

# FRIENDS OF LYTHAM HALL

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1069442

MAY 1998

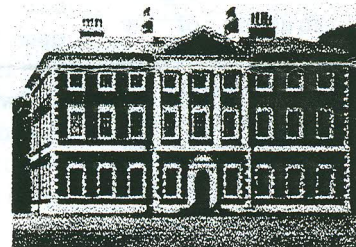
Issue 7 ?

Contact phone numbers; David Coupe 733563, Liz Guffogg 727696, Kath Smith 737548

## A word from our Chairman

The 'Friends' have been enormously successful since their original formation as a group to fight for the acquisition of Lytham Hall for the benefit of the community. Thanks to the generosity of British Aerospace, who stepped in at the eleventh hour with a gift of approximately £1 million, the Hall was purchased. Since then the Friends have demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to the cause of supporting the long term use of the

Hall as an art gallery, museum and visitor centre to be enjoyed by everyone. I am delighted to announce that this commitment has been recognised by the Charity Commission who have registered the 'Friends' as a charity whose sole purpose is the support of Lytham Hall. Anyone can become a 'Friend' and we hope all people who share our aspirations will join us and become involved.



### Further Open Days

Saturday & Sunday  
24 & 25 October  
11-5.00 pm

Saturday & Sunday  
12 & 13 December  
11-5.00 pm  
(the 12th is our Christmas Fair)

We are always in need of volunteers to help at these events and would welcome anyone who is keen to come and join in, and spend some time at the Hall.

If you feel able to help in any capacity, then please contact the Secretary,  
Elizabeth Guffogg  
on 727696



We would be only too pleased to hear from you.

The production of this newsletter would not be able to take place without assistance from a number of people. This newsletter was produced by Carole Hopwood.

### Open Days - the story so far

The Hall was open to the public on Easter Sunday and Monday - two open days organised by the Heritage Trust for the North West. Many 'Friends volunteers' gave up their holiday time to help with providing refreshments and running a stall, a raffle and stewarding. Thanks go to all our helpers who put up with very cold conditions to enable these days to run smoothly. It was especially good to see young people getting involved, with a contingent from Lytham High School. Our funds were boosted by £368.80.

The 4th and 25th May Open Days were again supported by the 'Friends' both in the Hall itself and serving refreshments. Thanks are due again for those who gave up their time.

It is good to see so many of our members who are keen to support the Hall on a regular basis.

### Future Open Days

Saturday 27th June  
2-5.00 pm  
(Lytham Club Day -we will have a stall at the Hall and outside Stringers in Lytham)

Sunday 9th August  
11-5.00 pm

Saturday & Sunday  
19 & 20th September

This particular weekend is organised by the Lytham St Anne's Express to celebrate their centenary year. There will be a variety of attractions and a great deal of volunteer assistance will be required.

## *Friends of Lytham Hall - First General Meeting*

This is to take place on Monday 22nd June at 7.30 pm at the Assembly Rooms in Lytham.

It has been called as required by our Constitution. The Friend's Accounts will be distributed. Our Chairman, David Coupe, will explain the Constitution and organisational structure of the 'Friends'. This will be an opportunity for people to express their opinions and air their views on all the topics which concern us. Everyone is welcome, mem-



bership of the Friends (as now formally constituted) is open to all and it is hoped that as many of you as possible will come along. The Friends will only continue to be successful if we all become involved.



## *The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest ....*

The area surrounding Lytham Hall, you may be aware, was placed on this Register by English Heritage. It means that the area is regarded as special and that the local authority will take great care when preparing conservation policies and local plans. The setting of a Grade 1 Listed building is very important and any further development near the Hall would clearly have an adverse effect on the landscape. Being on the Register is not a total protection against development (Ashton Gardens is on it), but it could certainly help influence policy.

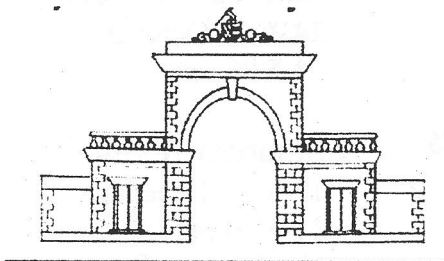
The present area covered is: all the land owned by the Town Trust, ie 78 acres of mostly woodland, Fairhaven Golf Club, part of the Home Farm to the north of the Hall, and the fields in front of the Hall (to the east). These latter fields are protected by covenants imposed when the Home Farm was sold by the Guardian to Oyston Estates.

It was with some concern that we learned that English Heritage are now proposing to reduce the area of Registered Parkland to that owned by the Trust, plus the fields with covenants - one third of the present area

Everyone concerned with the Hall is against this, including Fylde Borough Council. A case is being made that at least some of the area under threat should be retained.

If you have any information about the landscape which could help, please let us know.

