

# Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter

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Christmas has come and gone and, before we know it, we are into Snowdrop time again. The weather may be cold and dreary but a visit to Lytham Hall to see the carpet of snowdrops reminds us that Spring is just round the corner. A small entry charge of £3 on Saturdays and Sundays in February to follow the snowdrop trail helps to raise vital funds towards the maintenance of this wonderful place and preserve it for future generations to enjoy. The Friends are opening a shop in the old kitchen where pots of snowdrops will be on sale. There will also be a Tombola, a bric-a-brac stall, a jewellery stall and Friends' bags, pens, cards available. This is only made possible with the help of volunteers – the more the merrier.

## Halloween Spooktacular

In previous years this has been one of our most popular fundraising events but this time it didn't fall in school half-term dates. The increase in activities organised by the Hall throughout the week took its toll on our attendance figures. The sun shone but couldn't make much impression on the temperature of one of the coldest days of the year.

Our hard-working band of volunteers still managed to remain cheerful throughout the day. We are considering making changes to our Halloween activities for 2019.



## Awards for Lytham Hall Vegetable Garden and Apiary

In November, the Vegetable Garden and Apiary won 3 awards at the RHS North West in Bloom' awards. Lytham in Bloom were delighted and said that the Vegetable Garden and Apiary contributed enormously to them getting a Gold Award at the RHS 'Britain in Bloom' awards.

The three awards are 'Best Tourist Attraction/ Visitor Centre', a Gold Award in the 'Small Tourist Attraction/ Visitor Centre Category' and a '2018 Grow Your Own' award.

In July, Lytham Hall will be included in the National Garden Scheme [Yellow Book] for the first time. Congratulations to a great team who work so hard to achieve such high standards.



## An Evening of Christmas Cheer



At the beginning of December, the Friends held their very popular 'Evening of Christmas Cheer' at the Hall. The Hall looked magnificent with beautifully decorated Christmas Trees and huge log fires. It was a wonderful welcome for seventy guests.

Drinks and canapes were served in the Hall followed by a sumptuous dinner prepared by Peter, Paul and the Hall staff.

This was followed by musical entertainment provided by Billy, Trevor, Anne and Julie, and some communal carol singing, leaving everyone in a festive mood.

The evening raised £1,200 and we are very grateful for all the support received on the night and from all our members throughout the year.

### Joint Civic Society and Friends Coffee Morning

Members of the Lytham St Annes Civic Society and the Friends of Lytham Hall came together for a Christmas coffee morning at the Hall.

They enjoyed coffee and mince pies in front of log fires in the grand surroundings of the Hall. This was an opportunity to meet with friends, exchange ideas, catch up on news, or buy some last - minute gifts.



### The Friends Bookshop



The Bookshop opposite the tearooms in the West Wing, continues to be very popular with visitors and we are always in need of more stock. Donations of the following in good, saleable condition are welcome:

- **Paperback general fiction**
- **Non-fiction such as History/Arts and Local interest**
- **Children's books**
- **CDs and DVDs** (in plastic cases)

Please place any items in the box by the bookshelves.

## Easter Daffodils

What would Muriel Easter Daffodil Therese Clifton think about the Friends 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project described in the last newsletter?

The idea is to introduce into the grounds of Lytham Hall the wild daffodil, otherwise known as the Lent Lily or Easter Lily. I like to think she would have been delighted.

Violet and John Talbot [the explorer] Clifton had three daughters known by rather pretty names. They were Aurea, Avia and Easter Daffodil – born at Lytham Hall in 1908, 1909 and 1914 respectively.

They were often left at home with the servants who chose the lovely name 'Easter Daffodil'. Apparently Violet rather wanted another boy and so didn't have any girls' names in mind when she was born. Of the three girls, only



Easter Daffodil married. Aurea dedicated herself to helping in the War Effort and sadly Avia died of tuberculosis in 1942. Easter Daffodil fell in love with and married Gerald Baird, the factor [land agent] of the Cliftons' Estate at Kildalton on the Isle of Islay. In those days it was considered that she married "below her station" and Harry, her brother was so displeased with the match that he dismissed Gerald from his position. It was only Avia who represented the Clifton family at their wedding in Edinburgh.

There is a happy ending however as the couple stayed in Scotland, settled down in Helensborough and went on to have three children.

She will have an appropriate memorial when the 'Host of Golden Daffodils' gradually begin to appear in the Spring in the years to come. Under the scheme they will be devoted to the memories of others too as they will be recorded in a Book of Dedication.

Pam Beeden

*This photo shows Avia [left] and Easter Daffodil [right] Clifton in front of Lytham Hall.*



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**Interested in subscribing to the 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project?**

Contact Information: Lytham Hall, 01253 736652, [lythamhall@htnw.co.uk](mailto:lythamhall@htnw.co.uk)

Project Coordination: John Hornyak, Lead volunteer for Grounds 07817952550, [jhornyak@btinternet.com](mailto:jhornyak@btinternet.com)



## Coastal Revival Fund Grant – Good News

Heritage Trust for the North West [which manages the Hall] has been successful in securing a £42,500 grant towards the restoration of Lytham Hall and its historic parkland.

Fylde MP Mark Menzies supported the application and the Government awarded the Hall the funds towards the second phase of restoration of the Grade 1 listed building.

The Coastal Revival Fund supports projects to help revive heritage assets that are important to local communities but have not yet reached their full economic potential or are facing neglect.

## Friends of Lytham Hall Recruitment Drive

The Friends' membership fee has always been an important source of regular income and is used exclusively for the benefit of Lytham Hall.

Last year The Friends were a main contributor to the cost of the painting of the front of the building. We can't thank you enough, but can we ask you to help us to do even more.

For some time now the membership numbers have remained at just short of the 150 mark. We have therefore attached a membership form in the hope that you will be able to recruit a friend or relative to join us.

It would be great if we could increase the membership to 200 this year, if not more.

**GO FOR IT!**

**A date for your diary :**



Easter Bunny Hunt - Sunday 21st April

The Friends of Lytham Hall will host their annual Easter Bunny Hunt with trails through the parkland, a children's Tombola and stalls.

Come in your prettiest Easter bonnet and enjoy the family fun.



### **Contacts:**

*Lambert Dopping*, Chairman (01253) 736408 email: [lambert@friendsoflythamhall.org.uk](mailto:lambert@friendsoflythamhall.org.uk)

*Kath Smith* ..... Secretary & Newsletter: (01253)737548

*Terry Jones*..... Treasurer: (01253) 794524

*Pam Beeden*..... Membership (01253) 733418 email: [pam.beeden@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.beeden@btinternet.com)

*Lytham Hall – bookings etc.* (01253) 736652

*Websites:* Friends of Lytham Hall: [www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk](http://www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk)

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