

Friends of Lytham Hall

Newsletter

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The Friends helped out at the snowdrop walks this year selling trails and snowdrops on the gate and in the shop. We made approx £525 profit over the few weeks and succeeded in raising awareness of the Friends by handing out our leaflets and membership forms.

The Easter bunny hunt was extremely popular and the Hall took over £1000 on the gate as a lot of people were attracted by the excellent publicity. Our thanks go to committee member Meg Hargreaves for becoming the Easter bunny!



We had to reprint the special bunny trails, 108 creme eggs and 84 chocolate nests were awarded as prizes. A few people even turned up in Easter bonnets! A successful day and one we would hope to repeat in the future.

Dates for your Diaries

Annual General Meeting – 22nd Sept. 7.30pm at the Assembly rooms, Lytham. Come and hear updates on the restoration of the hall and grounds

Autumn Fair – Saturday 13th Nov. 10.30 at the Assembly rooms, Lytham. Free entry to: Home baking, plants, tombola, raffle, bric a

brac. Come along and meet your friends. Make an effort to be in Lytham on the day and pop in for a cup of coffee and a nose-around you never know what you might find!

Evening of Xmas Cheer – Friday 10th Dec.

Make a date in your diary for this most popular event. Alternatively, let us know if you would like to be put on a list for tickets

The Cliftons

Madeline Clifton 1847-1907 by Ann Pinder

Marriage amongst the landed gentry of the 19th century was not usually an affair of the heart. Families moved in the acceptable circles of the time, spent the season in their respective ‘town houses’ and the shooting season in the country with ‘family’. They sent their sons to the same public schools and ensured that that their offspring married acceptable partners.

When Colonel John Talbot Clifton and his wife Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton nee Lowther were looking for a suitable bride for their son, Thomas Henry, known to the family as Harry they did not have to look too far to find Madeline Diana Agnew, daughter of Sir Andrew Agnew, 8th Baronet of Lochnaw and his wife Louisa Noel, daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough. Louisa Noel’s brother Gerard was Col John Talbot Clifton’s brother in law married to Augusta Lowther his wife’s sister.

The Colonel and Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton lived, in the shooting and hunting season, at Catmose Lodge, a large house owned by Gerard Noel in Oakham, Rutland. Their son, Harry born in 1845, spent much of his early childhood at Catmose Lodge. Madeline Agnew was born in 1847 at Exton Hall, Rutland. The two children would have met at social gatherings throughout their young lives and Madeline would have been seen as eminently suitable as a prospective bride for Harry. Her grandfather was an earl and her

father a baronet and the families were closely linked by marriage.

The marriage of Harry and Madeline took place in February, 1867 and the young 19 year old bride had her first child, a daughter Madeline in November of the same year. Six more children swiftly followed: John Talbot in December 1868, Cuthbert in March 1870, Cecily in October 1871, Arthur in September 1874, Frances in April 1876 and Charles Caryl in April 1877.

Harry on his marriage received an income of £625 per quarter but found this quite inadequate and frequently ran up unpaid bills. He became an M.P. for North Lancashire in 1874 and leased Ashton Hall, Preston as his residence and a town house in London was bought for £10,000 at 5 Richmond Terrace. It was here that the family were residing when Harry died in April 1880. He had been unwell for 2 years and Madeline had nursed him diligently but was now left a widow at 32 with seven children aged from 13 to 3 years.

Harry, in his will, had made Madeline his executrix and guardian of the children but his father the Colonel had not changed his will made in 1867 and on his death in 1882 provision had to be made for Madeline and the children. Richmond Terrace was sold, being too expensive to run and Madeline was provided with a smaller establishment in Hill Street, London and an income of £2,000 per annum. Her wish to live at Lytham Hall with the family had earlier been vetoed by her mother-in-law Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton. Perhaps the good lady did not relish the idea of 7 children running loose in the Hall when she visited the estate.

The nine years from the death of her husband in 1880 to 1889 saw Madeline coping with the demands of bringing up 7 children without a father figure. She held the purse strings until each child reached 21 when they then received an annual portion from the Clifton Estate. The Estate was ably managed by the Fair family for the Trustees.

Her eldest child Madeline and her eldest son John Talbot had reached their majority by 1889. Talbot was already causing anxiety over his spending habits and his mother exerted little influence over his behaviour. Equally her second son Cuthbert, 19, showed no inclination to take up any form of occupation and was constantly in debt. His sister Madeline, who now had her own portion, frequently gave Cuthbert money to help him pay off creditors. He was to die in debt aged 30 in 1900.

Madeline must have despaired at her elder sons' behaviour and feared what would happen with her two younger boys but in 1889 her life changed with her marriage to Sir James Williams-Drummond. They had met socially and Madeline had been a guest at his family home, Edwingsford in Wales. James was 9 years younger than Madeline who was now 41. Her letters to her future husband addressed 'My Darling Jae' show a warmth and affection which lead one to believe that this was a 'love match' not a marriage of convenience and in May 1891 Madeline gave James a son and heir. Edwingsford, Sir James' house in Wales became the family home.

Her two younger sons by Harry Clifton, Arthur and Charles Caryl were 15 and 12 when their mother remarried and after the usual escapades of youth settled to careers in the army, both serving in the Boer War.

