



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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Notes from The Chairman



I am writing this with warm sun streaming through the windows and enough April showers to encourage my plants to grow! Long may it continue for our busy summer social scene, not only with the Heritage Group and our museums and exhibition spaces, but with all the entertainment coming our way this summer in Lytham St Annes. International sport with the Ricoh golf tournament and music in all its various forms, open air theatre together with the traditional Club Days and 40's weekend are yet to be enjoyed. We have already seen yet another successful St George's festival a portent of what is to come. None of these events would be possible without the army of willing volunteers and we in LHG are no

exception. We have welcomed several new stewards to the Old Lifeboat House Museum but are always on the lookout for more in all our venues. The social scene does take a bit of a rest after our AGM in June and will recommence with the annual lunch at the Glendower Hotel on September 10th. Details of this are to be found later in the newsletter.

The enclosed insert is a membership form to be completed with your cheque if you have not already renewed your membership and thank you for continuing to support the work of Lytham Heritage Group. Membership cards will be issued in the next Antiquarian. The letter concerns the new GDPR regulations which is for information only as I am sure you will still want to receive the Antiquarian. If you would prefer to receive an electronic version instead please let us know

Have a great summer and will catch up with you in September. *Sue Forshaw*

Contents

Page 1

Chairman's Notes

Rescued Lifeboat

Page 2/3

Rescued Lifeboat

Quiz

Page 4/5

Say Cheese

Page 5

Antiquarian Talks

Page 6

Lowther College

Page 7

Future Events

Page 8

Exhibitions

In Memoriam

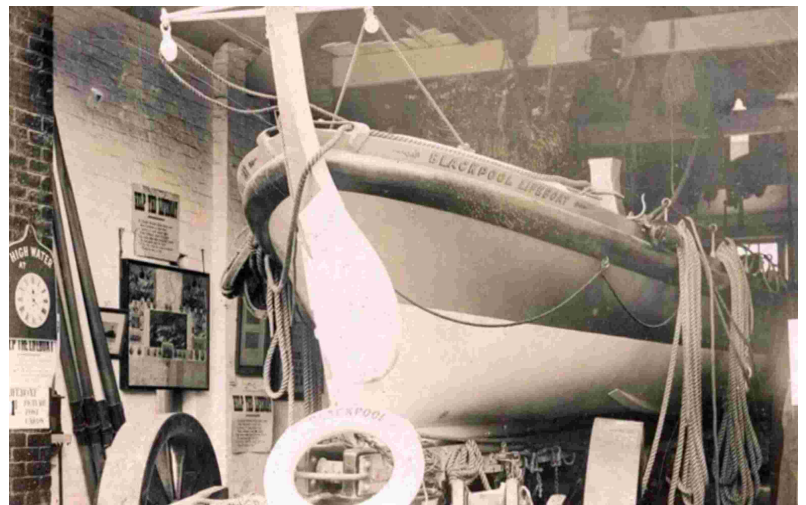
Contact

Historic Lifeboat rescued by LHG Members

Samuel Fletcher of Manchester Historic Lifeboat rescued by members of LHG

In April the team from our wonderful Lytham Lifeboat Museum took on an ambitious new project, after learning that the Blackpool historic lifeboat, the *Samuel Fletcher*, was no longer part of the plans for the Blackpool Museum project.

Built in 1896, the boat, RNLI official number ON393, is historically significant as the oldest remaining Watson type pulling and sailing lifeboat and the fourth oldest RNLI lifeboat known to be in existence.



JULY 2018



Historic Lifeboat rescued by LHG

After being decommissioned as a recreational craft on Stanley Park boating lake during the late 1990s, the boat had been placed in storage at the Park's boatshed. In 2009 the boatshed was required for alternative uses and Bruce Allen a local enthusiast took ownership of the boat and with the newly formed Friends of Samuel Fletcher, found a home for the boat at the Sea Scouts car park in Bispham.

