



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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Notes from The Chairman

Welcome to our autumn edition of the Antiquarian. The last edition was issued at the start of what proved to be a scorcher of a summer. The very hot weather did not suit all especially the gardeners. I am sure you will have noticed outside the centre we now have a large planter. The planter itself was made by Trevor Mackay from Lytham in Bloom and the cast iron Lancashire roses, made to match those on the railings, have been kindly made and donated by Lytham Forge. Some of the planting is seasonal and some for year round interest so we look forward to future displays. However the bonus from the glorious weather is that it brought lots of visitors to the town and of course to our two Museums and Heritage Centre. The 40's weekend in August proved to be a hit with record breaking attendances on the Saturday. Steve Williams and his team incorporated

the Windmill and Old Lifeboat House in the festivities with activities such as a cinema projection on the Windmill on the Saturday evening.

As I am writing this it all seems a distant memory with steady rain and a distinctly chilly feel to the temperature. It will be time to think of things to do indoors with the social programme at the planning stage for 2019 and visiting the new exhibitions at the Centre. Details of these will be in the January issue of the Antiquarian. There are still a couple of talks in October and November to come and details of those are to be found later on as are the future exhibitions. There will be the Christmas lunch at Lytham Hall again this year on December 7th at 12 for 12.30pm where pre booking is essential. Hope to see you there! *Sue Forshaw*

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An old postcard of Lytham Square (Clifton Square) c1903 with shop verandas and tram tracks. The poles are going up in readiness for the electrification of the tramway system which dates the scene. Verandas and canopies are a subject very much in the thoughts of many people over 100 years later.

As this is the last Antiquarian before January 2019, may the Committee and I wish you all

*Merry Christmas and all the best
for the New Year to you all*

Sue Forshaw



OCTOBER 2018



Chairman's comments - How our town should look!

As we are all aware there has been a flurry of activity in Lytham recently and it has nothing directly to do with our many visitors coming to the 40is weekend! There has been a proliferation of verandas, awnings, rooms, enclosed courtyards around the many eateries most notably in the Dicconson Terrace, Clifton Square and Henry Street area of the town. Many of these structures appear to have no final planning permission so apply and then go to appeal when turned down by Fylde Council to a third party, the Planning Inspectorate, based in London! In order to stem the flow Fylde produced a Document "Design Notes Canopies and Glazed Extensions on Commercial Forecourts". This was an excellent, succinct document setting out their proposals to stem the flow of development out of keeping with the town and instead, and I quote, "reflecting the harmony of the area". We and others were asked to comment although it was a publicly available document. After a long discussion in our Committee meeting I put together a response to it. If anyone would like a copy of our letter sent on your behalf please leave a message for my attention on the centre e mail - thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk with your e mail address and I will send you a copy.

One of the issues the Design Notes document raised was that of public access across the forecourt. The exact wording was "free circulation of pedestrians within and between forecourts". To give you an example at the time of writing to Fylde, Deacons had enclosed their seating area on Clifton Street only allowing access into the restaurant and of course the seating area but not through it. Several days later on our weekly visit to town there was the "parting of the ways" in said area and we made a special point of walking through, skirting the chairs and tables admittedly. They now have a clear access route with exits next to Pizza Express. I would like to think they somehow found out what I had said and acted upon it but probably just coincidence.

We have also responded to the Planning Inspectorate with regard to an appeal from SPARGO re their enclosed space hiding the façade of a Georgian Grade II listed building and I have put a couple of before and after photos with this article.

Let me finish on a positive note. We are very lucky in Lytham to still have our department store which appears to be doing well with the building work currently underway. In addition we have lots of local businesses offering a wide range of items making our town centre a thriving one. The cafés and restaurants



7 Dicconson Terrace (SPARGO) before and now (photos David Forshaw)



A traditional looking veranda in Clifton Street at Chell's Café next to the Institute (photo David Forshaw)

add the ambience so vital to one of the best small towns in the country according to Bill Bryson. We have also attracted recently national brands like Gusto and Fat Face and of course our latest Sea Salt. It is this I would like to highlight as the way to approach the setting up of a new business venture by finding out about the town you are moving into. They have



Autumn approaches as the falling leaves litter the new Sea Salt mosaic at the entrance to the new store in the former kitchen shop in Market Square.

produced an attractive pebble mosaic in the entrance to the shop which enhances the area. Our pebble pavement heritage has had a 21st century make over and it is a credit to whoever came up with the idea. I had better say that I do not endorse Sea Salt the shop, or any others I have named, as other retailers and restaurants are available! Sue Forshaw

Lytham Priory, Our Forgotten Hall

Exhibition at Lytham Hall In the Long Gallery From
14 July to 7 October 2018

In support of Lytham Hall, Lytham Heritage Group and the Lytham Hall volunteers have jointly prepared a comprehensive, exhibition on the mostly forgotten Lytham Priory established in 1190.