Madeline her eldest daughter, married aged 30 in 1897, Gerard Cecil Noel, her mother's young cousin. Cecily married, aged 20 in 1891, James Cummings Bruce and Frances married, aged 27 in 1903, Kenneth Kinnaird, who became 12th Baron Kinnaird.

John Talbot Clifton, Madeline's eldest son married in Jan 1907, Violet Mary Beauclerk, he was 38 and she was 23 and in December of that year their son Henry Talbot De Vere Clifton, the infamous spendthrift Harry, was born. Madeline did not live to see or hear of her grandson Harry's exploits, she died in the year of his birth aged 60. Her husband Sir

James Williams Drummond died 6 years later aged 56. Their son James had lost both his parents by the age of 22. He had been an adored child and could not bear to stay at Edwinstford where he had known such happy times. He made his home in the family property in Scotland and died in 1970.

In Lytham, look for the houses and cottages that Madeline had erected to the memory of her first husband, Thomas Henry Clifton. There are properties on Ballam Road at Pembertons Dairy and two 'Madeline Cottages' further along towards Fox Lane Ends.



Birks Farm on Ballam Rd has been sold and the farm land broken up. Earlier this year permission was granted to demolish the farm house. We hope that the plaque will be kept. The farmhouse was originally two cottages for farm workers, some of the "Madeline Cottages". Others are Swiss Lodge at the end of Green Drive and one further along Ballam Rd at Westby.

If anyone has photos or knowledge of any more Madeline Cottages we would be delighted to have copies. They are the only reminder of Madeline as no portraits of her exist at Lytham Hall despite her stalwart efforts in perpetuating the Clifton family name!

Membership

The membership year expires on 31st May. For those Members that do not pay by standing order a renewal form will be sent independently from this Newsletter.

However, we are always urging more people to join the Friends in their worthy cause. All enquiries concerning membership should be directed to the membership secretary, Mrs Pauline Hamilton, Tel. (01253) 736857

Events at the Hall

The team at Lytham Hall are proposing the following programme of events for 2010 and although still in draft format it gives a reasonable indication of what's happening at the Hall this year.

Open Days: to 31st October 2010

There is free entry to the Grounds every Tues, Wed & Thurs until the end of October.

Sundays and Bank Holidays there will be a small charge of £1 Adults/50p Children.

Times: 12.30pm - 4.30pm, (last entry 3.30pm)

The House is open every Sunday for a Conducted Tour starting at 2pm. Adults £4, Children £2, except on the last Sunday of every month and Bank Holidays when the House will be open to the public from 1.30 pm - 4.30pm. Adults £2.50, Children £1

Tea Room open every Sunday and Bank Holiday.

Family Fun day - Sunday 4th July

Times: 12.30pm to 4.30pm with last entry at 3.30pm. The house is open for a guided tour starting at 2.00pm.

Flower Power - Sunday 18 July

Specialist plant fair. Admission: £2.50

Plays in the Park

The Illyria Theatre Company. Tickets now on sale from Lytham Hall

Wednesday 7 July 7.30pm

Pride & Prejudice - Outdoor Theatre at Lytham Hall

Friday 16 July 7.30pm

Romeo & Juliet - Outdoor Theatre at Lytham Hall.

Sunday 29 August 5.30pm

James & the Giant Peach - Outdoor Theatre at Lytham Hall.

The Friends are providing refreshments at the outdoor theatre productions - as we have in the past. Please let us know if you can help serve and clear up (there will be disposable cups/glasses). You need to be there at the beginning of the performance but do not need to stay until the end unless you would like to see the performance for free. Phone Pam Greenhill on 01253 735045

Classic Car Show - Sunday 8th August

A Classic Car and Motorcycle Show in the grounds of Lytham Hall.

Times: 10.30am - 4.30pm. Admission: £TBC
In addition to the rally, the Hall and tearoom will be open from 11.00am to 4.30pm. Please note there is a separate entry fee to the Hall.

Heritage Open Day - Sunday 12th Sept

Part of England's yearly celebration of architecture and culture which allows visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee. England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event.

Lectures

Following the success of last year's Lytham Hall lectures HNTW are arranging another series of six lectures at the Hall based on the Hall, its history and development.

Thursday 24 June at 6.30pm

'Of Monks and Viewing Mounds: The History and Archaeology of Lytham Hall begins to unfold'

By Nigel Neil

Thursday 22 July at 6.30pm

'The Development of the Clifton Gardens at Lytham Hall'

By Ruth Thurnhill

Thursday 26 August **Two Practical Courses 'Historic Decorative Crafts' and 'Gilding, Graining and Marbling'**

By Nigel Leaney

Nigel is hosting two practical sessions and demonstrations.

Sessions: The course commences with Historic Decorative Crafts at 10am (please arrive at 9.30am) until 12.30pm. Lunch is from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. The afternoon session is on Graining and Marbling and finishes at 3.30pm.

Thursday 26 August 6.30pm

'John Carr an Architect for Everyman' and 'John Carr as a Decorative Designer'

By Dr Ivan Hall

Thursday 21 October at 6.30pm

'Lytham Hall and John Carr's Other Houses West of the Pennines'

By John Champness

Thursday 18 November at 6.30pm

'Furniture of the North West'

By Susan Bourne

Tickets available from the office at Lytham Hall. Please phone 01253 736652

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