After 3 years of trying to raise funds, it was realised that a restoration was not going to proceed and with the foresight of Bruce and Blackpool Council, the boat was transferred to more secure storage at Blackpool's Illuminationis department and placed under a tarpaulin.

The 122 year old wooden rowing boat was stored in the yard for a further 6 years until a strip down of the boat and a full assessment started in April 2018. The plan is for a full restoration in the next 2 to 5 years.

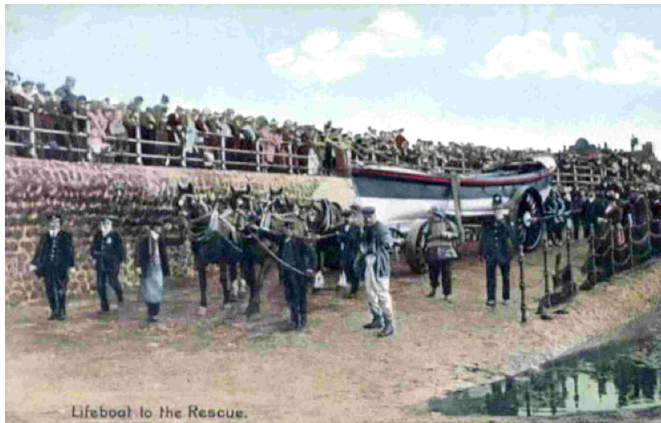
The boat requires significant work to get it to the standard of *Chapman*, the 1900 Liverpool Class sailing and pulling lifeboat, situated in the Old Lifeboat House at Lytham, for which the team are custodians on behalf of owner John Parr.

So far, a wheeled steel cradle has been built and the boat has been placed on it. Paint stripping has started, and the old Lister engine has been removed to reduce the weight on the wooden hull. Some of the woodwork is in urgent need of replacement, including some significant structural sections. It is not known if the boat will sail again but, at the very least it is intended the boat will become a display vessel.



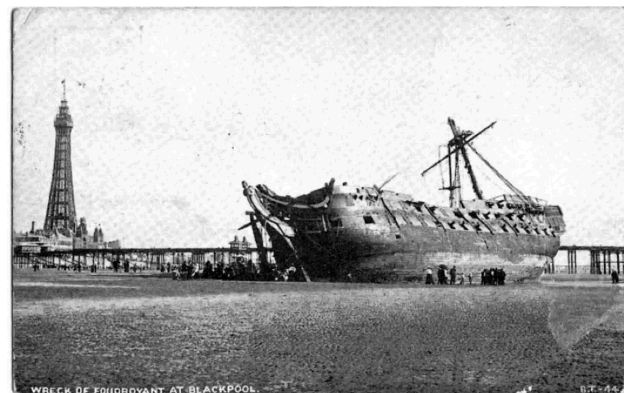
History

In December 1896 a new Watson Class 36ft 2in, twelve-oared pulling and sailing lifeboat, named *Samuel Fletcher of Manchester ON393*, built at a cost of £591, was placed on service at Blackpool.

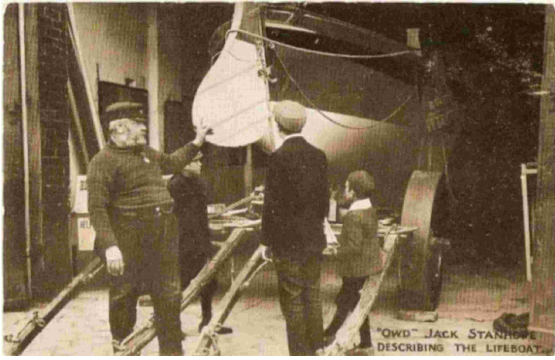


This was the second boat at Blackpool of the same name. The original *Samuel Fletcher of Manchester*, was a pulling and sailing self-righter, supplied in 1885. She weighed in at three tons and was too heavy. It was requested that the builders supply a light pulling boat more suitable for shore launching. Hence the second lighter boat was specifically designed for the Blackpool crew by G.L. Watson and built by Forrester of Limehouse in 1896, to a format resulting from a review of lifeboat design after the Ribble Estuary's Great Lifeboat Disaster in 1886.

