



FRIENDS OF LYTHAM HALL

Newsletter

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www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk
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If you haven't visited for a while, you may not be aware of the progress being made both inside and outside the Hall. A great deal of hard work and funding goes into the successful restoration and upkeep of this very special place, and the continued support of our members is a vital part of preserving it for future generations to enjoy.



A 'Host of Golden Daffodils'

In 2018 the Friends launched the 'Host of Golden Daffodils' project. The drifts of wild daffodils, *Narcissus Pseudonarcissus 'Lobularis'*, were sponsored by the public and planted by volunteers. Over the past four years the bulbs have multiplied and this spring the display gave us a real taste of things to come.

Friends' Easter Family Fun Day



After months of preparations and planning, our Easter event was a great success. Visitors flocked to the Hall on Easter Day to enjoy the fine weather and activities.

A Bunny Trail through the woodland featured surprises at every turn. There were crafts, cake-decorating, plant-potting, a children's tombola and a bouncy castle. Volunteers worked hard to make this a fun day for families and there was a really happy atmosphere with lots of



positive feedback. The event raised almost £3,000, all of which will go towards projects at the Hall. The Friends recognise the importance of bringing younger generations to the Hall and Parkland, so they will grow to love it and help to secure its future success.

The Friends' Bookshop



The hard-working Bookshop team do a great job sorting donations of books and displaying them attractively. The shop is very popular with visitors and continues to bring in a steady income for our funds.

Donations of good-quality paperback fiction, children's picture books and non-fiction – such as History/ Art / Local interest are all welcome.

All proceeds from the bookshop go to Lytham Hall projects.
Please put book donations in the box to the right of the main book case.

Zoom Talks

Our monthly Zoom Talks continue to bring the history of the Hall and related subjects to our members near and far.

In February, Peter Watson introduced us to the poetry of Harry Clifton, 'The Product of a Curious, Whimsical mind'.

Harry's poetry reflects his experiences and views of life and love, and gives us an insight into the eccentric mind of the last Clifton Squire.



Peter read excerpts from Harry's three published books:

Dielma and Other Poems [1932]

Flight [1934]

Gleams Britain's Day [1942]



Harry Clifton

In March, Thomas Hewitt's talk, 'Managing the Decline of a Great Estate', looked into the many reasons the decline in the Clifton fortunes came about. He traced the events through successive generations of the Clifton family and their Land Agents, which led, finally to the sale of the Hall and remaining Parkland to Guardian in 1965.



In May, David Hoyle gave us a short talk 'Lytham Hall - the War Years as a Military Hospital', which ties in with the exhibition at the Hall.

He followed this with a video of a -

'Tram Ride from Lytham to Blackpool 1903'.

This footage gives us a chance to travel back in time through Lytham and St. Annes, with a possible glimpse of Wykeham Clifton walking through Market Square.

The next talk will be:

June 15th - 'Another 25 items of Clifton Family History', by Hugh Clifton.

There will be no Zoom talks in July and August.

Liz Moss the CEO of Heritage Trust For the North West will give a talk in September.

New Rooms Added to the House Tour



<< The Georgian Bedroom

Now open to the public, this room has had extensive repairs to the ceiling, which had been damaged by water from a leak in the attic. The paint used is colour - coded to the mid-Georgian era and a large donation of period fabric was used for the curtains and bed dressings.



<< The Chinese Room

Thomas Joseph Clifton [1788 -1851] turned one of the top floor bedrooms into a highly fashionable Chinese room. In the archive, there is a list of items he purchased for the room - an ebonised bed with gold detailing, large pieces of oriental pottery and bright fabrics. These are all represented in this interpretation, as is the original paint colour.

Memories of the Hall as a Convalescent Hospital

Our last Newsletter featured some of the memories of the nurses who worked at the Hall during the second world war. Now some of the rooms on the top floor of the Hall have been set up to give us an idea of what it would have been like for convalescing military personnel and the people who cared for them. The gratitude of the patients was often expressed in poetry and song. One of the patients wrote the following verses based on a popular song in the war, "Bless 'em All":



They say there's an ambulance just leaving Ormskirk,
Bound for Old Lytham Hall,
Heavily laden with tired and sick men,
Bound for the Hall they'll adore.
There's many a chap who's just finishing his time,
There's plenty of lads coming in,
They'll get well looked after,
With plenty of laughter,
So, cheer up my lads, bless them all.



Lytham Hall, Lytham Hall,
The CO's the boss of it all,
For service it's grand and everything's free,
With that, no doubt, you will all agree.
For there's plenty of beds for us all,
But not for poor beggars that's tall,
For, at quarter to six,
You are all scrubbed and fixed
So cheer up my lads
Bless them all.

D.J Griffin

[This is just a small part of the song -
there are nine verses in all!]

The patients were entertained by local concert parties organised by Frank Dickinson, the St. Annes optician of contact lens fame. There were concerts by visiting artists such as Rawicz and Landauer [a two-piano team], Elisabeth Welch [singer of songs from musicals] and Wilfred Pickles [actor, comic and radio presenter]. The multi-talented nursing staff also put on Christmas concerts, singing, dancing and acting.

A cutting from a newsletter at the time describes the last Christmas of the Hall as a hospital in 1945:

"The Commandant, Matron and red-cloaked nurses grouped themselves at the top of the stairs at Lytham Hall on Christmas Eve to carry out, for the last time, a charming ceremony which has been part of the Christmas celebrations of the Hall ever since it became a convalescent home for the Forces in the early days of the war. At midnight, when the patients have gone to bed after their dance, it has been the custom for the staff to sing some of the old, well-loved carols, and so it was again this year.

The familiar melodies of 'While Shepherds Watched', 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' and others, sung by this warm-hearted choir with a sweet-voiced nurse as soloist, wished the patients a 'Very Merry Christmas and a goodnight'.

They were wakened on Christmas Morning by the night nurse, dressed as Father Christmas, with a bumper stocking and treasure bag for each man."

[From material collated by Geoff Hayman]

Progress in the Parkland.

There are lots of exciting things happening in the Parkland and some great projects are taking shape.



'Violet's Avenue' of Pleached Hornbeams.



New Acers and Azaleas for the Japanese Garden.



Lytham Hall Open Air Theatre 2022

The Friends of Lytham Hall volunteers will be serving refreshments at the following performances and hope to see you there.



Friday 17th June – **As You Like It** – The Lord Chamberlain's Men

Friday 15th July – **Jane Eyre** – Heartbreak Productions

Friday 12th August – **Peter Pan** – Illyria

Sunday 14th August – **A Midsummer Night's Dream** – Illyria

Sunday 21st August – **The Pirates of Penzance** - Illyria

Tickets: Available on the Lytham Hall website.

Friends of Lytham Hall Membership

£15 for a single member and £20 for joint members.

Also, there is now an opportunity to get a free annual car park pass for Lytham Hall by becoming a **Patron of the Friends at £50 per year** [less than £1 per week].

Thank you for your continued support.

If you know 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.

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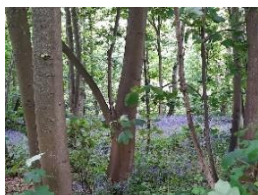
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