhere because it blended different regional variations. The English used the common Dutch practice of contrasting reddish brick with courses and cornices of white stone and white window trimming. England's distance from Italy and its Protestant majority also resulted in limited ties with the Italians who dominated Renaissance design.

One of the names most associated with Georgian architecture is that of Robert Adam. Although Adam was heavily influenced by Palladianism, he balked at the slavish adherence to the Roman style and proportions advocated by his peers. Instead, he used Roman style as a starting point for his own style, which can best be called "neo (new form of)-classical". John Carr, the architect of Lytham Hall followed a similar philosophy to Adam although Carr is best described as a dedicated disciple of the style rather than an originator of it. Where Carr excelled is in the quality of his buildings and his attention to detail.

The 18th century was a period of great economic growth. England was in the early throes of the industrial revolution. Great wealth was being created, not only for the ruling elite, but also for a new 'middle' class of entrepreneurs and businessmen. People moved in great numbers to the towns and cities and space was at such a premium, even for the wealthy, that developers were required to pack lots of accommodation into a small spaces. So was born the "Georgian" terrace, a design that allowed a whole street to be given a sense of architectural wholeness, while keeping the size of houses small.

Most terraces were made of brick, with sloping slate roofs hidden behind stone parapets. Walls between houses were built thick to prevent the spread of fire. These dividing walls carried the weight of the chimneystacks. Most terraces were four stories high, and the front door was accessed by a short flight of stairs. The most important rooms were on the first floor.

Windows were almost exclusively sash-windows, made of standardised panes of glass divided by thin, delicate wooden glazing bars. The pattern of windowing was the same everywhere; on the ground floor windows were kept short, for stability of the house structure. First floor windows were tall and elegantly expansive, second floor windows shorter and top floor windows almost square.

Front doors are panelled, with a semi-circular fanlight above.

As the 18th century progressed and the wealthy became wealthier, they put money into their homes. They enclosed vast tracts of land to create huge landscaped parks, and those parks acted as a setting for countryside mansions known as "country houses". It is in the design of these country house estates that Palladian principles are most evident today.

Palladian country houses were generally situated on rising ground, with gardens stretching up to the "back door" from parkland below. They were classical in style, with a large central portico and strong vertical lines on the exterior. It was in the interior that these country houses really shone, however. Furnishings were ornate and designed to impress. Generally, a large entry hall led on to living rooms meant for show. Bedrooms and dressing rooms were upstairs, while the kitchen and the servants quarters were relegated to the basement. It was terribly inconvenient, but it was magnificent!

### ***Questions***

If any of the membership has a question concerning Lytham Hall they would like answering or even an observation they would like to share please write to the Newsletter Editor at 168 Church road, St Annes FY8 3NJ. He will endeavour to get an answer from the relevant people. If the letter is considered to be of interest to the wider membership we will print it and the answer in the newsletter.

### ***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 Bookings: (01253) 736652

*Dr Sam Johnson*, Hall Operations Manager  
(01253) 736652