From December 1896 to October 1930 she launched on service 12 times and saved 28 lives. Her most celebrated rescue was to the crew of the *Foudroyant*, Lord Nelson's former flagship, which had been touring the UK to raise funds for its restoration in 1897. On 16 June 1897 the *Foudroyant* broke her anchors during a hurricane-force storm, when 2 miles off the coast of Blackpool. The *Samuel Fletcher* was called upon to dramatically rescue all the vessel's 28 crew.



Historic Lifeboat rescued by LHG



Services

- 16 June 1897 - Lord Nelson's Former Flagship *Foudroyant*. Saved 28.
- 21 February 1907 - Schooner *Rebecca* and *Mary of Beaumaris*. No service.
- 18 February 1910 - Schooner *Prosperity of Caernarvon*. Assisted to save vessel.
- 5 November 1911 - Steamship *Rosalean of Cardiff*. No service.
- 15, 16 November 1911 - Lighter *Douglass of Preston*. Searched.
- 11 January 1914 - Motor Boat of Blackpool. Searched.
- 31 December 1919 - Steamship *Olaf Brodin of Toro Norway*. Stood by.
- 29 January 1923 - Steamship *Ophir of Liverpool*. Landed 9.
- 10 January 1924 - Steamship *Nord of Helsingborg*. Landed 1, then stood by.
- 26 August 1926 - Steamship *Margaret of Preston*. Landed 6.



The *Samuel Fletcher* was withdrawn from service in 1930 after being credited with saving twenty-eight lives.

After she was retired the boat was sold to Blackpool Council for £70. She was refitted with an engine and served as a pleasure boat on Blackpool's Stanley Park Boating Lake for many years.

Steve Williams commented "When the boat is finally restored it is hoped that she can be displayed and showed within Blackpool and the Fylde. She is an important part of the local heritage and it would be great to think we can open another lifeboat museum within Blackpool with the boat as the centre of display. Ideally, we would also like to recreate the boat's original wheeled carriage, allowing us to display the boat during the Illuminations and at local shows."



If you would like to help or get involved please contact Steve at steve.williams@lythamwindmill.co.uk

For more information check out the Facebook Page Samuel Fletcher Historic Lifeboat or the website <http://samuelfletcherlifeboat.co.uk>

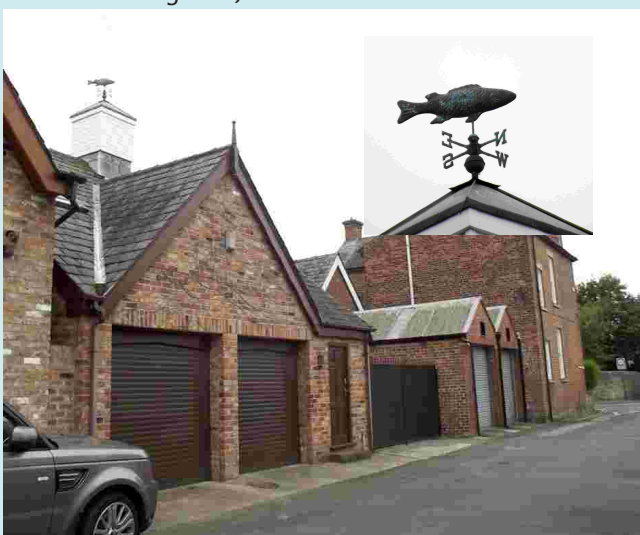
Steve Williams - June 2018

CREATURES ARE WATCHING YOU - BUT WHAT AND WHERE?

