

Minutes of the Friends of Lytham Hall AGM held on 26th September 2018 at Lytham Hall, Lytham at 7.30pm

Apologies were received from Pam Beeden, Peter and Carol Langley, Alan & Anne Turner, Paul Lomax, Janet Kimber, Peter Anthony, John Martin and Pauline & Mike Hamilton.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in this 21st 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 2017 AGM minutes was proposed by M. Hargreaves and seconded by R. Smith.

Matters Arising:

1. Holding the AGM in the evening to be more inclusive.
2. Use of social media - we now have Twitter and Facebook accounts and a much-improved website.
3. Attracting new members - Hall guides, Bookshop advertising and membership leaflets.
4. Subscriptions have been increased.
5. Benefits for membership - members-only guided tours of the Parkland and Hall by J. Hornyak and M. Coupe.
6. Local Primary school trips - not our undertaking, more an activity for the Hall management.

Presentation on 21 years of the Friends

The Chairman gave a presentation on 21 years of the Friends of Lytham Hall - the only charity dedicated specifically to the Hall.

In 1996, GRE put the Hall up for sale. The Lytham Town Trust wanted to purchase the Hall for the community, to prevent it falling into private hands and the Friends ad hoc group was set up. In February 1997 the Hall was purchased with a generous donation from British Aerospace. The Friends continued fundraising for the purchase of the 'Clifton Collection' and became a registered charity in 1997.

Since then, we have raised £150,000 which has helped to sponsor projects at the Hall and to support Heritage Lottery Fund bids.

We paid for:

The relocation of the Cliftons' billiard table from the Lytham Conservative Club to the Hall.

The restoration of the old kitchen fireplace/chimney.

The restoration of the Privy.

The bell and bellcote restoration.

The Diana statue removal to safe storage.

A new footbridge at the end of the East Lawn.

Some Clifton family artefacts have been purchased - a set of books, a silver salver and John Talbot's sword.

In June 2008 we made a donation of £20,000 to support HTNW's preparation of the initial HLF bid. In 2009 £5,000 was donated towards the stage 2 bid and in April 2011 £45,000 was handed over as match funding when the HLF grant was approved.

We purchased the till for the tearoom and restoration tools for the Clifton Collection and paid for initial set up of Wifi.

We have subsidised the creation of new passing places on the drive, planting of the Parterre garden, and emergency tree-felling.

£13,500 has recently been donated towards the recent painting of the exterior of the Hall.

We currently raise approx. £10,000 per annum through our Bookshop, the Snowdrop shop, Easter Bunny Hunt, Spooktacular and our Evening of Christmas Cheer, and provide over 1,000 volunteer hours per annum for our events, the outdoor Theatre productions and the Steam Rally.

Current Projects:

- A Host of Golden Daffodils- units of 20 native daffodil bulbs can be purchased and planted in the woodland. There will be a book of dedication set up for these.
- Eleanor Cecily Clifton recipe/biography book,

Our Funding Strategy:

Our current balance is £61,000. If fundraising continues at £10,000 per annum we should be able to earmark £44,000 for building and infrastructure maintenance, £40,000 for match-funding should the HLF bid be successful and £6,000 for investment opportunities, artefacts, merchandising and restoration projects such as the Diana Statue.

Membership

Revised membership fees are: £15 single and £20 joint.

Next Events

- Our '**Evening of Christmas Cheer**' is on 7th December.
- Peter and Paul are holding a 'Paint the Hall Ball' at the Clifton Arms Hotel on 26th October. There will be another large bill for the painting of the rear of the Hall.
- **Joint LSA Civic Society and Friends of Lytham Hall Coffee Morning** - to be held at the Hall on Tuesday 11th December at 10.30 am.

Chairman's Report

A copy of the full report is filed with these minutes.

- The Bookshop continues to be a major success under the new management of Jim and Joan Edwell. Our thanks go to Jo and Eddie James who have moved away from the area. They put a lot of work into organising the shop and we wish them a happy 'retirement'.
- The Friends purchased the banqueting chairs for functions.
- Pam Greenhill continues to be the Friends' nominated member on the LTT board and Kath Smith is our Newsletter editor.
- Our constitution is being reviewed and updated.

The chairman thanked the committee, Hall staff and membership for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, T. Jones, presented the accounts which have been checked by R. Smith.

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| Current Assets: | Bank current account | £ 10,865.00 |
| | Deposit Fund account | £ 60,720.00 |
| | Cash in Hand | <u>£ 0</u> |
| | Total | <u>£ 71,585.00</u> |

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by S. Havenhand and seconded by M. Smith.

Election of Committee

Under the rules of the constitution, T. Jones, P. Beeden and S. Havenhand were retiring from the committee this year. They all offered to stand for re-election and, as there were no new nominations, they were re-elected en bloc - proposed by J. Hornyak and seconded by P. Greenhill.

AOB

- Back numbers of our Newsletters are available to view on the members area of the Friends' website.
- J. Hornyak explained the 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project - 10,000 daffodil bulbs to be planted in the woodland, a celebration of Community and reference to Easter Daffodil Clifton.
S. Jones suggested that the Hall guides could help to promote this to visitors.

Friends of Lytham Hall
Registered Charity Number 1069442