



Friends of Lytham Hall Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1069442
Issue 102

www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk
Spring 2026



This year we celebrate 30 years of the Friends of Lytham Hall – how time flies! Now is the ideal opportunity to look back over the life of the Friends and appreciate just how much has been achieved through the loyal support of our members and the public.

Where it all began – the Birth of the Friends of Lytham Hall

I recently came across a copy of the original letter from Marion Coupe, calling for people to help set up a Friends group:

May 1997

As you may know, Lytham Hall is now on the open market with a guide price of about £1million.

Lytham St Annes Civic Society, the Lytham Heritage Group and the Town Trust have been aware that this sale was imminent for some time, and have ascertained that there is considerable feeling within the town that the Hall should be kept for the benefit of the local community.

The Lytham Town Trust, a registered charity which operates the Lytham Assembly Rooms, is making an offer for the Hall. Its contents will be available to the purchaser but are being sold separately. It is not at the moment clear how much money will have to be raised as this depends on the value of the contents.

We believe that the historic importance of the Hall, the long and close links of the Clifton family within the township of Lytham, its architectural importance and unspoilt condition to be worthy of a serious attempt to acquire it. Its potential economic importance to the town also as a tourist attraction, business and conference centre, venue for private functions and educational visits cannot be over-estimated.

The Trust therefore, is making application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to other funding bodies and charitable trusts for grants. Beside this it is setting up the Friends of Lytham Hall, a support and local fund-raising body. If you are interested in helping to organise the group, or to fund-raise, please come along to a meeting at Lytham Assembly Rooms, Ribble Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 28th May 1996.

Marion Coupe

Such was the strength of feeling in the local community, that the room was full, and suddenly I was on a committee and the Friends of Lytham Hall was formed. A temporary office was set up to deal with enquiries and the many offers of help from the public.

We had stalls at Lytham Club Day, King Edwards Summer Fair and St Annes Carnival, selling FOLH Teddy bears, pens and lettered rock and tickets for a prize draw. The main prize in the draw was a painting of the Hall donated by local artist Tom Eccles. We held a Christmas Fair at the Assembly Rooms and a Grand Charity Auction of gifts and promises at the Bedford Hotel. Since those early days, the Friends membership has steadily increased and we have been able to support many projects both in the Hall and in the Parkland.

Friends of Lytham Hall Anniversary Lunch

The Friends of Lytham Hall Committee, would like to invite you to attend a lunch in the Upper West Wing at Lytham Hall on

Friday May 22nd 2026 at 12 pm,
to celebrate 30 years of the Friends of Lytham Hall.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our members & patrons and their contribution to the restoration of the Hall and its grounds over the last three decades. We are delighted that Hugh Clifton (Vice president) and his wife Debbi, along with David and Marion Coupe (President & Vice President respectively) are able to be our guests.

The cost is £30 per person for a three course meal to include a welcome drink on arrival and tea / coffee after the meal.

We have 60 tickets available and they will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

If you would like to attend we would ask that you RSVP by 30th March to [Alisonwood Folh@gmail.com](mailto:AlisonwoodFolh@gmail.com)



Easter Family Fun Day Sunday 5th Apri



We are now preparing for our annual Easter Family Fun Day, when we look forward to welcoming many families to Lytham Hall and its wonderful grounds, in the hope that they will return and support it in the future. The children follow a trail of tableaux through the woods, answering questions and collecting cardboard tokens. At the end of the trail, the Easter Bunny rewards them with an Easter treat.

They can then enjoy cake decorating, Easter crafts and games, a children's Tombola, Bouncy Castle, and the toy and book stalls.

To help us make this a successful event, we would be very grateful for donations of Easter Eggs, Tombola prizes [suitable for children], as well as toys and children's books, in good condition. We would also welcome any help on the day as this is a popular event. If you could spare a couple of hours, please contact susanhavenhand@gmail.com for more details.

Donations/gifts can be left in the office at the Hall or email meghargreaves@aol.com for collection.

Tickets for the event are available from <www.seaty.co.uk> at £5 per child Adults free.

Parking will be payable on site.

Cash-only for activities.



Lytham Hall Live Talks 2026

For anyone interested in learning more about the history of the Hall and the Clifton family, there is a programme of talks held in the Upper West Wing. These usually start at 2pm but check the Hall website event page to confirm.

No need to book, please pay cash on the door - £5 per person [includes tea, coffee and biscuits].

