



## The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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## Notes from The Chairman

As I write this the sun is streaming through the window, the early bulbs are showing colour and even though it is still chilly, it makes you realise Spring is round the corner. Just come in from some early pruning and tidying in the garden accompanied by wonderful bird song - roll on summer!

Before we get there, a lot is happening at LHG as we start up again after our winter layoff. We are part way through our first exhibition on Lytham shops as I write this, which will have finished when you receive this edition of the Antiquarian. It has proved to be a great success and has attracted lots of positive comments as well as ones wondering where their family shop was in the display. Dave Hoyle and team have extensively researched the topic but can only go on the resources at their disposal and the limited hanging space available. However, as a result of feedback and further research, we are sure there will be a part 2 at some time in the future. There are details of the future art exhibitions coming up later in this edition. We have also started our talks in March and I may manage to slot in later a write up of our first one. Anne Aitken is talking about the history of Lytham Club Day on April 11th in the Assembly Rooms and knowing Anne it will be very entertaining. There are also some new additions to the calendar I will outline later. When you come to the talks you will notice the new equipment the Town Trust has installed for presentations in the Ribble Room so we look forward to enhancing the experience for you. As we approach a hopefully "normal" can I thank all our volunteers and Committee members for all the hard work they have, and will be, putting in this year throughout all we do and hope to see many of you in the coming months.

*Sue Forshaw*

## Lytham Hall Billiard Room Reopened

After weeks of hard work our Billiard Room is finally finished and we are over the moon with the result.

This room had to be taken off the tour a couple of years ago due to the roof lantern being so problematic. Thankfully the roof work was completed last Autumn and the large timber lantern is now repaired and watertight after costing around £19,000.

We couldn't start on the interior of the room until the roof was fixed and until the Christmas period had passed. Early this January a local company "Finelines" started work on the interior, repairing the walls and tackling the huge task of redecoration. This was all completed at the start of February.

The Billiard Room at Lytham Hall was added in the late 19th century by forming an extension to part

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# Lytham Hall Billiard Room Reopened

of the Jacobean building at the rear. The work was commissioned and completed by John Talbot Clifton (the explorer). At this time the Arts & Crafts movement was in its early stages, which is evident in the design.

The room was refurbished again in the early 20th century by adding the beautiful stain glass windows and perhaps the remodelling of the fireplace. These influences have been vital in striking a balance and creating an interpretation of a gentleman's games room of this period.

The colours were there to be seen, from the green tiles on the fireplace, the green leathers on many of the original chairs, and the green and aubergine colours of the carpet. With careful paint archeology we started to uncover certain shades that had been used in the past.



*Above:  
Lytham Hall's  
magnificent  
refurbished  
Billiard Room  
(photo Phil  
Downie)*



*Left:  
The stained  
glass window in  
the Billiard  
Room (photo  
Phil Downie)*

The colours were matched to the National Trust endorsed "Little Greene" company paint cards. Every shade used is of exactly the period and supplied by the conservation paint experts "Little Greene".

One of the masters of the Arts & Crafts movement was William Morris, so it was only right to include some of his fabrics into the equation to help emphasise the architecture and period of the room. The 1901 seaweed pattern was selected to compliment the colour scheme, as well as the theme having links to a seashore town.

The dreadful late 20th century strip lights have also been replaced with brass art nouveau and cut glass fittings. These fluorescent lights were not just ugly, they were high on our risk assessment, therefore we are so glad to have eradicated them from the equation. Thanks are due to the team from Threlfall electrical contractors for their help.

Special thanks go to Lytham Hall volunteers Peter Burke, Janet Potheary and Joe Mallabone who have helped enormously, especially in preparing the bay



*The Fire Place (photo by Phil Downie)*

windows and stripping back the original brass window fittings.

With around £24,000 being spent in total - We hope you like it.