David Forshaw

Quiz answer 15

The fairly new fishy, back street one is resident on it's own tower in South Warton Street (just past St John's Street heading east)



Quiz question 16



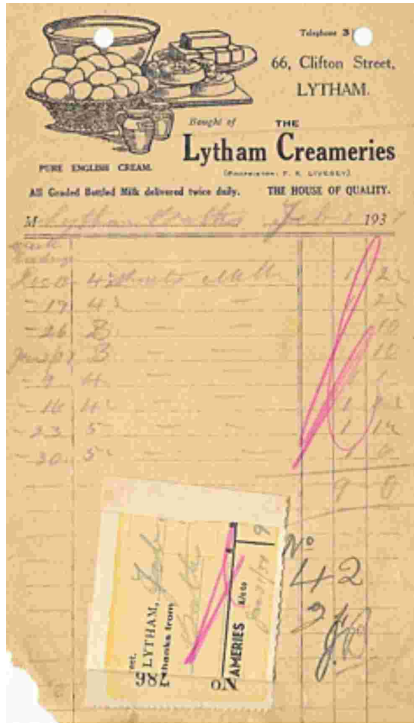
Moving out of the centre to the part of Lytham suburbs known as Ansdell we find this cherub watching you. This is one to get your teeth into.

"Say Cheese"

One of Lytham's oldest shops "Tom Towers Tasty Cheese Shop" is changing hands This is the story about how it all began

Born in Rochdale 1936. Eldest son of Norman and Joan Towers. When I was 3 years old my father joined the British army in the Royal Engineers. He took part in many campaigns including El Alamein, Battle of Tobruk, battle for Monte Casino, Tunisia and Dunkirk. He returned at the end of the war and took up his previous position as manager of James Duckworth's grocers and provision merchants where he had worked before the war. During this time my younger brother Ian was born.

Having finished my education at Rochdale Secondary School, I commenced work with my Father at James Duckworth's. During the next 12 months or so my brother's health deteriorated and my parents were advised to move away from the bad winters and smog of inland Lancashire by the Doctor. My Father was lucky enough to see a job advertised in the local paper, for a job in Lytham. The position was as the manager of a grocers and creamery shop owned by a Mr and Mrs Livesey. My Father was offered the job by the new owners "Preston Dairies Ltd" The business was known as "Lytham Creamery", Clifton Street, Lytham (which is part of the present day Boots the Chemist).

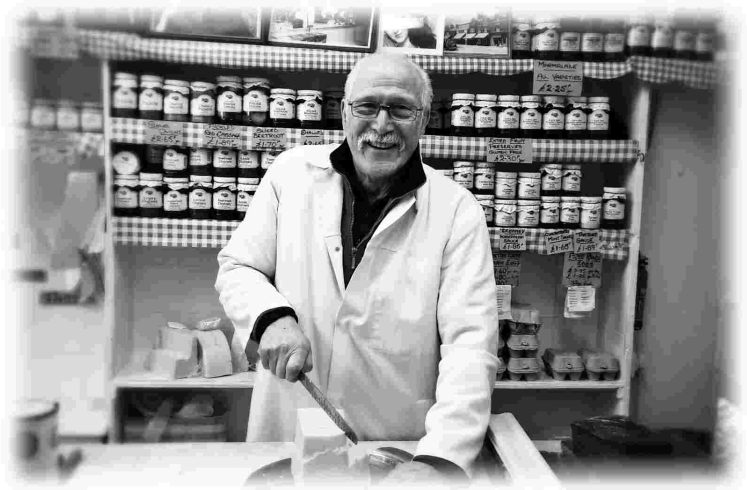


My Father and I worked to get the shop set up and running and stayed with a lady called Mrs Gillet on Warton Street, Lytham. We were travelling back and forth to see my Mother and Brother on Sundays and they moved across about 6 months later, once the flat was ready for them.

Whilst my Father and I were working at "Preston Dairies" the owners ran a competition which was open to all the dairies in Lancashire. This competition was held to see who could sell the most cream in a weekend and luckily it fell on the

Club Day weekend so my Dad won with ease, which saw us winning a holiday to the Isle of Wight.