## *The Gatehouse*



Our next major project will be centred on the Gatehouse on Ballam Road. The Town Trust are happy to let the Friends renovate this for use as a base.

It needs some attention so we are asking for help from you all.

We need an electrician, plumber, decorators and someone to check the roof!

This unusual building was lived in until quite recently. Its bedroom and bathroom are on one side and the dining room, kitchen/living room on the other. It will be great to be able to use it as a good focus for fundraising.

## Why Ansdell?

**L**ytham Hall contains some important paintings which already belong to our local community. A number of paintings from the collection of Alderman Dawson were gifted by him to the town, earlier this century. Several have hung in the Long Gallery for some time and others are in St Anne's Town Hall or in store. It has been the wish of many local people that Lytham Hall, in its role as Museum, Art Gallery and Visitor Centre, should house more of this collection.

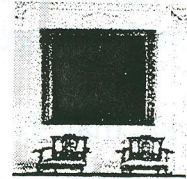
Many of the paintings are by Richard Ansdell R.A. (1815-85), who gave his name to the area where he lived for four years (1860-4). He found inspiration in the area of sand dunes to the west of Lytham and three of his paintings have Lytham in their title. His house, Starr Hills (now a Methodist nursing home), is close to the site of the then 'Sandhills'

railway station by the present foot-bridge. Richard Ansdell is best known for his paintings of animals, largely in oils, and was a popular and prolific painter. He originated from Liverpool and spent much of his latter years in Kensington (where he built Lytham House), and Scotland.

Alderman Dawson's surviving relatives are keen to see more works of art at the Hall, including his granddaughter Margaret Race, who is on our 'Friends' Committee. Equally, the descendants of Richard Ansdell (he had 11 children), are concerned that their forebear's paintings are on show as much as possible. Nigel and Peter Ansdell have both supported the 'Friends' from the beginning although they live in the south and we welcome their involvement. Nigel has the old 'Ansdell' station sign, discovered in an antiques shop.

*(Thanks to Enid Fallows for research)*

## The Clifton Paintings and Furniture



No announcement has yet been made as to the outcome of the Town Trust's bid for lottery funding to help purchase the above.

We are keeping our fingers crossed!

In the meantime all monies raised by the Friends will be used to support this crucially important project. The contents are as important as the Hall itself and must remain where they belong - at the Hall.



## The Fourth of July

July 4th - an important date in any American's diary no doubt but here in England it just happens to be one Saturday night in the middle of summer when the Friends of Lytham Hall have decided to have 'a bit of a do'.

A Hog Roast and Hoe Down is planned, in the grounds of Lytham Hall, in and around the picturesque stable block at the back of the Hall, where there will be dancing 'til dusk with caller, Roger Newton, and band, 'Shake the Dice'. There will be plenty to eat, provided locally by the famous 'Road Hog' and plenty to drink - bar and soft drinks available. So, come along and join us for what we hope will be a fun evening.

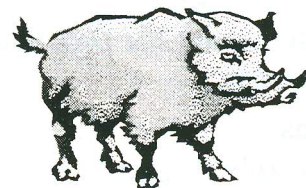
Adults £10.00, Children (5-11) £5.00, Under 5's FREE

Tickets available from Margaret Race - 727268

Pauline Hamilton - 736857

or Coupe Bradbury Solicitors, The Chapel House, Bath Street, Lytham

We expect, as usual, this event to be well supported. Please apply for your tickets early to avoid disappointment. To apply for tickets by post, please complete the form attached and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.



# Heritage Quiz

If you can answer the following question -

*Which was the family that for three generations acted as Land Agents for Lytham Hall Estate?*

then you may be interested in the Friends of Lytham Hall 'Heritage Quiz' on Friday, September 25th at the Assembly Rooms, Lytham.

A trawl through John Kennedy's 'Clifton Chronicles' and a smattering of local history is all that is required, although there will be a picture and music rounds to add variety to what should be a fun and interesting evening.

Cost will be £5.00 per person with a maximum of six members per team, price includes a Hot-pot and Apple Pie supper

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 22nd June  
Meeting at Assembly Rooms

15 - 22 June  
**MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**  
There are a few tickets left for the Monday and Tuesday of this unique event - organised by Rotary

Saturday 27th June  
Open Afternoon/Club Day, Stall at Stringers  
Saturday 4th July  
Hog Roast  
Saturday 9th August  
Open Day  
19/20th September  
Lytham St Annes Express Weekend

**Further details**

Contact



John Martin on

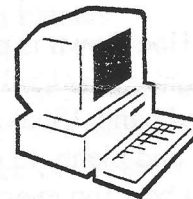
01253 728186

or

Bob Smith on

737548

**Welcome**



We would like to take the opportunity to welcome Sally Wilkinson to our team, who has kindly agreed to maintain our mailing list held on computer.