



## *Friends of Lytham Hall*

# Newsletter

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### *Homeless!*

Just as we were about to announce a return to full-time manning of the office we lost it! Set up by Lytham Town Trust for its original appeal to buy Lytham Hall it used office space above the Assembly Rooms which is leased to provide essential income for the Town Trust. Our tenure was always on the basis that if a tenant was found we would have to move. A tenant *has* now been found and we had to leave in something of a hurry on 4<sup>th</sup> September. We are thus homeless and one suggestion is that we occupy one side of the unused gate house at the entrance to Lytham Hall. Although small the room would be quite adequate as an appeal office and it would fulfil the essential function of allowing public access to the *Friends* during normal hours. It also offers the additional benefits of extra security of the entrance to the drive and physical association of the Appeal with Lytham Hall. Work is needed to make the room habitable but the committee consider it reasonable to offer *Friends* funds for this purpose since it represents an investment in part of the Hall facilities without prejudice to the Hall itself. Our honorary secretary has written to Lytham Town Trust detailing the proposal and we hope for an early favourable response so that we can open our doors again.

### *The Friends:*

The *Friends of Lytham Hall* constitution's objectives are summarised thus:- "*to preserve Lytham Hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Fylde and of the nation at large. To help provide an art gallery, museum, visitor centre and*

*similar amenities. To preserve the fabric of the Hall. To acquire furniture, works of art etc. for the Hall. To ensure the public can view and enjoy Lytham Hall. To support the charitable work of Lytham Town Trust related to Lytham Hall*".

The *Friends of Lytham Hall* relates directly and exclusively to Lytham Hall and, although the other groups have made generous loans and gifts to the Hall as a part of their wider work, we are the only full-time group fund-raising for the Hall.

Our *Friends* group will be doing all it can to increase access to the Hall by holding social/fund raising activities. The money we raise will be used for projects at the Hall and grounds so that supporters can see how their money is used. It will not go towards the running costs of the Hall as these are being met by Lancashire Heritage Trust (weddings etc.).

The immediate goal is, of course, to purchase the contents (and remove those awful labels put on by Phillips Auctioneers) by February 1998. We are optimistic about a 75% Lottery bid with partnership funding from the Council and other bodies. But there will be many, many projects to fund into the distant future!

Membership is now well over 300 and the total funds raised by the *Friends* is moving towards the £20,000 milestone. Of this £13,000 has been given to Lytham Town Trust. We are keen to increase our numbers so please pass the word on to your friends and see if they will join us.

Without an office we cannot invite you to drop in for memorabilia but it can be still be obtained through committee members. Prices of our goods are unchanged at:-

Christmas cards (specially produced from an original water-colour by Tom Eccles) £1.25 each or £1.00 each for orders of 25 or more; overprinting by arrangement - please use the attached form for ordering.

Lytham Hall mugs	£3.50.
Booklets of the Hall	£1.50.
Fudge with picture of Hall	£1.50.
Teddy Bears (volunteers welcome to dress these up).	£1.50 and £1.00
Pens	£1.50.
Postcards, Rock (Hall right through!), Cut-out model of Hall	50p.

### ***Rest your legs. . . .***

There is a need for seats in the grounds of Lytham Hall. *Friends* might like to consider donating memorial seats to Lytham Hall for placing in the grounds. Please contact the *Friends* for further information on commemoration in this way.

### ***Recent events:***

A warm sunny afternoon and a cream tea on 5<sup>th</sup> August welcomed residents and friends of St. John's Court, Lytham, to the Hall. This enthusiastic group had earlier held a *Treasured Things* event which had raised £300 for Lytham Hall. A cheque was presented to Liz Guffogg of the *Friends* following a tour of the house. It is encouraging to note that the local community is interested enough to raise money in support of the Hall and their hard work in organising such events is very much appreciated. GS

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June *Friends* hosted a visit by the *Friends of Tabley House*. Fifty-two visitors arrived for coffee and were taken on the tour round Lytham Hall. Tabley House in Cheshire was, like Lytham Hall, designed by Carr of York and is owned by Manchester University. The

visitors proved to be a most interesting and well-informed group and the kind weather made the visit very pleasing to all. A return visit is being planned for the spring. Since the event the *Friends of Tabley House* have sent us some very interesting and useful information on John Carr himself. We hope to incorporate this when we mount an exhibition on John Carr in the future.