We had been in Lytham for about 2 years when I was called up to do my National Service. I went into the Army Catering Corps and enjoyed my 2 years learning as much as I could about cooking and baking.



Mr Thomas Towers

Whilst I was away in the Army, Mr and Mrs Sid Maddison who ran their Pork Butcher and Pork Pie Shop next door to the creamery called my Dad in to have a word with him. Mr Maddison had been ill with a bad heart attack and could not carry on running business any longer. To my Father's shock he asked if he would like to buy the shop off him!

After about 3 days and a phone call to myself asking if I could do the baking, my Father decided to go for it. I finished in the Army a few months later and joined him in the Pork Butcher's Shop to start something new. It was very hard work as I had to start at 2:30am in the bake house doing the pies for the day and then the sausages.

After that I would have to prepare the meat for use in the following day's produce. The cooked meats also had to be cut, strung and placed in the



coke ovens as in those days we did not have electric ovens fitted. My Mother and Father spent 6 days a week from 8am to 6pm serving the customers in the shop and Sunday was spent scrubbing and mopping meaning not a lot of time for fun! My Father could not help himself but spend his time and effort building the shop trade up and up, until we were busy all day everyday - but there were good times too!

Whilst I was working in the bake house making the pies Arthur Dagger the window cleaner, the coalman, the dustbin man, Tommy Towler the local removal man and many more would knock on the window and come in the back to pick up hot pork pies. My Father said that I sold more at the back door than he did in the shop. Old Mr Sandham who supplied us with cheese

"Say Cheese"

also used the back door to deliver our 40lb Tasty Lancashire Cheeses and managed to carry two at a time up to the shop. Quite often we used to forget to keep the door up to the flat shut and our old Corgi dog used to run after old Mr Sandham, grabbing on to the back of his trouser leg and being dragged up the yard with Mr Sandham shouting "Get this dog off me!" or words to that effect!



In or around 1968 the owners of the property decided to sell the whole building, as my Father could not afford to buy it we had to look for an alternative business premises which were not readily available in Lytham in those days. However, he managed to enter into negotiations with Mr Winkley who was retiring from his window, blind and curtain business at 85a Clifton Street, Lytham. On finalising the negotiations to acquire the premises, my Father closed the shop at number 68 Clifton Street on the Wednesday lunch time as this was half-day closing. With the help of two employees of Towlers removals he opened his new business on Thursday morning at the new premises, 85a Clifton Street, Lytham and the "Tasty Cheese Shop" was born.

Before Mr Winkley had the shop, it had been a lady's corset shop and before that it was joined with the shop next door as



a cottage-type house with a little garden and white picket fence. Mr and Mrs Wildman and Mrs Wildman's sister owned the house. They also owned a

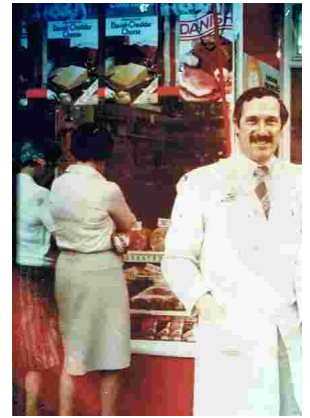
small printing works at the back of Clifton Street.

My Father and I ran the shop together for 40 years. When my Father passed on in July 1994, my wife came in to help me with the shop and we carried on until April 2017. A gentleman called Richard Fradley had asked me several times if I would like to sell the shop to him. I thought about it for a while and decided at the age of 81 years old it was perhaps time to retire. I told him and he was delighted with the news and took over on the

7th April 2017. Richard's brother Patrick Fradley now manages the shop and is doing a fine job of running it as well as getting on well with all existing and new customers - this makes me very happy!

I would like to thank Tom and his family for this lovely story and wish him well when he does eventually retire.