*Peter Anthony*

# The Dunes

Once the largest building at the St. Annes end of the Fairhaven Estate was Dunes House, built in 1898 on the northwest corner of the Estate at the junction of Fairhaven Road and Clifton Drive. It had 12 bedrooms and was owned by Joseph Peers of St. Annes.

He originally intended it to be a school, but by 1903 it had become the Dunes Hydro. In 1906 the Estate Company refused a request from Peers to turn it into a convalescent home, though it eventually assumed that role when it was bought by the Bradford Rechabites Friendly Society in November 1921. The building was replaced by a block of flats - also named Dunes House.



In 2019 I received a call from Peter Anthony who was looking in a reclamation Yard in Preston for two Lions to grace the steps of Lytham Hall.

He stumbled across a large concrete stone and it read Dunes House 1898 and let me buy it without being seen . The stone arrived on a Pallet truck and weighed over a ton. It was 4 foot wide and 5 foot tall with a thickness of 9 inches, It remained where the driver dropped it off, I was expecting something far less that was maybe the size of something I could put into the boot of my car. How wrong I was.



My plan was to contact the Dunes and see if they would like it at their flats which still uses the Dunes name. There was very little interest and in the end it was decided that they would not have it which was a great shame.

Now I was stuck with a great lump of concrete which cost me the best part of £300.

Maybe it could go in the garden as a display of sorts ?

Not with Ruth keeping it far away from her beloved lawn .

So what did become of the Name plaque of the Dunes House? Tony Ford said he would like it at the Station in St.Annes and would be happy to collect the piece. I let him have it at a loss but wanted to go to a good home so off it went.



Sadly after many months Tony told me the stone was too far gone and the stonework had worn away too much

Update on the stone. The stone is currently stored in a council depot.

A stonemason has looked at it and said he can't do anything with it but one of the station volunteers is investigating whether the stone, and particularly the all-important lettering could be recreated, perhaps in resin and/or fibreglass, by way of renovation. We haven't given up.

Watch this space

*David Hoyle*

# Heritage Centre Exhibitions Programme 2022

The new year has started with our own new heritage exhibition about the history of Lytham Shops. It has proved very popular, generating much discussion amongst visitors. It has become clear that this is only Part 1, as we have a lot more information that could not be included. So watch out for "Lytham Shops Old and New Part 2", to be scheduled as soon as it can be prepared.

This year we have a full Programme, and we look forward to the first art exhibition - paintings by local man Jeffrey Hammond - once the bass guitarist with Jethro Tull in his younger years. He paints large scenes, example below, with wonderful details and people. He does not wish to sell his paintings but it will be a superb exhibition.

29 Mar - 18 Apr

"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something True?"  
paintings by Jeffrey Hammond



**Lytham Heritage Group**  
Charity No 701192  
Presents  
**"INSPIRATION 2022"**  
An Eclectic Mix of Colours and Styles  
by Members of  
**The Blackpool Art Society**

20 April 2022 - 8 May 2022  
**Lytham Heritage Centre**  
2 Henry St, Lytham, FY8 5LE. Tel 01253 730787  
OPEN TUESDAY to SUNDAY 10.00 -16.00  
and Bank Holiday Mondays  
*Free Admission - Donations Welcome*

The next exhibition will be  
from 20 Apr - 08 May,  
here is the poster

Followed by :

10 - 29 May

" Emergence " Stitch, Print and Paint by Garden Walk Artists.

31 May - 19 June

" Sea-Clay " Ceramics by Northern Potters (West).

21 June - 10 July

" Not Just Paint " mixed media art from Preston Art Society.

*Hilary Fletcher*

## Can You Help Please?

Like most organisations LHG needs you and more of you! Like most organisations during lockdown our numbers have been going down for a variety of reasons. Boosting membership has advantages beyond mere extra income, although the horrendous rise in postage will inevitably swallow some of that for any hard copies we send out. While on this topic please make sure you let us know your email address which will not only be useful for your Antiquarian but to let you know efficiently if we need to contact you say to inform of a cancelled talk.

