



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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Notes from The Chairman

Welcome to our Spring edition although the weather and its aftermath has not made it a happy or prosperous start to the year for many. We are reasonably lucky in the Fylde although some farmers have been hit by flooded fields. The upshot of the warmer wetter winter has been the earlier than usual explosion of colour in our gardens and public spaces heralding Spring. No more so than Lytham Hall and the snowdrops which hopefully you have been able to see. It is a big year for the Hall with the Proms in August, another episode of the Antiques Road Show to air and Peter Anthony talking to us in the Assembly Rooms later in the year. I have arranged a visit to the Hall instead of our usual lunch in September. It is a bit early to finalise arrangements so the details will be in the next edition. However you can put the date in your diary and it is Monday 14th September.

As always we have a quiet time over the winter period with the Heritage Centre's first exhibition opening in February. The social talks started on the 9th March with Colin Ballard talking about 'the Town Crier and the Manor of Lytham'. The Windmill and Old Lifeboat Museums will be up and running for Easter. Details of the Exhibitions and all talks are to be found in your blue leaflet delivered in the last Antiquarian or on the website and other media platforms. These are the first port of call for information on the museums. May I apologise for the slight error re the AGM in the blue leaflet as a few of you had pointed out the 8th June is not a Thursday. The date is correct and it is a Monday at 7.30pm and any reprints of the leaflet have been altered.

It is that time of year when we are putting together our rotas for all our venues including the Archive which is open on Wednesday afternoon for most of the year. If anyone can spare some time please contact us via: thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk.

May I wish you all a Happy Easter and hope to see you sometime this year.

Sue Forshaw

STOP PRESS

At the time of going to press the government guidelines for our safety from corona virus mean that all our venues are closed until further notice. Some of the Talks and Exhibitions etc have been cancelled or postponed. All I can do is advise you to check out our website, social media platforms and local press for updates. We will endeavour to have hard copy notices at our venues. Keep safe!

Sue Forshaw

Contents

Page 1

Notes from the
Chairman

STOP PRESS

Can you help
please?

Page 2

When did you last
use a phone box?

Bannister Street
Police Station

Members

Page 3

Exhibitions

AGM

Page 4

Future events

Page 5

Heritage Centre
Updates

Your help please

Page 6

Further help please

Page 7

Windmill &
Lifeboat Museum

Page 8

Contact

Can You Help Please?



Information / photos on Clifton Street Shops

Clifton Street lined with shops and the tram track heading towards the hospital, pictured in the early years of the 20th Century. Dave Hoyle and the Archive Team are planning an exhibition later in the year on the ever changing face of the shops and would like your help. If you have any photos of shop fronts, even with Aunty Bessie standing in front of them, or information on their various uses over the years, they would be delighted to hear from you please. (see later for more details)

APRIL 2020



When did you last use a phone box?

In Lytham, we now have only our trio of red K6 'Jubilee' telephone kiosks representing the traditional types. The K6 was designed by Sir Giles Scott in 1936 to mark the Jubilee of King George V. and it was similar in appearance to his Kiosk No2 prize winner introduced in 1927.

It was a lighter and more economic version of the stately K2, rarely seen outside London. Both K2 and K6 are of cast iron, except for the doors which are teak.



Some 60,000 K6s were eventually installed throughout the country. The Lytham three cover two marks. The most easterly stands on its own and is a pre-1939 Mark 1 with the name of the Saracen Foundry in Glasgow on a panel near the bottom.

The middle box is similar, although the maker's mark is not accessible. The most westerly of the three is a post-1939 Mark 2, and it is interesting because it has four empty dovetail slots in its roof section and does not carry any 'ornaments' (crowns) at all in them. The fact that it has such slots identifies it as being of post-1955 vintage, but why it is without crowns is a mystery. The maker's mark is not easy to see clearly, but it appears to be the Carron Foundry. The two boxes with crowns have them highlighted in black, which contrasts with the original paint scheme, which was all red.

Maybe we do not need the phone box any more as we all use Mobile phones. Some people use phone boxes as libraries and defoliator holders and many have ended up in private hands and in gardens.

