



FRIENDS OF LYTHAM HALL

Newsletter

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Change of Chairperson for the Friends

After 14 years as Chairman of the Friends of Lytham Hall, Lambert Dopping-Hepenstal is stepping down from this role. The committee very much appreciate all the hard work and commitment he has put into the role over the years. He has been the driving force behind many of the Friends' projects and we hope he will continue to be a committee member, as we have come to rely on his computing and DIY skills.

Our newly-elected Chairperson is Alison Wood, who has been a volunteer at the Hall for a number of years. Thank you to Alison for offering to take this on, the committee look forward to working with you.

Easter Family Fun Day

This popular event was once again blessed with fine weather, and families flocked to the Hall to enjoy the Easter Bunny Woodland Trail. There were craft activities, cake decorating and stalls as well as a tombola and bouncy castle. The planning team worked hard to make this such an enjoyable day and our thanks go to all the cheerful volunteers who helped with everything from setting up the trail, car-parking and running stalls, to supervising the



bouncy castle, making sure everything ran smoothly.

We had some very generous donations of items for the stalls too.

The income from the day was £3,400 which will all go towards projects at the Hall.

We had some very positive feedback from people - many were first-time visitors to the Hall who said they would definitely return - this is good to hear.



The Friends' Bookshop – Donations Needed!



Our bookshop, opposite the tearoom in the West Wing at Lytham Hall, is a major source of income for the Friends. We are in need of fiction books, both paperback and hardback, in good, saleable condition.

If you have any to spare, please drop them into the box just inside the door.

Projects

The Friends continue to help fund a variety of projects at the Hall.

New Drainage System Installation

If you visited the Hall in April/May, you might have witnessed the earthworks on the East Lawn.

What looks like a buried train in this picture, is in fact the water treatment tank for the new foul drainage system. The updating of the drainage has been a top priority project as the old system could no longer cope with increasing visitor numbers.

The 'Friends of Lytham Hall' is contributing £40k towards the cost of this essential work.



Archive Equipment

At the Hall, there is a huge amount of paperwork which gives us a valuable insight into the history of the Hall and the lives of the Clifton family members.

The mammoth task of sorting and recording all the documents and information is being carried out by a small group of volunteers, 'The Archive Group'.

The Friends recently received a request for funding for additional equipment to help the group with this work. £1,600 has been donated for the purchase of a computer and scanner. It is hoped that the archive will one day be indexed online and more accessible to the public for research etc.



Wallpaper in the Attic

There was great excitement when, during recent forays into the loft space at the Hall, some remnants of vintage wallpaper were discovered. It is thought that the paper dates from the early 1800s as a very similar one is in a bedroom at Culzean Castle in Ayrshire from around 1820. The paper was most likely to have been chosen by Hetty Clifton, wife of Thomas Joseph Clifton, 'the tree planter'. He became Squire in 1832 and commissioned furniture by Gillows, and fashionable Chinese wares.

John Mark Wallpaper Printing, in Leyland, found an 'artist to recreate the missing parts of the pattern.

This service was generously provided at cost, and was funded by the **Friends of Lytham Hall**. Once the pattern had been created, it was down to John Mark to print the wallpaper, and now the pattern is alive once again after approximately 200 years. Very soon it will be on display in Hetty Clifton's bedroom.

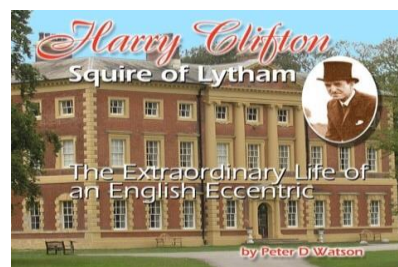


Harry Clifton Squire of Lytham –

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, 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.



Zoom Talks

Our programme of talks for members has continued to be popular and we are grateful to all the speakers for providing us with an intriguing variety of subjects relating to the history of the Hall, the Clifton family, and the local area.

In March, **Beth Wilson** told us all about **'The History of Ansdell'**

Nestled between Lytham and St. Annes and named after the artist Richard Ansdell, who lived there, Ansdell has a fascinating history of its own.

In April, **Denise Hadley's**

'Celebrating Violet, The Last Clifton Lady of the Manor' brought the story of Violet to life, with the part of Violet being played by Anne Bouget.

An acclaimed author, Violet, the wife of John Talbot and mother of Harry, was the last member of the Clifton family to live at the Hall until she died in 1961.



In May, **'The Archives at Lytham Hall'**, by **Fiona Sumner** gave us an insight into the work of the Archive group.

Over 1,500 bundles of papers including correspondence, invoices, bills, bank stubs, and photos etc. are being painstakingly sorted and labelled. They are re-housed in acid free boxes and envelopes on new shelving in the archive room.

*The next talk is on **June 21st** - **'Lytham Priory, our Forgotten Hall'**, Steve Williams.*

There will then be a summer break until September.

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



Hall Open Air Theatre Season 2023

The programme of six plays has something for everyone:



16th June - Sense and Sensibility Heartbreak Productions

17th June - The Importance of Being Earnest Chapterhouse Theatre Company

9th July - The Comedy of Errors Rain or Shine Theatre Company

11th August – Robin Hood Illyria

13th August – Twelfth Night Illyria

20th August – Pride and Prejudice Illyria

A refreshment stall will be provided by The Friends of Lytham Hall

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.

The Gold Room

The Gold Room or Drawing Room as it is often referred to, has undergone an interpretation to take it back in time to the days when the Clifton family used it as such.



Our archives have numerous black and white photographs showing the room in the early part of the twentieth century, perhaps when John & Violet were bringing their family up here. These images show a grandly furnished room used by themselves or for entertaining guests.

Enormous oil paintings adorn the walls, covering most of the architectural detail of its stunning interior, however this is not something we have tried to replicate.

Computerised technology can now transform black and white images into colourised photographs with a good degree of accuracy. The research proved that the scrolled regency sofas, with their striped and damask patterns, sported gold tones throughout their fabrics - so typically synonymous in grand houses such as this. Furniture was flame mahogany or gold leaf.

In recent history, this room has been used for wedding ceremonies, smaller dinner functions, small intimate concerts and the like. However, the majority of the time it is seen on a six day a week basis by visitors who take advantage of our tours. This meant we were challenged with providing an interpretation of a Drawing Room fit for a tour, which could also be turned around quickly for other purposes.

For practical reasons we had to think very carefully. This meant choosing elegant furniture that was also light enough to move and switch the room in a matter of 15 minutes. This meant we could have the best of both worlds.

All the stacking chairs now hide under the grand staircase - but as soon as they are needed, out they come and the furniture in the Gold Room neatly swaps places with them.

As previously stated, this system means we can have the best of both worlds and we keep a portfolio of the room showing it set out in different ways. The furniture chosen for the room has a Regency theme, as the decor of the room changed a few decades after the Georgian house was built.

We now have an interpretation of a beautiful drawing room that can be adapted, as required, to multifunctional use.

Thank you to Peter Anthony for this update.



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