The exhibition covers over 500 Years of "sleepy" Lytham's medieval history including black death, miracles, minstrels, riots,



adultery, deception and dragons. This is an update of the exhibition from LHG in 2011.

Lytham was not always such a genteel place. Indeed, in medieval times it was sometimes lawless, not leafy Lytham. In 1190, when the local Thane, Richard Fitzroger donated his manor to the monks of St Cuthbert at Durham, they established a small priory here.

The priory remained on the site of what is now Lytham Hall until Henry VIII dissolved monastic establishments in the 1530s. The monks supported themselves by farming, sending surplus funds to Durham. They



provided services at St Cuthbert's Church, gave to the poor at Easter and treated passing minstrels charitably. The priory's presence, however, was not always respected by often cantankerous neighbours, who expressed their hostility in acts of violence. These included an assault on the Prior at Lytham Mill and threats to 'dowke' him in the sea, the theft of cattle by 200 armed raiders led by Sir William Clifton of Westby,



and a mass riot by Layton tenants that left its name at Mad Nook.

There is a collection of vestment garments kindly on loan from St Cuthbert's Church. There is also a video of the movements of "Wandering's of St Cuthbert".

The exhibition is perfectly placed in the atmospheric long gallery above the original Jacobean Hall and possibly the rebuilt monastery from the 1480s.

The exhibition also has artefacts from the 2015 Archaeological survey by Salford University including the almost complete Cistercian Ware Mug found in the Jacobean Courtyard at the Hall, believed to be from the late 1500's.



Steve Williams

Quiz

CREATURES ARE WATCHING YOU – BUT WHAT AND WHERE?



Quiz answer 16

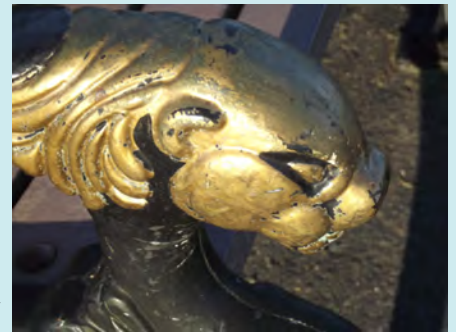
The cherub looks down from over the entrance to Windsor House, the Woodlands Dental Practice on the corner of Woodlands Road and Windsor Road (well I said it was a question to get your teeth into so you can't complain about the clue). This former Midland Bank was not re-branded HSBC before it closed.

Quiz question 17

This must be an easy one – where is there a whole pride of lions?



David Forshaw



Past and Future Events

PAST EVENTS - SUMMER LUNCH at the Glendower Hotel 10th September 2018

We were a very select band for this event which was unusual. The meal and the service were as good as before and they were not worried by the lack of numbers. We still had the reception room to sit in before the meal which is a nice addition. Normally we have around 30 members and guests and this time that number was halved. There were lots of reasons for this lack of numbers and several people had spoken to me and gave their apologies ranging from holidays, clash with other commitments to forgetting to fill in the form! I hope that does not happen for our Christmas lunch. (see details later)

Sue Forshaw

FUTURE EVENTS

AUTUMN TALKS

All talks are held at the Lytham Assembly Rooms at 2.30pm with tea or coffee to follow.

Monday 8th October.

The speaker will be **Gerry Wolstenholme** who has been a popular speaker before for the Heritage Group. He is a retired Civil Servant which perhaps conjures up an office bound job where nothing exciting happens – don't you believe it. Certainly not the way Gerry tells his stories as he appears to have led a very exciting life in a job from working with government ministers to telling someone they have won a million on the Premium Bonds. His talk is entitled "Whitehall Reminiscences" and should prove to be a very entertaining afternoon for all.

Monday 12th November

The main speaker will be Barbara Weston together with Jaqueline Love and Veronica McDonnell. The title of the talk is "Local Art Heritage" and will be on the work that has been done to catalogue and preserve the extensive collection that Fylde Borough Council has. They have held exhibitions of some works, mainly in the Booths Fylde Gallery but these have only been the tip of the iceberg! Do come along and find out much more.

Sue Forshaw



Centre Exhibitions Autumn 2018



"Coast" by local photographer Peter Laurence 14 August - 2 September
Peter's shots of local and distant landscapes always please. This was a very successful exhibition, and over the 40's weekend we had a possible record number of visitors over the weekend, 264 people each day.