So next time you pass our "Famous three boxes" have a closer look, they might not be there forever

David Hoyle

Bannister Street "Police Station"

By coincidence, after our article on the Police Station in January's Antiquarian No 133, plans have now been submitted to Fylde Council Planning Department for the re-development of the eastern portion of the site. The great news is that the existing façade on Bannister Street will be retained if these plans are passed and only the rear 1950s section, police yard and garages and some police accommodation will be initially built on. The plans are for terraced houses made up of two one bed ones and four two bed houses and it includes car parking for the residents. This must be an improvement for the people living opposite the derelict part of the site on North Clifton Street and George Street and retains the main part of the building on Bannister Street.

Why not look at the plans yourself at the Fylde Council Town Hall or on the Lytham's Past Facebook site if you are into that.

David Forshaw



The derelict Police yard and concrete garages in 2014 (photo David Forshaw)

Members

We are sorry to have to report that long time member Betty Baker died late last year. Betty had served as a Steward for the Group at the Centre and the Windmill for many years as well as giving her time to Lytham Hall and Queen Mary School archives. A service was held at Lytham Crematorium on 23rd December 2019 and our condolences go to family and friends.

Heritage Centre Exhibitions Spring 2020

11 Feb – 01 Mar "Our Land, Our Schools" Artwork by pupils from Primary Schools in Lytham St Annes

The first of our new ventures with artwork from 8 local primary schools has been extraordinary. Nearly 300 individual pieces of art from 8 schools, including group pieces, sculptures and painted pebbles were submitted. The theme was the very broad topic of the environment, and the diversity and talent certainly reflected that breadth.

The teachers had said they would like some degree of competition; however the number of entries and the spread across age groups from 2 – 11 years, made for a very hard task.

Eventually, after much debate, it was agreed to have 4 joint winning schools: -

- AKS Preparatory School
- Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School
- St Annes College Grammar School (2-11 years)
- St Thomas' C of E Primary School

Each received £100 of art materials from Grantham's Ltd, the Fylde's premier artist supply shop and sign writers of Charnley Road, Blackpool.

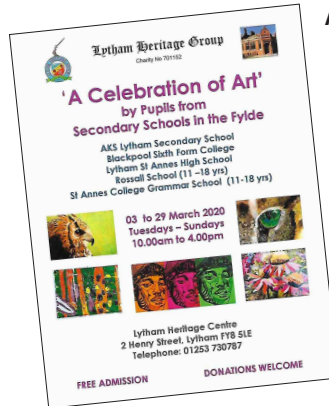
Also, from each of the 8 schools involved, 2 pupils were deemed to be "Highly Commended". Each received a certificate, a badge, and a pencil set donated by Grantham's

The Mayor, Angela Jacques, presented the prizes at the Private Viewing on 26 February 2020.

We are very grateful to Kate Cartmell for sponsoring both of the schools' art exhibitions, following her involvement in previous schools' art exhibitions elsewhere in Lytham.

We were able to support the competition element due to funding for prizes from Fylde Borough Council and the Edith Mary Clark Foundation (which supports activities for children).

03 to 29 March "A Celebration of Art" Artwork by pupils from Secondary Schools in the Fylde



This is an equally exciting exhibition – a wealth of talent from five secondary schools, which will be equally difficult to judge. There will be prizes and certificates awarded, and but at the time of writing the judging is ongoing.

I hope you enjoy our schools' huge contribution to art in the area.

Hilary Fletcher



The opening of the exhibition "Our Land, Our Schools" by the Mayor of Fylde, Councillor Angela Jaques left to right Coun. Jaques, Sue Forshaw, Coun Richard Redcliffe (Deputy Mayor), Kate Cartmell, Hilary Fletcher. (photo by Paul Blood)

AGM

At the time of going to press the AGM will be postponed therefore we will let you have the necessary paperwork and the new date hopefully with the next Antiquarian issue. Currently all officers of the Committee are willing to stand again but that does not preclude anyone from applying. At the moment some Committee members are sharing the role of Membership Secretary which would be easier for one person to be solely responsible for, so that is a current vacancy. We will need to confirm the committee membership, currently co-opted, of Phil Stringer to the Committee whose specialist skills in various aspects of IT are already a valuable addition.

