

Minutes of the Friends of Lytham Hall AGM held on 21st October 2020 on Zoom at 7.00pm

Present: L. Dopping-Hepenstal, T. and S. Jones, K. Smith, R. Smith, P. Beeden, M. and D. Coupe, M. and I. Hargreaves, M. Smith, S. Havenhand, P. and M. Hamilton, J. Hornyak, E. Guffogg, S. Dopping, M. Couchman, B. Hankinson, Mr. and Mrs. Sugden, S. Meggs, H. Clifton, A. Wilde, M. Blaauboer, D. Bradley, I. Milner, M. O'Donnell and R. Beeden.

Apologies were received from: D. Kitt, P. Greenhill and Mrs. Higgs-Semley.

Minutes: Acceptance of the 2019 AGM minutes was proposed by M. Hargreaves and seconded by M. Smith.

Matters Arising:

Updating the Constitution

The following changes to be made to the constitution:

- Recognise other parties involved in the upkeep of the Hall - Lytham Town Trust and Heritage Trust for the North West. Also change the wording to include the 'Historic Parkland'.
- Change the renewal date for memberships from June to the anniversary of joining.
- Remove the six-year limit on honorary officers.
- Reduce the number of supporters required for new committee members.
- Clarify audit requirements.
- Add electronic means for despatching notices.

Chairman's Report/Presentation

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

The Friends of Lytham Hall is the only charity dedicated solely to the preservation of Lytham Hall [and Parkland] for the local community.

In the accounting period June 2019 to May 2020:

Fundraising Events and sales

The outdoor Theatres, Spooktacular, Christmas Cheer, Snowdrop shop, Bookshop, Merchandise sales and Host of Daffodils resulted in £12,288 profit.

The Spooktacular was a much larger event than in previous years, involving many Hall volunteers in live tableaux throughout the grounds. The Evening of Christmas Cheer profit was up on the previous year although fewer tickets were sold. The Snowdrop Shop fell victim to bad weather and the Easter Bunny Hunt had to be cancelled because of the pandemic lock-down.

Sales in the Bookshop - books and merchandise were down, as were donations to the Daffodil project.

Project Donations:

- The extension of the path, drive repairs and passing places.
- Painting of the North elevation of the Hall, restoration of the Diana Statue.
- Purchase of a Gillow dining table, a Land Rover, Hetty Clifton's scrapbook and plants.

Membership

At the end of May 2020, there were 175 members including 7 patrons. A great deal of effort has been put into recruiting new members and membership now stands at 224 which includes 45 patrons.

Current Projects:

- Eleanor Cecily Clifton Recipe Book.
- Harry Clifton Book - by Peter Watson.
- Painting of the South aspect and Courtyard area.
- Personal Protection Equipment/tools for volunteers - part funded by a Fylde Council grant.

- Calendars featuring the Hall and Parkland [production funded by two of our members].

We will also be funding a Guide Book for the Hall.

This year, several events have had to be cancelled due to covid-19: The outdoor Theatre, Easter Bunny Hunt, Halloween and Christmas Cheer.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, T. Jones, presented the accounts

Current Assets:	Bank current account	£ 19,552
	Deposit Fund account	£ 51,334
	Cash in Hand	<u>£ 0</u>
	Total	<u>£ 70,886</u>

There were 15 donations in total, including generous amounts from Lytham Rotary and Leafy Lytham, and a legacy of £10,000 from Mrs. Patricia Maria Cross.

We have had a lot more income than the last year and fewer expenses.

Acceptance of the Annual Report and Financial Statement was Proposed by M. Blaauboer and Seconded by S. Havenhand.

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 and were re-elected unanimously

There were no new nominations for committee.

D. Coupe thanked the committee for their work.

A. Wilde enjoyed being able to join us on Zoom and thanked the committee for all they do.

A.O.B.

- D. Bradley proposed that rather than remove the 6 year limit on the term of office, a rider could be added to the constitution allowing it to be suspended for exceptional circumstances.
- M. Blaauboer thought that maybe more online things for members would be appreciated, such as illustrated talks about the History of the Hall and Clifton family. Several of the Hall guides have given half-hour talks in the past and these could be repeated. M.B. offered to do her talk on John Talbot. This could be a way of raising funds if we could make a small charge for viewing.
- M.B. has been in touch with the 'Ghost Telegrams' group [sound art commissions] who are keen to do a follow up to their Harry Clifton 'telegrams' which was installed in Lowther Gardens in 2012. She has suggested they visit the John Talbot exhibition in the Hall. P. Beeden has had an enquiry from someone on Islay who would like a copy of the original recordings. M.B. will try to get a copy for them.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The Friends of Lytham Hall
Registered Charity Number 1069442