On Club Day, 28<sup>th</sup> June, volunteers manned a stall in the centre of Lytham thanks to the kindness of Stringers who allocated us space under their canopy. Eric Watkiss offered space on his superb vintage Singer car and it duly carried advertising notices for *the Friends of Lytham Hall* in the procession. Despite unfortunate weather we raised £50 for the funds.

The Systems & Services Division of British Aerospace held a Fun Day in the grounds of the Hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August and *Friends* volunteers were in attendance manning a stall there. The Boeing contingent at BAe Warton will visit the Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> September with their families.

James Hilton, Lord of the Manor of Lytham and owner of the Clifton Archives deposited at the Lancashire County Record Office writes. . . "On 2<sup>nd</sup> August my son was married at St. John the Divine church Lytham, followed by a reception in Lytham Hall. As we drove through the gates and up the drive, I could not help but wonder how long it had been since the Hall had witnessed such a family scene, for most of the Clifton weddings were held outside Lytham. Those present sensed that they were in a rather special edifice which all greatly admired. Another Lord of Westby had come with his bride to join family and friends also ghosts of the past, and relive in a small way part of the history of Lytham Hall". JCH

Some seventy people attended a Barbecue at the home of David and Marion

Coupe on 17<sup>th</sup> August to raise funds for the *Friends of Lytham Hall*. An army of volunteers descended on their home to prepare large quantities of mixed salad. Marion had been up from early morning preparing jacket potatoes and vegetables for coleslaw. Desserts had been generously donated and the 'barbecuer's' sweated in the heat of the sun and charcoal to cook trays of chicken, sausage and lamb steaks which had been marinated in mint and yoghurt. David and his 'bar staff' kept a well-stocked bar all afternoon whilst Rita Midgeley in her own inimitable style ran the raffle. A grand total of £411 was raised for the *Friends*. A vote of thanks must go not only to David and Marion Coupe for their hospitality but also to all the volunteers who gave up their Sunday to help, and also to those who attended and made the day such a success. GS

Mr. John Wilson gave a well-received illustrated talk on *17<sup>th</sup> century farming and economy in the Lonsdale uplands* on 10<sup>th</sup> September to Lytham Heritage Group. Stanley Brown, in thanking him on behalf of the large audience, noted that John had waived the usual lecture fee and asked it to be donated to Lytham Hall through the *Friends of Lytham Hall*.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September *Lancashire Heritage Trust* staged a Garden Party at the Hall. Although arranged at short notice some 300 people visited during the 3 hour open period. Blackpool Brass Band provided a very pleasing musical addition to the day. *Friends* organised the refreshments having provided helpers in the morning to rearrange things after a wedding the day before. The *Friends* raffle and refreshments made £163 for our funds.

#### ***Forthcoming events:***

The *Friends* are holding a coffee morning at the **Assembly Rooms** on **11<sup>th</sup> October** from **10 o'clock**. Admission will be just 75p. This is your chance to buy your

Lytham Hall Christmas cards and meet Tom Eccles who painted the marvellous picture and who will sign Lytham Hall cards. Contributions of cakes, raffle and tombola prizes are wanted and also volunteers to help at the event.

To visit Lytham Hall at Christmas is indeed a treat. The friends are organising two opportunities for lovers of the Hall to spend an evening in our favourite building. **On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December** there will be an *Evening of Christmas Cheer* and entertainment. We shall be serving mulled wine and mince pies. Children from Hall Park School led by Mr. Peter Jebson will add to the atmosphere with Christmas carols and verse. Those of you who know Peter are well aware of his wonderful gift of bringing music to young people. The school, as you know, has held a Georgian Day at the Hall for ten years now and is anxious to help the Appeal. The cost is £7.50 each and tickets should be booked using the form with this newsletter.

