

Minutes of the Friends of Lytham Hall AGM held on 13th October 2017 at Lytham Hall, Lytham at 10.30 am

Apologies were received from P. & C. Greenhill, J. & B. Turner, P. Beeden, S. Dopping, M. Blaauboer, B. & R. Weston, S. Havenhand, M. Smith, M. & I. Hargreaves, P. Watson and D. Coupe.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in this 20th Anniversary Year of the Friends. He explained that the Hall is owned by The Lytham Town Trust and managed by Heritage Trust for the North West. The Friends is an independent support group.

Minutes: Acceptance of the 2016 AGM minutes was proposed by E. Guffogg and seconded by J. Edwell.

Matters Arising:

Marianne's suggestion that we could become involved in Club Day activities will be reviewed annually.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman outlined the objectives of the Friends:

1. To preserve for the benefit of the local community and the nation at large, Lytham Hall together with its works of art, furniture and contents.
2. To ensure that the Hall is used primarily as an art gallery, museum and visitor centre, and to provide other amenities of a similar character for the benefit of the public.

The first part of his report covered the accounting period from June 2016 to May 2017.

He gave a resume of events which included:

Providing refreshments at the outdoor theatre productions.

The Friends' Spooktacular.

Civic Society and Friends Xmas Coffee morning at the Hall.

The Evening of Christmas Cheer, with Peter and Paul catering.

The Snowdrop shop which involved a lot of volunteer hours.

The Easter Bunny Hunt which brings families to the Hall.

Our Bookshop has been incredibly successful, making £4,300 - thanks to it's new position opposite the tearoom and efficient management by Jo and Eddie James, aided by Joan and Jim Edwell.

The overall fundraising total was £12,000 lower than the previous year - due to there being no Summer Ball.

Spending funds:

We are expecting to have to support a renewed Heritage Lottery Fund application in the future. We do however try to support projects at the Hall, such as planting for the Parterre.

Pam Beeden is the Membership Secretary [we have 135 members at present].

Kath Smith continues to edit our Newsletter.

Pam Greenhill is the Friends representative on the Board of Lytham Town Trust and makes a written report from the Friends at their Quarterly Board meetings.

From June to September 2017

This year's Outdoor Theatre events have been a great success - two of the productions had their best audiences of the season at Lytham Hall.

We supported the Rotary Club Steam Fair by running the tombola.

Progress at the Hall:

The Hall volunteers continue to make great strides in the grounds with the new Kitchen Garden, planting of the Parterre garden and new paths and clearance work.

There are encouraging signs of maintenance work being undertaken on the Hall, as well as trial painting of the North face of the Georgian Hall.

There have recently been changes to the organisation of the management of the Hall.

The chairman thanked the Committee, volunteers and members for their support, stressing that we need help from all for our fundraising events.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Terry Jones, presented the accounts which have not been audited as the total comes under the threshold. He stated that he would prefer to have them audited.

Current Assets:	
Bank current account	£ 8,841.00
Fund Deposit account	£50,592.00
Cash in Hand	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>£ 59,433.00</u>

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by R. Smith, seconded by E. James and carried.

Election of Committee

Under the rules of the constitution, K. Smith, M. Coupe and M. Hargreaves were retiring from the committee this year. They all offered to stand for re-election and they were re-elected en bloc - proposed by E. Guffogg and seconded by R. Smith.

One new nomination had been received for committee from John Hornyak. Proposed by P. Beeden and seconded by K. Smith, he was elected by a majority vote.

AOB

- M. Coupe suggested that holding the AGM in the daytime limits the number of members able to attend. An evening meeting would be preferable.
- Running of the bookshop - the shop operates on an honesty box system. It is dependent on the donation of books. It gives people a reason for return visits to the Hall and has made the area outside the toilets much more attractive.
- An update on management issues:
Peter Anthony and Paul Lomax have day-to-day management of the Hall. Marianne Blauboer has taken unpaid leave for 4 months and it is uncertain whether she will return. Concern was expressed that Marianne did a lot more than her job as Event Co-ordinator and would be missed.
- Attracting new members:
H. Snellgrove put forward the idea of using social media as a way of attracting more members. We have a Twitter account but are not yet on Facebook.
S. Jones thought we could persuade the Hall guides to encourage visitors to join.
Another suggestion was a large notice in the Bookshop area.
- A. Pollitt suggested a subscription increase for membership. M. Coupe said there should be something for members only e.g. special tours of the Hall. J. Hornyak offered to give talks and guided tours of the grounds for members as these generate interest and new volunteers.
- J. Hornyak told the meeting that the public don't know who owns the Hall, who manages it and why all volunteers aren't Friends - it's very confusing.

- H. Snellgrove thought that local primary schools could be invited for trips. Children would then go home and tell family about the Hall and raise awareness.

Up-coming events:

Spooktacular - 31st October

An Evening of Christmas Cheer - 8th December

Joint Civic Society and Friends' Coffee Morning at the Hall - 12th December

Friends of Lytham Hall

Registered Charity Number 1069442

Thank you to Peter and Paul for providing the refreshments.