David Hoyle



Antiquarian Talks

Talk by Bernard Worsfold
Monday 12th March.

This was Bernard's second talk for Lytham Heritage Group. He has a vast collection of first day covers many of which are unique but he is still missing some. It was hard to believe viewing



the extensive selection he brought us to see that this was the case. He had targeted his talk on ones produced over many years especially to raise funds for the Hendon Museum and passed them round so we could see the signatures of famous and influential people from the RAF as well as the images of the planes etc. They gave a fascinating insight into the history of the service and as they are celebrating 100 years since their formation it is an especially fitting one for Bernard to review this for us. His fee was being donated to RAFA with Richard Peck House in St Annes being our local centre.

Illustrated talk by Paul Little
Monday April 9th

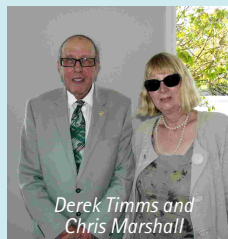
To an audience of 28 people Paul spoke about the role of our local Coastguards as well as the service as a whole. Like the RNLI it is mainly relying on the work of local volunteers with a coordinating role which he fulfils. Another similarity with the Lifeboat volunteers is the amount of training that is required to reach the exacting standards of the service. I must admit his tales of the volunteers walking in the mud or at least trying to, gave rise to much amusement. He detailed for us the way the service operates and why Liverpool Coastguard Station shut as an operations room - blame modern technology! It was an entertaining afternoon with his fee going to the Coastguard Benevolent Fund.



Paul Little and John Tranter

Talk by Derek Timms
Monday May 14th

Again a healthy audience of 29 people came to hear Derek talk about the role of Library's in the community and his career. He was definitely a man who liked books and was somewhat saddened by the rise of Google. However despite his misgivings he did acknowledge that libraries need to offer more than book lending which is on the decline, and offer access to computers for those who do not have access in any other way. Derek reiterated his support for our local libraries and especially the future of Lytham which at the time of writing this article awaits a decision as to its location. Sue Forshaw



Derek Timms and Chris Marshall

Lowther College

The School can trace its origins back to the year 1896, when 26 years old Miss Florence Morris borrowed a small sum of money from her father and bought Melchett House, a small and rapidly diminishing school for young ladies in Lytham St. Annes run by the Misses Hackett. Miss Morris had the ambition of starting a school for girls, which would provide education on a par with that offered by the best boys' public schools. This idea seems to have been conceived during a time when Miss Morris was engaged as a governess at a private school in the south of England, having previously spent some time as a private governess to Miss Mary Rudkin, who was later to play her own part in the establishment of Lowther College. Miss Morris was horrified at the conditions she found in the private school, for both pupils and staff. She felt that food and health care in particular could be improved.

So in 1896 Miss Morris had the opportunity to put her ideas into practice. She renamed Melchett House as "Lytham and Fairhaven College" and set about establishing the reputation of the school as one where the care and well being of the pupils would be beyond reproach. At the time, the school was in a run-down condition, with only one boarder, forty day pupils and two students "who paid only extras". The pupils were both boys and girls, and were from kindergarten age upwards. Five governesses were engaged to instruct the children. Such was Miss Morris' enthusiasm that in the second term five new boarders arrived, including Mary Rudkin, Miss Morris' old pupil. Gradually the boarding side increased and the day pupils became a minority.

Shortly after the founding of the school, Miss Morris changed its name to Lowther College, as she felt that Lytham and Fairhaven College was too cumbersome. The name Lowther was appropriate as the school was situated opposite Lowther Gardens.

In 1898 Miss Morris married Dr Lindley, organist at Fairhaven Church, between Lytham Town and St. Annes.

He was to play a major part in the development of the musical and cultural life of the school, and some of his music pupils went on to become well known eg, William Lycett and Muriel Liddle.

