



# FRIENDS OF LYTHAM HALL Newsletter

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*Is it too late to wish everyone a 'Happy New Year'? I think it can never be too late for good wishes of any kind! Suddenly it's Snowdrop time, the daffodils are on their way and Spring is just around the corner. So why not turn your heating off and head to the Hall for a few hours to enjoy the first signs of spring and visit the lovely warm Tearoom.*

## **A Look Back at Christmas at the Hall**



The Hall looked wonderful for the 'Christmas Extravaganza' with all the rooms decorated with trees, baubles and lights. The model village in the Billiard Room featured a railway, as well as an impressive miniature Clifton Street with a variety of shops.



### **The Friends Evening of Christmas Cheer**

Our 'Evening of Christmas Cheer' at the beginning of December was a very enjoyable start to the festive season. A full house of 80 guests were greeted with drinks and canapes in the gloriously decorated Georgian Hall before moving to the Upper West Wing for a lovely festive dinner. Thank you to Ann Milner for her musical entertainment and for leading the carol singing. The event raised £1,600 for the Friends funds.

### **LSA Civic Society and Friends Coffee Morning**

It was lovely to see a good number of people at this event

The joint festive coffee morning was a chance to meet up with members of both charities in the Georgian Hall, which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Three fires were lit for us and the coffee and mince pies were served in the Gold Room.

The Civic Society took the opportunity to hand over a donation of £1,000 towards setting up recycling arrangements at the Hall.



## **The Friends' Bookshop – Donations Urgently Needed!**



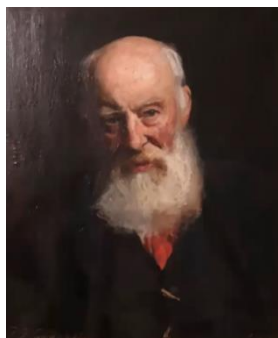
Our bookshop, opposite the tearoom in the West Wing at Lytham Hall, is a major source of annual fund raising, amounting to almost £6,500 last year.

The team of volunteer librarians work hard to keep the shop fully stocked and organised but they are in desperate need of fiction books, both paperback and hardback, in good, saleable condition.

If you have any to spare, please drop them into the box in the bookshop.

Our Lytham Hall bags and pens are also on sale in the bookshop.

## Zoom Talks



Our programme of Zoom talks for members resumed in January with Thomas Hewitt's presentation:

### "Augustus Wykeham Clifton the Grand Old Man of Lytham"

The brother of John Talbot Clifton [The Colonel], Wykeham lived at Warton Hall and married Lady Bertha Rawdon-Hastings. His brother, the Squire, was often absent from Lytham and Wykeham became very involved in Lytham life and charities. He was asked to crown the first Lytham Rose Queen in 1894 and went on to crown twenty. Thank you to Thomas for sharing his research with us.

In February, Hugh Wykeham Clifton and his daughter Charlotte entertained us with: "An Interview with Madeline Clifton"

Madeline Edith Clifton, known as Edith, was the oldest daughter of Thomas Henry Clifton and Madeline Agnew, and sister to John Talbot. Shortly before she died, she wrote a long letter to Hugh's father, Harry Cecil Clifton, describing her memories of her childhood in Lytham, of the family and some of the servants at Lytham Hall. A copy of the original letter is now in the Lytham Hall archives.

Thank you to Hugh and Charlotte for bringing history to life for us and introducing us to some of the less well-known Clifton family members and Hall staff.



We hope you will join us for the next three talks:

**March 15th - 'The History of Ansdell' Beth Wilson**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> - 'Celebrating Violet, The Last Clifton Lady of the Manor' Denise Hadley**

**May 17th - 'The Archives at Lytham Hall' Fiona Sumner**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> - 'Lytham Priory, our Forgotten Hall' Steve Williams**

**An email with details of each talk and a Zoom link will be sent to members before each event.**



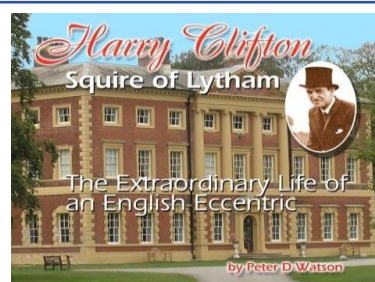
## A New Guide Book for the Hall

The Friends have funded the printing of a new guidebook for the Hall. This very attractive book contains a brief history of the Hall and information about the Clifton family alongside stunning photographs of the interior and grounds – a lovely souvenir for visitors and locals. Copies are on sale at the Hall for only £7.



