

Minutes of the Friends of Lytham Hall AGM held on 30th September 2016 at Lytham Hall, Lytham at 2pm

Apologies were received from Pam & Charlie Greenhill, Marion & David Coupe, Stanley Kitt, Jennifer Smith and Mr & Mrs Hornby.

The Chairman explained the Lytham Town Trust, Heritage Trust for the North West and Friends of Lytham Hall provenance.

Minutes: Minutes of the 2014 AGM were read and approved. Proposed by R. Smith and seconded by S. Jones.

Matters Arising:

Most of Marianne's planned activities for the year have come to fruition. Advertising of events is more visible at the gate.

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 2015 to May 2016.

Events included running the refreshments stall for the outdoor theatre productions, a Masked Ball in the grounds and a Gatsby Ball at the Clifton Arms Hotel. The Evening of Christmas Cheer continues to be popular, and the Halloween 'Spooktacular' and 'Easter Bunny Hunt' bring families in to appreciate the Hall.

During the snowdrop season we ran a bric-a-brac and snowdrop shop in the Old Kitchen.

Our second-hand bookshop is thriving in its new position in the West Wing.

We have helped to fund the purchase of a Wi Fi system, restoration tools for the preservation of the Clifton Collection, and plants for the Parterre garden.

Our quarterly Newsletter provides news and information to members.

We continue to be represented on the Board of Lytham Town Trust by Pam Greenhill.

May 2016 - September 2016

In the period since May, we have again run the refreshment stall at the theatre events. we have created a new website - www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk - and subscribe to Twitter account @LytHallFriends to speed up our communications.

We were sad to hear of the death of our Vice President, Jean Wilding-Walsh in June. Jean, a former Mayor of Fylde, was a generous supporter of Lytham Hall and the Friends.

News that the Heritage Lottery Funding had been withdrawn and that a revised application for a reduced amount had also been rejected, means that the Friends fundraising efforts are even more vital.

The Chairman thanked the Friends Committee for their hard work and support. He also thanked all our other volunteers and membership for their support and hoped they would continue to provide their much-needed help at future events.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Terry Jones, presented the accounts which have been checked by an Independent Examiner, Reverend A. Clements.

Current Assets:

Bank current account	£ 11,851
Fund Deposit account	£35,440
Cash in Hand	<u>0</u>
	<u>£47,291</u>

Thank you to Reverend Clements for his Independent Examiner's Report.

Terry explained that a full audit of the accounts is not required as we are below the threshold. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by M. Smith and seconded by A. Pollitt.

Election of Committee

Under the rules of the constitution, L. Dopping-Hepenstal, R. Smith and P. Hamilton were retiring from the committee this year. They all offered to stand for re-election. As no new nominations had been received for committee, they were re-elected en bloc - proposed by E. Guffogg and seconded by M. Hargreaves.

Constitution Amendment

A proposal was put forward to increase the maximum permitted number of committee members from 10 to 15. The amendment was proposed by P. Beeden and seconded by R. Smith. There were no objections and the proposal was carried.

AOB

Marianne Blaauboer suggested that the Friends could get involved in the Club Day activities at the Hall as there is an opportunity to provide more activities to entertain the attendees.

Questions from members

Q. What will happen to the Friends' funds now HLF have withdrawn funding?

A. We will carefully consider projects before releasing further funds.

Q. Why has the Heritage Lottery Fund withdrawn funding?

A. David Gill [LTT] referred to the delays and difficulties in raising the required match-funding.

John Miller [HTNW] said he had not seen the full report from HLF, that the manager was retiring but she had sent an email encouraging new bids.

Q. Have the Friends considered encouraging legacies?

A. Information regarding legacies could be added to the website.

Q. Chris Blackburn asked if the Friends claim Gift Aid and other ways of maximising the income from activities.

A. The Friends do claim Gift Aid on members' subscriptions. It was proposed that he should talk further about his fundraising ideas to John Miller.

David Gill emphasised that before a new bid is submitted to the HLF, they must understand what went wrong with the previous bid.

The most urgent tasks at the Hall are the roof, electrical wiring and the heating i.e. making the building safe and watertight.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed from the floor.

Friends of Lytham Hall

Registered Charity Number 1069442