Sue Forshaw

Future Events

**Monday April 6th - 2020 Speaker - Gerry
Wolstenholme lunch at 1.30pm**

"LITERARY VISITORS TO THE FYLDE"

Gerry has spoken a few times to us over a variety of topics including the time he worked for the Premium Bonds and his hobby of buying and selling Antiquarian books. It is a link with the latter that is the subject of his latest talk which includes Charles Dickens - who would have thought! It is entitled "Literary Visitors to the Fylde". We are incorporating the talk with a Hot Pot lunch which has to be pre ordered with details in the last Antiquarian. If this edition arrives too late to remind you, you can of course still come to the talk for the usual fee of £2 from 2.15pm.

Sue Forshaw

Charles Dickens



**Monday May 11th - Speaker - David Hoyle starting at 2.30pm
"VICTORIAN St ANNES 1874 - 1901"**



The first St ANNES HOTEL

(Lytham Heritage Group - Thompson Collection)

Dave needs little introduction to you and of course supervises our excellent Archive amongst his many other talents! The title of his talk is "Victorian St Annes 1874 - 1901" and I am sure it will be both interesting and amusing. It will be popular so the doors will be open from 2pm.

Heritage Centre Update News

Although the Heritage Centre has been recently painted and spruced up inside, the state of the outside stonework has been deteriorating rapidly. The Committee has undertaken a process of investigating the best processes to use on a Grade 2 listed building in order for it not to look "new" as that would not be in keeping with its age. The process that Lytham Hall has recommended to us uses a water solution to "wash" the surface and is less aggressive than other methods such as sandblasting. In addition there is to be a variety of other work to be done on the building to bring it back to its former glory. After receiving several quotes we have decided on a local firm Bailey Engineering based in Poulton to carry out the work and we are hoping work will commence at the beginning of April. They are mindful the centre will need to be open throughout but have reassured us that disruption will be kept to a minimum. We applied to obtain funds for the project from a local trust fund set up for the endowment of local charities. We were successful as it is a project that benefits the built environment of Lytham.

Lytham Heritage Group is very grateful to the trustees of the fund for their generous donation.

When the work is complete and the garden area cleaned up, the garden area will be dedicated to Alan Ashton, our former Chairman, for his tireless work for Lytham Heritage Group. No date has been set as I write this, but if it is before the next Antiquarian it will be on our website or through social media.

Another new initiative we are starting to plan for is to honour Alan through both his horticultural career and his support of Lytham Club Day. Lytham Heritage Group will be running a competition for the most attractive private front garden on the route of the procession in June. Using guidelines from the RHS judging criteria an element of local Heritage will be important with attractive planting to make the most of the available space. All judging will be from the pavement and no need to apply.

Sue Forshaw

Your Help Please

Shops on Clifton Street, a new exhibition for the Heritage Centre

As mentioned at the start of this issue, the Archive Team are looking for help in sourcing photos and information on the shops in Clifton Street and elsewhere in the town, partly for the planned exhibition and also to keep a record of as much as possible of the town's commercial activity. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Any photos or memories are welcome. Even partial or background shots can be useful. Over the years it is surprising how quickly some shops change their use or their owners and business names. Before you know it, memory fades as to what was there and when, even just a few years ago.

The photo left shows Ralph Firth's shop at 64 Clifton Street in the early 1920s. The 1924 year book gives Ralph as a "Plumber and Engineer" but the shop clearly shows the sign "Electrician".

The shop, No 64, was demolished along with others to make

way for the beautiful new "The Palace" cinema (or the Luxor Talkie Cinema as it was originally intended to be called). The new cinema was opened by the Squires mother, Mrs Violet Clifton, at Easter 1930. Sadly the cinema in turn was demolished in 1958 with shops being built on the site by developers and named "Arndale House." No 64 along with the demolished No 66, formally Lytham Creameries (Preston Dairies owned), is now part of Boots Chemist shop. Tesco Express and Farina & Co now take up the rest.