## Harry Clifton Squire of Lytham – The Extraordinary Life of an English Eccentric.

This booklet by Peter Watson is available for £7.50 from the Friends via email to [friends@friendsoflythamhall.org.uk](mailto:friends@friendsoflythamhall.org.uk), free local delivery service or by post at £2.50 p&p. It can also be purchased from Lytham Hall and from Plackitt and Booth bookshop in Lytham.



## Improvements to the Stables Car Park



The Friends applied to Fylde Council's 'Fylde Community Projects Fund' for a grant to upgrade the Stables Car Park. The application was successful and a grant of £2,000 was match – funded by the Friends to provide the materials and some new planting for the bank. Care has been taken to preserve the original cobbles alongside the building. →



## Easter Family Fun Day

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 11am - 3pm.**

The Friends are organising this annual event where children can enjoy a woodland trail to find the bunnies and their friends hiding among the trees. There will be Easter crafts, cake-decorating, a kids' tombola, bouncy castle and many other attractions.



Put the date in your diary and watch the Lytham Hall website for more details.

*We would be very grateful for any items that you could donate for the children's tombola, kids bookstall, Easter gifts stall and Easter Eggs. We would also be grateful for any help on the day for a few hours on the stalls, Cake decorating, Easter crafts or Tombola ( 10am-1pm or 1pm-4pm). Donations can be left at the Hall office and offers of help sent to [susanhavenhand@gmail.com](mailto:susanhavenhand@gmail.com)*



## Hall Open Air Theatre Season 2023

The Friends will be supporting this year's open air productions at the Hall by providing a refreshment stall. The programme of six plays has something for everyone:



- 16<sup>th</sup> June - Sense and Sensibility** Heartbreak Productions
- 7<sup>th</sup> July - The Importance of Being Earnest** Chapterhouse Theatre Company
- 9<sup>th</sup> July - The Comedy of Errors** Rain or Shine Theatre Company
- 11<sup>th</sup> August – Robin Hood** Illyria
- 13<sup>th</sup> August – Twelfth Night** Illyria
- 20<sup>th</sup> August – Pride and Prejudice** Illyria

The theatre events, organised by Julian Wilde, raise funds for projects at the Hall.

*Last year's interval Raffle at two of the plays also raised funds for St. Luke's Leprosy Hospital in India. The money will be used in the much – needed refurbishment of the kitchen. It is around 3,000sq ft and they have plans for the installation of a new roof and alterations to the floor and water supply to provide proper drainage and waste disposal. They also have plans for installing steam boilers for cooking if funds are available.*



## **A Piece of Lytham's History goes under the hammer**



The former Lytham Hall Estate office in Hastings Place was sold at auction in January. Very much a part of the character of Hastings place this Grade 2 listed building's latest use was as Council Social Services offices. The listing includes a stable block and screen walls. 'Estate Office' is engraved on the door lintel and the Clifton crest is clearly visible on the front portico. In his book, 'The Clifton Chronicle', John Kennedy describes the office where he came to work in 1929 at the age of 16:

*"The estate office stands in the centre of Lytham on what was originally the site of the main gates to the Hall. The gates were moved brick by brick and stone by stone to their present position in Ballam Road when, in 1861, the railway connecting Lytham to Blackpool severed the main drive. The general office was on the right of the stone-flagged entrance hall. The cashier's office was on the left side of the hall. Under the counter was an ancient revolver, for when large sums of cash were handled on rent days.*

*Two drawing offices were upstairs with large drawing tables. A great deal of surveying work was done as the newer towns of Ansdell and St. Annes were still developing. The mantle piece in each room was covered with bottles and jars containing pounce, drawing ink, paint water, alum water, chloride of lime, and ox gall. Adjacent to the drawing offices was the Agent's office or Boss's room.*

*I do not think the office had been altered in any way since it was built. There were open fires in every room which were lit each morning in winter. All lighting was gas. Inter office communication was by voice pipes which could also be used for listening. At the rear of the office was the stable yard with four-stall stable, coach house, hayloft and groom's quarters overhead. The yard was cobble paved with a mounting stone for riders."*

Although the exterior remains intact, the interior has been much modernised, central heating has replaced the open fires and fluorescent strip lights replaced the gas lighting.

### **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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