Thursday 30th April - 'The Crimea and the Cliftons' by Peter Skinner

Thursday 28th May - 'The Colonel and Lady Cecily - Reigning Over a Great Estate' by Thomas Hewitt

Thursday 25th June - 'Harry Clifton's Siblings' by Peter Watson

Thursday 30th July - 'No Mod Cons - A Hundred Years of Housework' by Jennifer Ray

*Thursday 29th Oct. - 'Street names of Lytham St. Annes and their Connection to the Cliftons'
by Denise Hadley and Sue Jones*

The 'Gardener's Cottage'



Following the success of the Gatehouse as a Holiday let, the cottage by the Kitchen Garden is now available to rent. The cottage [known as the Gardener's Cottage] is a small, two storey building which was referred to as ' Lytham Hall Offices' in the 1861 and 1911 censuses. However, it was lived in by William Shepherd and family in 1861, followed by John Sheppard with lodgers in 1871. In 1881, Alexander Sime, his family and a boarder lived there. Then, in 1901 the Land valuation shows John Float, his wife, four children, his mother and two boarders described as 'Journeymen Gardeners' all in residence. It is difficult to imagine so many people living in such a small space.

The cottage has been completely renovated to a high standard, making a comfortable, cosy place to stay for two people. This will provide an additional source of income for the Hall and preserve another of the outbuildings on the estate.

The restoration of the cottage was funded by Lytham Town Trust, the Friends of Lytham Hall and the Management team, and it is great to see a plaque acknowledging this by the door. Guests have the luxury of enjoying the parkland at their leisure when it is closed to the public.

The property is managed by Sykes Holiday Cottages.



Lytham Hall Open Air Theatre Season 2026



*This year's program of six productions opens with a locally produced Promenade production of William Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** The action will take place at six different locations in the parkland.*

*There will be six performances from **Tuesday 16th to Sunday 21st June** starting at 7pm.*

<i>Pickwick Papers</i>	<i>Rain or Shine Theatre</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>10th July</i>	<i>6pm</i>
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	<i>Dukes Theatre</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>17th July</i>	<i>6pm</i>
<i>The Three Musketeers</i>	<i>Illyria</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7th August</i>	<i>6pm</i>
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	<i>Illyria</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9th August</i>	<i>6pm</i>
<i>Pinocchio</i>	<i>Illyria</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>16th August</i>	<i>6pm</i>

All tickets are bookable online at www.seaty.co.uk



The Friends Bookshop
Don't forget to visit our second hand bookshop, opposite the tearoom in the West Wing. This is a major source of income for the Friends of Lytham Hall. It runs on an honesty box system and is organised by a very efficient team of volunteers.



All money raised goes directly to projects at the Hall.

HISTORY IN THE STREET NAMES OF LYTHAM ST ANNES



Molyneux Place

Molyneux is the surname of a large French family that settled in Lancashire in medieval times and eventually became the Earls of Sefton. Some family members assisted Duke William during the Battle of Hastings in 1066, and were given land in Lancashire as a reward for their services. The Name appears several times in the Clifton family tree.

In 1399, Thomas Clifton, the eldest son of Sir Robert de Clifton, married Agnes, daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton. By that time, the Molyneux family had become very important, powerful and influential in Lancashire.

About 1520, Elizabeth Clifton, daughter of Cuthbert Clifton and Alice Lawrence, married Sir William Molyneux at the age of 17. She had previously been married, at the age of 11, to Sir Richard Hesketh.

In 1606 Sir Cuthbert Clifton of Westby and Lytham negotiated the purchase of the entire manor and estate of Lytham from Sir Richard Molyneux for £4,300. He pulled down the old Priory and erected a new Jacobean style manor house.

The Thomas Clifton who erected the Georgian Lytham Hall in 1765, was the son of Thomas Clifton and Mary, daughter of Sir Richard, 5th Viscount Molyneux.

Friends of Lytham Hall Membership

£20 for a single member and £30 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 £60 per year.**

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.

Contacts

Alison Wood ... Chairperson: (07470002023) email: alisonwoodfolh@gmail.com

Kath Smith ..Secretary & Newsletter (01253) 737548 email: kathsmithfolh@hotmail.com

Terry Jones..... Treasurer: (01253) 794524

Marilyn Smith....Membership (01253) 734804 email: marilynsmith0406@gmail.com

Websites: Friends of Lytham Hall: www.friendsoflythamhall.org.uk

Lytham Hall: www.lythamhall.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflythamhall>

