

Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter

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www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk
May 2019



Our second Newsletter of the year already and, with so many things happening at the Hall, the Spring is just racing by. The snowdrops were splendid this year and the Friend's shop in the old kitchen made a profit of £1,300 thanks to the hard work of the band of volunteers who braved very cold working conditions in February.

Then we saw the beginnings of our 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project coming to fruition, which is very exciting. Each year they will get stronger and multiply to create a lovely, cheering display.

Easter Family Fun Day

In April, a late Easter brought beautiful weather for our Easter Bunny hunt in the grounds of the Hall. Families enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny and following a trail, collecting egg tokens along the way. These were then exchanged for a small prize on completion of the trail. Children had fun decorating cakes in the old kitchen, a bouncy castle and a children's tombola. There were also Easter tattoos, and the chance to get up close to some real giant rabbits in the garden.

This event added £764.00 to the funds and the tea room did a roaring trade - it's thirsty work hunting Easter eggs!



The Easter Bunny taking a well-earned rest with the scarecrow.



The Antiques Road Show Comes to Lytham Hall

Filming of the BBC Antiques Road Show will take place at the Hall on Tuesday 11th June. Bring your treasures and family heirlooms to be valued or just come along to see how the programme is made.

The Roadshow opens at 9.30 and last entry is 5pm. Entry is free, and no tickets are required.

Parking onsite will be for Blue Badge holders only. There will be a designated parking area on Lytham Green, opposite the Clifton Arms Hotel, and shuttle buses will transfer people to the Hall grounds.

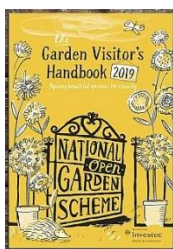
For further information visit the Lytham Hall Website or the BBC Antiques Road Show website

Fylde Community Projects Fund

The Friends have been successful in applying for a grant from Fylde Borough Council to extend the path alongside the Hall drive. The award of £2,000, match-funded by the Friends, will cover the construction of the path to the bend in the drive near the main gate. With the hard work of the army of volunteers, it is hoped that this will be finished in time for the filming of the Antiques Road Show and it will greatly improve safety for pedestrians, making that walk down the drive so much more enjoyable in all weathers.



National Garden Scheme



For the first time, Lytham Hall is to take part in the prestigious National Garden Scheme 'Yellow Book' open days.

The Hall will be open under the scheme on Sunday 21st July from 10.00 to 16.30.

Admission – adults £4 and children free.

The Parterre, herbaceous borders, south prospect garden, lake and wildlife pond all get a mention in the book along with the mount, 4km of paths, award-winning Vegetable garden and the Apiary.





Lytham Hall Open Air Theatre 2019



Last year's outdoor theatre season was a great success and the Friends volunteers again provided refreshments at each of the productions.

This year's program is varied, offering something for everyone. There will be five productions:

Sunday 16th June at 6.00pm – **Cranford** – Chapterhouse Theatre Company

Sunday 7th July at 6.00pm – **The Tempest** – Illyria

Saturday 17th August at 7.30pm – **Frankenstein** – Illyria

Saturday 24th August at 6.00pm – **Dan Leno, a Royal Jester** – Steve Royle & Company

Sunday 25th August at 4.00pm – **Ali Baba & the Forty Thieves** - Illyria

Tickets: for availability, prices and sales points for all five shows, please visit the Lytham Hall website. A special ticket price for Friends is available directly from Julian Wilde - julian.wilde@btinternet.com . We look forward to seeing you there.

The Hand and Dagger



Have you ever wondered why the Cliftons adopted the Hand and Dagger as part of their family crest?

Folklore has it that the ownership of the Lytham estate was disputed between two families and the matter was to be decided by "trial by ordeal". Being on the estuary of the River Ribble the two families chose a champion, the trial being won by the champion whose hand first touched a sandbank in the flowing river. Upon the commencement of the trial the Clifton champion drew his dagger, cut off his hand and threw it at the sandbank, thus winning the trial.

There is a very similar story connected with the island of Islay where the Cliftons used to own the Kildalton Estate. Islay is a beautiful and quite magical island off the west of Scotland, with legends going back to before Christianity. There are tombs of the Crusaders with their armour, sword and pillow drawn on the stone. The Benedictine monks brought over fallow deer a thousand years ago. There is a cross carved in the Celtic manner which appears to watch over the sea and the mountains. It is said to have been erected by Columba, the young Irish prince, before he left to live on Iona, where there is a similar cross.

Long after the time of these legends there was a dispute between the MacDonalds and the Campbells regarding Islay. Instead of fighting, they agreed to row out to the island and that whoever first set hand or foot on it should take possession. Near the shore the Campbells were just ahead so the MacDonald chieftain took his dagger in his right hand and told his son "cut off my arm". With his left arm he then threw it ashore and thus set a hand on the island first. The MacDonalds still have a bloody hand as their crest. Isn't it strange how similar legends crop up in different parts of the country?



[P. Beeden]

Members-only Special Tour

Saturday 13th July at 1.30pm

Peter Watson will lead you on a guided tour taking a closer look at the various out-buildings in the grounds of the Hall, which have their own story to tell.

Please reserve your place by contacting:
M. Coupe
01253 733563

Pre Lunch Talk

Tuesday 9th July 2019



***The 15th Duke of Norfolk,
the Clifton Connection***

12pm in the upper west wing.
£2 to include tea or coffee.

Find out more about the history of the Hall and the people who lived there.

Friends of Lytham Hall Membership

Membership fees:

£15 for Single Membership
£20 for Joint Membership

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



Don't forget to visit our bookshop opposite the Tearooms in the West Wing. Donations of the following in good, saleable condition are always welcome:

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

Please place items in the box by the bookshelves.

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Lytham Hall – bookings etc. (01253) 736652

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

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