The school continued to expand rapidly, and during the early years of the century several new buildings were acquired. The school was originally housed in a building known as "The College" in Lowther Terrace, but had spread into three neighbouring houses. "The Hostel" was a building next to the College, joined to it by an open pathway. This building was extended in 1911. In 1914 a building called "Westwood" was acquired, and in 1918 the "Home of Rest" was bought and renamed "Lonsdale". "The Hostel", which had been called the Staff House, was renamed "Lowood". By this time, the school had 150 boarders.

The walks along the Promenade after Church on Sundays were feats of organisation and planning by Mrs Lindley. All the girls had to wear their Sunday outfits of cream suits, with everything to match. They then proceeded to the College Gardens where they were paired off exactly to height and to the length of their skirts. The crocodile would then set off, with the tallest girls leading the way. There was to be a gap of exactly one yard between each pair, and Mrs Lindley inspected the crocodile as it passed to ensure that this requirement was observed - a light tap with the cane serving to bring the wayward back into position. This became one of the shows of Lytham.

The Senior girls also had a Christmas Ball, to which boys from Arnold House in Blackpool were invited. Needless to say, very careful instructions were issued to the girls by Mrs Lindley about correct ballroom behaviour, and all girls were inspected to ensure

that they were perfectly groomed. Her final comment was that she hoped that "there would not be any little sentimental attachments afterwards".

World War One had a considerable effect on the school. The School joined in the patriotic gestures typical of the period, and adopted a destroyer, knitted scarves etc and sent parcels to the troops.

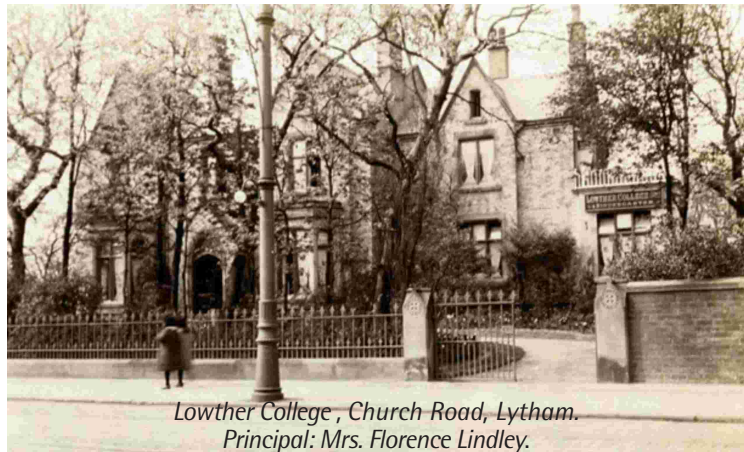
But the war had other effects, perhaps more important to the girls. School food declined somewhat in quantity. Breakfast became simply porridge and bread, and tea consisted of bread, margarine and a saucerful of jam between eight girls. Saturday dessert was a treat - one square inch of cheese - and on Sundays a sweet ration was handed out of a small 2oz bag mixed sweets.

Dr and Mrs Lindley heard that Bodelwyddan Hall, Abergele, was available for leasing. Although at first sight a most unsuitable building, Mrs Lindley took over the lease, and announced to a surprised school that

the Autumn Term 1920 would be situated in North Wales. When Dr and Mrs Lindley took over the lease of Bodelwyddan Hall in 1920, the chances of successfully converting it into a girl's school seemed remote. The Hall had been originally a Tudor farmhouse, but Mrs Lindley quickly rechristened it Bodelwyddan Castle.

Lowther College remained at Bodelwyddan until 1982. The reason for its closure was a deficit of £167,000 which had accumulated in only three years, and a forecast that there were likely to be too few pupils in the future to enable the school to remain a viable proposition. The Allied Schools Council was no longer willing to allow the other schools in the group to underwrite the losses of Lowther College, so the decision went ahead to close it in 1982.