On the evening of **Sunday 21st** **December** there is another opportunity to "enter into the festive spirit" by coming to our **Victorian Christmas Supper**. This will be served by Victorian servants (wenches even?). The menu will include salmon, ham, traditional deep pies, and salads. This is followed by pears in red wine and a selection of trifles, coffee and mints. All this and entertainment too for £17.50 a head. Numbers are limited and you need to book your tickets using the attached form.

Here are two special opportunities for you to come to the Hall and enjoy the surroundings while supporting the Appeal. You may like to help decorate and prepare the Hall for these events. Please let us know.

#### ***Membership:***

We need to update those who are prepared to act as stewards/guides at the Hall. A space is provided on the

ticket/volunteer forms included with this newsletter so please indicate if you are available for steward/guide duties.

We compile mailing list data on computer using the exemption under Section 32(2)(b) of the Data Protection Act 1984 from registering that database. One of the conditions of this exemption is that individuals must be asked whether they object to their data being held in this way. We are, of course, happy to show anyone who may be concerned what information we have affecting them. CDL

### **Prizes**

We have raised several hundred pounds this summer from the raffle prizes donated by members. So many were given at the Open Day in May that we held some back for other events. Our 'store' could now do with some replenishment so that we can continue this excellent fund raiser at our Coffee Morning and Christmas events. Please indicate if you can provide a prize and we will collect it, or, bring it along to the Coffee Morning on October 11<sup>th</sup>. MC

### **Paintings at the Hall**

You may have noticed a letter in the Lytham St. Annes Express by our committee member Margaret Race. It was her grandfather Alderman James Herbert Dawson whose generosity formed the basis (and inspiration to others to give) of the wonderful collection of paintings and sculpture at St. Annes Town Hall. In her published letter Margaret pointed out that the paintings were given to the people of Lytham St. Anne's not the Council. She wrote "*I look forward to when the people of the Fylde will be able to enjoy looking at*

*the Fuseli (now on display in Italy) and indeed all the paintings owned by them when they hang in a gallery, hopefully now in the Town Trust's recently acquired Lytham Hall*". Many of these paintings still rest in the Fylde Borough Council cellars at St. Anne's.

Three extra paintings presently in London but which used to hang at the Hall are being included in the 'contents' package being purchased from Guardian. They are portraits of Sir Pellegrine Treves and of his second wife Bathsheba de Paiba. Sir Pellegrine's son, also Pellegrine, and friend of the Prince of Wales married Hetty Sloper. The third portrait is of Hetty Sloper/Treves standing in an Indian landscape. Their daughter Hetty Treves married Thomas Clifton in 1817. Harry Clifton sold off a large number of valuable paintings from the Hall so there is plenty of room for replacements! MC

### **Wartime Christmas at Lytham Hall**

A keen supporter, Mr. H. Benjamin Brown of St. Annes remembers the first speech he ever made. Mr. Brown was sent to the Hall as a war casualty when it was used as a convalescent hospital over 50 years ago (You may have seen the still-existing sluices upstairs). He made his speech to the staff and matron to thank them and also the Red Cross for the Christmas meal, and gifts (socks; of course) they had put on. The soldiers had a bottle of beer each which unfortunately had been drunk by the time Mr. Brown arrived at the toast but the occasion was no less memorable for that. More 20<sup>th</sup> century reminiscences about the Hall will be welcomed - please contact Chris Lane. MC

**Reminders for your diary:** **Coffee Morning** 11<sup>th</sup> October, **Evening of Christmas Cheer** 14<sup>th</sup> December, **Victorian Christmas Supper** 21<sup>st</sup> December.

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