"Illusions" by Mill Barn Artists, 4 - 23 September

This is a group of about 12 artists who provide a super mix of different media, of good quality, from ironwork insects to ceramics and jewellery.



"Autumn Exhibition" paintings by Lytham St Annes Art Society

25 September - 14 October

Our local art society joins us again with their prolific output of wonderful variety and colour.



"Lancashire at War 1914-1918" by Lytham Heritage Group,

16 October - 9 December

Once again we honour the centenary of the First World War and its impact on local people, with an emphasis on Victory and the Armistice. The exhibition includes some new material and deserves to be revisited.

Hilary Fletcher, Centre Exhibitions Coordinator



Jack, Henry & Joseph Wakefield and the Lytham Cenotaph

Joseph and Harriet Wakefield came to live in Albert Street, Lytham before the First World War started. Mrs Wakefield was a staunch Methodist at Albert Street Chapel whilst her husband was a Roman Catholic who attended St Peter's. They had seven children: Joseph, Henry, Jack, Beatrice, Gladys, Harold and Lilly. Three of their sons, Joseph, Jack and Henry all died in the war as follows:

Joseph (1891 - 1918) was an Engineering Apprentice who joined the Yorkshire Regiment. The Service War Records site states that Joseph died of his wounds at home, no doubt nursed by his mother. He died aged 28 and is buried in St John the Divine churchyard.

Jack (John William) (1892 - 1915) was a weaver who joined the Border Regiment. He died in 1915 and is buried in Gallipoli.

Henry (James Henry) (1894 - 1916) was a cotton mill piecer. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers and died aged 22. Henry is named on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

It is thought that Mrs Wakefield's husband also died sometime between 1916 and 1918. She moved from Albert Street to 5 Victoria Street, living with her daughter Gladys, now Waters, her son-in-law Harold, and her grandchildren Fay and Dereck. Her sister Lilly lived two doors away. She coped with the loss of three sons and her husband in such a short period by having a very strong faith and being a staunch member of the Methodist Church. She also found great joy and comfort in having her family around her.

Mrs Wakefield was asked to unveil the Lytham Cenotaph in 1921, in honour of her losses. She died in 1950 aged 84 and was buried in Lytham, St John's Churchyard in Joseph's War Grave along with the medals of all three sons who had died.

The Temporary Cenotaph was the first public monument that was erected in the Fylde to those who lost their lives in the First World War. The Cenotaph was built of wood and painted to resemble stone while the simple inscription was carved as though in stone - "The Glorious Dead". This monument was pulled down and replaced with the stone one we see today in 1922.

David Hoyle, Archivist



Mrs Wakefield unveils the Cenotaph

Additions to the Heritage Group Archives

We have recently been donated a number of items

- 2 drawings of Kingsway Garage in Ansdell built for Williams Car sales in 1909
- 3 films found in a charity shop when a chap bought an old cine camera and some 8mm films which contain the opening of Witchwood by Prince Phillip. These are being converted to DVD as we speak.
- We have had many visitors and 2 Authors doing some local history books one about Fairhaven and one about the History of the Shipyard.

If you have a few hours to spare on a Wednesday afternoon (2pm - 4pm) why not pop along to the Archive Room in the Institute (Library) building and browse the archives. There are masses of fascinating items which you are bound to find many things of interest.

Dave Hoyle, Archivist

Christmas Lunch at Lytham Hall

This is to be held in the West Wing (upper room) on
Friday 7th December 2018 at 12 for 12.30pm
The room will be reserved for the Lytham Heritage Group meal.

The price has increased slightly from last year but still affords value for money. The menu has remained the same by and large but we will still have sole use of the room with bar and coffee stations for the purchase of drinks. There will be a grand raffle so any donations will be gratefully received on the day or dropped in at the centre for my attention. We look forward to seeing you there full of the Christmas spirit - well hopefully not literally.

Please complete the form below for your choices and return it to the Heritage Centre for the attention of Sue Forshaw by
Friday 23rd November at the latest please.

The cost for this three course meal will be £15-50p for members (including staff tip) and £16-50p for guests
Please make cheques payable to "Lytham Heritage Group"



To Start

*Tomato and basil Soup, roll and butter (v)
or
Duck and Orange Pate with toast*

Main Course

*Traditional Roast Turkey and all the trimmings
or
Roasted Red Onion and Gruyere Tart*

Dessert

*Lattice Apple and Mincemeat Pie
served with brandy sauce
or
Ice cream*

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 £ _____ made out to Lytham Heritage Group



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.