Audrey Kirby



*Lowther College, Church Road, Lytham.
Principal: Mrs. Florence Lindley.*



Future Events

In September we are holding our annual lunch at the Glendower Hotel and details can be found below.

October 8th in the Assembly Rooms there will be a talk by Gerry Wolstenholme entitled "Whitehall Reminiscences"

November 12th in the Assembly Rooms there will be an illustrated talk by Barbara Weston and friends entitled "Local Art Heritage"

Annual Lunch

This is to be held at Best Western Glendower Hotel, St Annes
On Monday 10th September 2018
At 12.30pm for 1 o'clock

Please complete the form below for your choices which must be returned to the Heritage Centre for the attention of Sue Forshaw by:

Friday 24th August at the latest please.

Cost will be £23.00 (including tip) for members and £25.00 for guests

Please make cheques payable to "Lytham Heritage Group"



Menu for lunch at the Glendower Hotel on Monday 10th September 2018

Starter

Leek and Potato Soup, Leek Crisp, Truffle Cream

Watermelon, Cumbrian Air Dried Ham, Lancashire Cheese, Raspberries
Chicken Liver Parfait, Bramley Apple Jelly, Apple Puree, Flatbread Crisp

Main

Breast of Chicken, stuffed with Bacon Et Savoy Cabbage, Fondant Potato finished with a Shallot Jus

Butter Bean Et Smoked Paprika Loaded Roast Peppers with Melting Cheese on Honey Et Coriander Scented Couscous (v)

Pan Fried Sea Bass, Chargrilled Fennel, Roasted Vine Tomatoes, SautÉed Potatoes, Balsamic Reduction

Dessert

Glazed Lemon Tart, Raspberry Sorbet, Raspberry Coulis

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake, Strawberries and Cream Ice Cream, Macerated Strawberries

Trio of Ice-cream

Tea and Coffee

Name(s) _____

No in party _____ Members _____ Non members _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone number _____ E mail if available _____

Names of up to 3 people you would like to sit with _____

Choices:

Starter _____

Main _____

Dessert _____

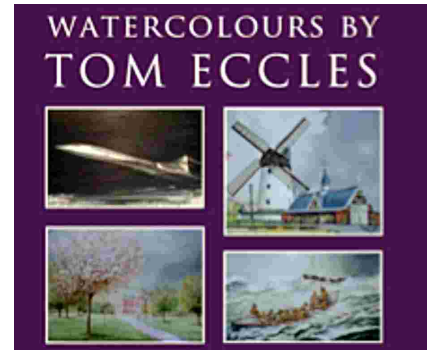
I enclose a cheque for £ _____

Centre Exhibitions 2018

"Local Scenes" Paintings by Tom Eccles

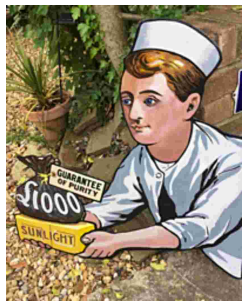
12 June - 1 July

We were extremely proud to hold possibly the last exhibition where Tom Eccles' art could be bought. It was a wonderful spread of Tom's local scenes with some aeroplanes thrown in ! As expected Tom's work was very well received.



"Vintage Advertisements" 3 - 22 July

This is a new exhibitor, with a difference - the exhibits are all vintage pieces of art from a local collection, made for publicity purposes during bygone eras.



"Two Different Styles" Paintings by Fiona Feng & Brian Halligan 24 July - 12 August

Again two new exhibitors to the Centre; Brian met Fiona when he was running an art workshop for a local art society. Whilst Fiona now works in London their mutual appreciation for landscapes and portraits has led to this exhibition.



Hilary Fletcher, Centre Exhibitions Coordinator

IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to have to report the deaths of
Mrs Patricia 'Pat' Anne Mallea
and Mr Peter Holland

Contact Details:

We welcome all queries and suggestions. Please send emails to

thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk

or leave a note addressed to The Editor, at the Heritage Centre.