



Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter

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Sanctuary gardens were a major feature at Chelsea flower show recently. The importance of these spaces for our mental well-being is becoming increasingly recognized. Lytham Hall provides us with a space to escape the pressures of everyday life. Whether it's a stroll through the woodland and gardens, a coffee with friends, or volunteering with the army of friendly people who help out in the Hall and grounds, this special place is a haven for both wildlife and humans alike. Many people, of all ages, have stories to tell of how it has helped them through times of stress and mental illness. It is a great asset which we must treasure and maintain for future generations to enjoy.

Easter Family Fun Day - Sunday 31st March



The Easter Bunny hopped in again this year to welcome 500 children and their families to this successful 'Friends' event at Lytham Hall in the sunshine. A trail led visitors through spectacular scenes in the woodland and the Easter Bunny rewarded those who completed the trail, with a chocolate surprise. Stalls, cake decorating, crafts, Easter bonnet decorating, games and a bouncy castle were popular additions to the fun.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event by donating items and/or volunteering to help out on the day. The funds raised by the **Friends of Lytham Hall** at this event will go directly to help with the restoration and upkeep of this magnificent Hall and Parkland.



Projects funded by the Friends

One hundred percent of any money raised by the Friends goes directly towards projects at the Hall. We have recently funded new equipment [another computer and software] for the Archive team. This will help with the mammoth task of digitalizing the large store of material relating to the Hall and its history.

We have also funded Chainsaw training for some of the grounds volunteers. This is essential for keeping the woodland in good shape.

Another project paid for by the Friends was the refurbishment of the banister rails on the main staircase and the back stairs in the Hall. These had been faded by the sunlight over time and much of the finish had worn away with use. It is lovely to see them restored to their original rich colour and finish.



Zoom Talks

Deborah Durkin's talk on 'Conservation at Lytham Hall, in March showed us just how much work goes into looking after the Hall and its contents.



A well-planned schedule of tasks enables the Hall's conservation team to protect the house and its contents from damage caused by climate, sunlight, dust, bugs and visitors. Not only do the team clean the rooms and contents on a regular basis, their work also covers restoration and repair of a wide variety of items which tell the story of the Hall's history and the Clifton family. Thank you to Deborah for a fascinating presentation.



Our program of monthly Zoom talks for members and Hall volunteers was introduced during the covid pandemic as a way of keeping in touch with our members. They have proved a successful and entertaining way of bringing the history of the Hall and the Clifton family to life. Audiences for these have gradually decreased as people's lives have returned to normal, so we will be taking a break for now.

The popular live talks at the Hall have resumed, on the last Thursday of the month, in the Upper West Wing. No need to book. Talks start at 2pm [entry from 1.30pm]. There is a charge of £4 per person which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. Check the Hall website for the program of speakers.

Sparkling Afternoon Tea and Talk with Hugh Clifton

Thursday 1st August 2024 – 1pm

Enjoy a fabulous talk about the colourful Clifton family with Hugh Clifton, along with a delicious, sparkling Afternoon Tea in the Upper West Wing.

Hugh's Grandfather was Henry Arthur Clifton, the brother of Squire John Talbot Clifton (1868-1928).

Tickets: £25.00 per person – available from the Hall.



The Friends' Bookshop

Our secondhand bookshop, opposite the tearoom in the Hall's West Wing, is a major source of income for the Friends.

The space has recently been given a face-lift with the addition of a large renovated bookcase. It is kept in order by a team of volunteers who do a great job of sorting and displaying the donated books. We are always in need of fiction books and children's books in good, saleable condition. If you have any to spare, please drop them into the box just inside the door.



The shop runs on an honesty box system. Bags, cards and pens are also on sale.



Lytham Hall Open Air Theatre Season 2024



This year's program of six plays got off to a good start on 16th June with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream, presented by the 'Chapterhouse Theatre Company'.

The Friends support these events with a refreshments stall run by volunteers

Tickets are available for the following productions, on the Lytham Hall website. Bring a picnic and a chair, and enjoy a bit of light-hearted culture.

Little Women – Friday 12th July 6pm, Chapterhouse Theatre Co.

Romeo and Juliet – Friday 19th July 6pm Illyria

The Gondoliers, Gilbert and Sullivan – Sunday 11th August 6pm Illyria

The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle - Sunday 18th August 6pm Illyria

The Hound of the Baskervilles – Friday 23rd August – 6pm Illyria

Gatehouse Holiday Accommodation



The Hall's Grade II listed gatehouse is now a quirky little holiday let for two. The lodge, which was lived in until the 1980's had fallen into disrepair. Newly renovated, the lodge now features a lounge and kitchen on one side of the drive, and a bedroom and bathroom on the other side.



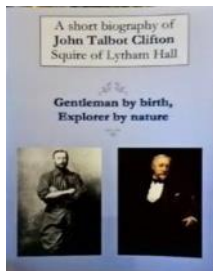
Guests have the run of the Parkland when the crowds have gone home, a free self-guided tour of the Hall and entry to some events. So far, it has proved to be popular, and brings in an extra income to help fund the day to day running of the Hall. Bookings can be made via the Hall's website.

It is difficult to imagine, but this small lodge has, in the past, been a family home.

The 1871 Census lists the occupants as Thomas Whiteside, a retired police officer, his wife, and two unmarried daughters, both laundresses. The 1881 Census lists Thomas Whiteside [74] as a 'nuisance inspector', and his daughter Ellen [51], a laundress. Thomas and Ellen were still living there in 1891 aged 84 and 61.

Have you visited the 'Friends of Lytham Hall' Facebook page?

Just enter 'Friends of Lytham Hall' in the search box to get all the latest news and information on the work of the Friends. There are also lots of lovely photos to browse through. Keep in touch by 'Following' us, and feel free to give us a 'Like' or two!



A short biography of John Talbot Clifton Squire of Lytham Hall

by Marianne Blaauboer

This is an interesting and entertaining account of a colourful character in the history of Lytham Hall, with many illustrations.

Copies are on sale in the Hall Shop and Lytham Heritage Centre, for £5

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.

Is Your Membership information up to date?

We are currently updating our Membership list and find that a number of membership fees have not been renewed. We don't want to lose any members, so please can we ask you to check your records and make sure standing order details are correct.

Please contact the Membership Secretary if you find payment has been missed.

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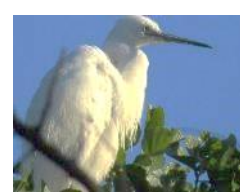
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