Clifton Street, Lytham, The Palace Cinema



Even More Help Please - can you name this house?



Please can any member identify the (Lytham?) house shown left? It is an unmarked photo from our LHG Archives, (one of three requiring identification which are so far perplexing the team. The others photos will follow as space permits). Suggestions turned down have included Warton Hall and Glengarry on East Beach.

Any idea please?

Please ring or write to the Lytham Heritage Centre at Henry St (phone number and address on the front page) or

email: thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk or Dave Hoyle: dave@davidhoyle.co.uk

...if you have, fingers crossed, any ideas to solve the mystery. Thank you.

David Forshaw

Christmas Meal at Lytham Hall

We were treated again to the Hall looking at its splendid best. The meal as last year was in the Gold Room and the Christmas trees in the reception room were splendid. Thirty six members and guests enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch with the view over the parkland giving a lovely backdrop. Thanks must go to Paul Lomas and Peter Anthony for making us feel so welcome together with their staff.



Members enjoying the Christmas meal in the Gold Room at Lytham Hall

(photo David Forshaw)

Thank you to Strong's greengrocers of Clifton Street for donating a huge basket of fruit and vegetables for our Christmas raffle and to all other members who donated prizes for the same raffle.

Windmill and Lifeboat Museum

I have managed to purchase an original 1800's cork lifejacket on eBay for the Lifeboat Museum. The owner has been a collector of maritime items for a number of years but sadly due to ill health last year is selling off much of his collection. He accepted a fair offer. The money to purchase it came from a cash donation to the Museum generously provided by the WI (Lifeboat Café for the 40s events 2019 / 2020). The jacket has recently arrived and is in very fine condition considering its age. As David Forshaw has indicated this is very rare. He, nor I, has seen an original for sale on the open market before. Apparently, most were cut up and the cork used for supporting fishing nets when the RNLI changed to using kapok lifejackets in the early years of the 20th century. It is a fantastic addition to the Lifeboat Museum and will be displayed in the Old Lifeboat House this season on a mannequin well out of reach of the public.

Museum Opening Times

I have agreed the opening dates for the Museum for the 2020 season with Maria at FBC. Hilary Coyle will be on duty again for 2020. I will start to organise the rota shortly. *(I am still looking for someone to take this on as it is a strain with my other commitments).* Preparations for this year have been delayed at the museum due to the



A cork lifejacket similar to the one purchased for the Lifeboat Museum worn by Edward Parkinson of Lytham Lifeboat Crew in 1886 when saving the crew of the German barque Mexico.

appalling weather conditions. I am hopeful we will be able to ramp up the tempo shortly and catch up lost time in readiness for opening at Easter. The main aims this year are to create a proper display on the Douglas Invader that crashed in the Ribble during WW2 with the support of Russell Brown. Also, I will be adding the two new digital screens to the

Lifeboat House purchased via the Syd Hardman funding. Hopefully Phil Stringer can help me with the digital equipment to make this very simple to operate for the volunteers. I have received a number of local Lifeboat videos from Grant Smith. I will transfer them to digital then we can share with the Archives and also hopefully use on the screens along with other items we have.

Websites

I have just updated the LHG website with Exhibitions and Social Calendar. I will shortly update the Windmill website with the Opening times also.

Lytham Hall

The exhibitions on the top floor and Long Gallery of Lytham Hall are progressing very well. The Lytham Heritage Group's "John Talbot Exhibition" is being extended and put on display in the long gallery. The WW2 convalescent Hospital and Priory

Exhibitions will be on the top floor.

Steve Williams

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.

Archive Dave Hoyle dave@davidhoyle.co.uk

Exhibitions Hilary Fletcher [via The Centre](#)

Social Events Sue Forshaw [via The Centre](#)

Windmill and Old Lifeboat House - Steve Williams steve.williams@lythamwindmill.co.uk