

Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter

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www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk
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Happy New Year to all our members, we look forward to seeing you at the Friends' events during 2018. We always welcome new volunteers to help with our activities, the more help we have, the more we will be able to achieve. Contact numbers are on the final page.

The end of 2017 was a busy time for us with our 'Spooktacular', the Civic Society/ Friends Coffee morning and the Evening of Christmas Cheer.



Halloween Spooktacular

This was hard work but good fun and a very successful day, bringing many families to the Hall to follow the Spooky Trail and enjoy some Halloween crafts. Temporary tattoos proved popular with the younger visitors, as did the cake-decorating.

The profit from this event was £1,346.92.

A further £1,600 was taken in the Tearoom, and I'm sure the staff must have been exhausted at the end of the day.

An Evening of Christmas Cheer

This black-tie event was once again a lovely start to the festive season. Eighty guests were treated to canapes in the Hall dining room before moving through the Hall to the Upper West Wing, where they enjoyed a hearty three-course dinner, provided by in-house caterers Peter and Paul. Light entertainment performed by Billy Charles and friends was followed by communal carol singing.



The room looked very elegant, furnished with the chairs purchased by the Friends. The evening raised £1,418.

Civic Society and Friends' joint coffee morning

Members of the **LSA Civic Society** and the **Friends of Lytham Hall** got together for a Christmas coffee morning at the Hall. On a frosty morning they were able to enjoy coffee and mince pies relaxing in front of a roaring fire in the entrance hall or in the glamorous Gold Room.



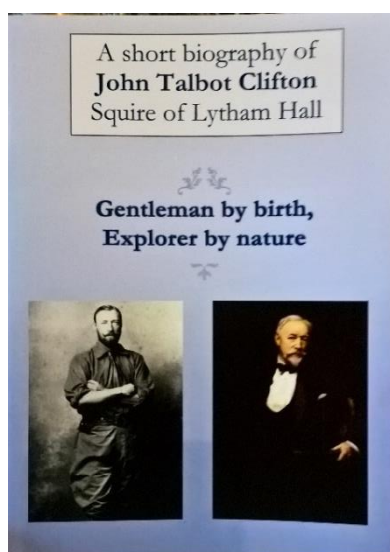
Snowdrops in February



After the long dark days of Winter, snowdrops are one of the first signs that Spring is just around the corner. Come and see the cheering white carpet in the woodlands at the Hall and visit the Friends' shop in the old kitchen [off the courtyard] where pots of snowdrops, Friends' merchandise and bric-a-brac will be on sale.



John Talbot Clifton Book



Marianne Blaauboer, who spent 4 years as the Event Coordinator at Lytham Hall, has written an excellent 29 page booklet entitled "A short biography of John Talbot Clifton Squire of Lytham Hall".

This is a very interesting and entertaining account of a colourful character in the history of Lytham Hall.

Marianne has very generously donated copies of this booklet to the Friends to help raise funds for the Hall.

We are selling them at £5 per copy.

They will be on sale at our Snowdrop Shop every Saturday and Sunday in the Old Kitchen at the Hall throughout February. They are also available from the Hall office, or you can obtain them directly by emailing friends@friendsoflythamhall.org.uk to arrange payment and delivery.

Home Farm Buildings Under Threat

The owners of Home Farm have applied for planning consent to demolish the existing farmhouse and other buildings and develop new housing. Part of the Lytham Hall estate until about twenty years ago, the site is part of the Historic England Registered parkland. It also includes the site of the Hall's walled kitchen garden, the wall and gate piers of which still stand. The farmhouse has a Victorian façade, signs of an 18th century makeover and possibly a 16th or 17th century rear.

The LSA Civic Society are assembling a detailed report of a visit to the site in November 2017. As it is known that this site was probably in use in medieval times they feel that a full archaeological investigation should be undertaken before any development is permitted.

There are also worries about the drainage and possible adverse effects on the Hall Parkland. The Friends have written to Fylde Borough council supporting the views of the Civic Society and expressing concerns regarding the close proximity of any development to the Hall.



The farmhouse's Victorian Façade.



Side of the house showing older building Behind a Victorian frontage.



The walled Kitchen Garden showing the Clifton Coat of Arms and the gate piers.

Lytham Hall Driveway

If you have visited the Hall lately, you will have seen the very poor condition of the drive. Repairing the potholes is both expensive and hard work, and cannot be undertaken in the wet weather. The Friends have agreed to make a donation of £250 towards the materials needed. Is this something you could offer to help with? Please contact the Hall if you would like to help.



Lytham Hall Open Air Theatre 2018



Last year's outdoor theatre season was a great success and the Friends played their part by serving refreshments at each one. This year, there will be five productions rather than the usual four, offering something for everyone:

Sunday 17th June at 6.00pm – **Little Women** – Charterhouse Theatre Company

Sunday 8th July at 6.00pm – **The Merchant of Venice** – Illyria

Saturday 18th August at 7.30pm – **The Hound of the Baskervilles** – Illyria

Sunday 19th August at 6.00pm – **The Pirates of Penzance** – Illyria

Sunday 26th August at 4.00pm – **The Adventures of Doctor Doolittle** - Illyria

Tickets will go on sale in March – for availability, prices and sales points for all five shows, please visit the Lytham Hall website.

Contacts:

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Websites: Friends of Lytham Hall: www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk

Lytham Hall: www.lythamhall.org.uk

Friends of Lytham Hall Membership

From 1st of June 2018, our membership fee will be increasing to:

£15 for Single Membership

£20 for Joint Membership

If you pay by standing order, please make sure it is amended before that date.

We are planning some members' only events for you to enjoy – details to follow.

If you know of anyone who may like to join us, or would like to give a membership as a gift, you will find membership forms on the Friends' website or in the Bookshop at the Hall.



The Friends Bookshop



Our Bookshop in the West Wing continues to be very popular with visitors to the Hall. Thanks to some generous donations we have an abundant stock of books at present. Don't forget to call in whenever you are at the Hall and enjoy a browse. You will find our Lytham Hall bags and cards and Friends of Lytham Hall pens on sale too, just put your money in the honesty boxes.

Enquiries to: Eddie / Jo James via
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