

## Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter February 1997

On February 17th 1997 the Lytham Town Trust became the proud owners of Lytham Hall. After a great deal of tireless work and numerous sleepless nights, their dream came true with the help of British Aerospace who stepped in at the 11th hour to provide the purchase price of the Hall with no strings attached.

More hard work and nail-biting lies ahead as the Trust has to raise £450,000 for the purchase of the contents of the Hall - the 'Clifton Collection' of paintings and furniture within the next 12 months. This will be achieved only with the support of the local community, the Council, and, hopefully, some lottery funding. The collection, containing many family portraits must be kept in tact at the Hall for the enjoyment of the community and its future generations.

Day to day running costs of the Hall also have to be met ; and the money raised for providing all the facilities visitors to stately homes expect such as toilets, tea-room and gift shop.

The Lancashire Heritage Trust are helping to draw up plans [both short- term and long- term] for the opening of the Hall as a Visitor Centre, Art Gallery and Heritage Centre to be enjoyed by all. There is a great deal of work to be done before the Hall can be open on a regular basis.

### Events

Our **Christmas Fayre** and Information day back in December was opened by Alison Jackmany thanks to her and to all the voluntary helpers who made it a successful day. It was well attended and brought in a total of £680.

This was followed, in January, by our **Grand Auction of Goods and Promises** at the Bedford Hotel. This was a very enjoyable evening organised by Liz Guffogg [thank you Liz]. The Bedford Hotel let us have the use of the room, our auctioneer, David Tomlinson FRIC gave his services free, the Midland Bank provided the wine, and Standard Print & Design printed the programme cover. Thanks are due to all these, and to all the many individuals and businesses who donated a wonderful array of items for auction. The Volunteers also deserve a big vote of thanks for making it a great success. The total raised was £3,324.

### Future Events

**May 2nd - Dinner at the Hall** .A prestige dinner with the Mayor of Fylde, Mr. Alfred Jealous. Tickets will be £40 each and are strictly limited - available from the Appeal Office, Assembly Rooms, Dicconson Terrace.

**Monday 26th May - Open Day.** To celebrate the Trust's Acquisition of the Hall we are holding an open day from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Admission charge £3 per person [children £1.50]. No dogs please.

Teas and icecreams will be on sale, Fylde Coast Cloggers will entertain, and there will be a Bouncy castle for the kids. We are also hoping to hold a Raffle [prizes please!]

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