Something David and I have managed to do in the last 12 months is personally recruit 3 new members from 1 family and another from my own for 2022/23. There will be friends and family with connections to the "Ancient Parish of Lytham" who for a small outlay can keep in touch with aspects of their history and how we are keeping its history alive. If we all please try to recruit just one person/ family it doubles our membership. Membership is due in April with details to follow, so now is the time! Thankyou in anticipation for your best endeavours.

We always welcome new volunteers either for stewarding in our 3 venues or helping with refreshments, setting up or collecting money at the talks to allow for flexibility with all of you who help already and thank you. So do contact us if you can spare some time.

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to -  
Mr and Mrs Marquis Carr and Mrs Pam Smith

# Future Events

We are coming up to our busiest period in our public venues with the Windmill and Old Lifeboat House opening at Easter and our artists season beginning at the Centre. Just a quick reminder of what is to come in the next few months with the talks. All will be at the Lytham Assembly Rooms commencing at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated. Entry will remain the same at £2, refreshments will be served, there will be a raffle and donations of prizes are always welcome.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 11th April** - Anne Aitken, who is Vice Chairman of the Lytham Club Day Committee, is to present "Lytham Club Day-a retrospective"

**Monday 9th May** - Trevor Mackey, who is Chairman of Lytham in Bloom, is to present "The History of Lytham in Bloom"

**Monday 13th June** at 7.30pm - "Annual General meeting"

I have managed to add a couple of dates/venues and presenters to the original programme. Just something for September to organise but I have some ideas.

**Monday 11th July** - Denise Hadley and Anne Bougetas, Lytham Hall volunteers and guides, will present their illustrated and fascinating talk on Violet Clifton the last lady of Lytham Hall. There have been 2 presentations of this excellent talk at Lytham Hall to sell out audiences so if you have not seen it, please put it in your diary.  
*(photo of Mrs Clifton on page 3, Antiquarian No 139, July 2021)*

**Monday 10th October** - Greg Anderton from "Leafy Lytham" and the "Garden Hub" based at Lytham Hall will present a talk and demonstration "Autumn Gardening in Lytham"

**Monday 14th November** - Lizzie Bickerstaff will present an illustrated talk "Stories from the QMS and KES archives"

**Monday 12th December** 12.30 for 1.00pm - Christmas meal at Lytham Hall. Just a diary date for now and the details will be in the October edition of the Antiquarian.

Hopefully see you at one or more of the above events.

If your email address is on our data base you should have received a reminder of the March talk via email from Phil Stringer which shows just one of the benefits of this communication method.

*Sue Forshaw*

## Past Talk on 14th March - Confessions of a Customs Officer

Brian Topping, who as a retired specialist Customs Officer based at Heathrow, gave a very interesting, informative and amusing talk on aspects of his work, mainly centred around drugs. This particular area of his working life was in the 70's when technology was not as sophisticated as it is now. It relied on the skills of the officer to spot likely suspects by the observation of body language, a 6th sense of something not "quite right", the countries passengers were flying from and thorough and careful investigation at the airport. Those who have ever tuned in to "Border Force" based in Australia and the USA will have seen the lengths drug smugglers go to.

He gave interesting examples some of which were based on a tip off/intelligence gathering that they used to secure the arrest. One story was a Miss World contestant from the Caribbean flying to London then Amsterdam and then the reverse. On the tip off she was stopped in London and the drugs were seized and she was jailed. Lessons like that are no deterrent as the stakes are so high for the smugglers. He gave specific examples of the methods they used some very sophisticated to attaching packets of drugs with gaffer tape to their bodies.

One question that was asked from the audience at the end was about the use of dogs. He does a part 2 of his talk which includes the use of dogs and I am looking at booking him for 2023 so watch this space!

Brian was actually the first speaker to use the new audio-visual system the Lytham Town Trust has set up in the Ribble Room. He was very impressed and as someone who does a lot of talks Brian declared it the best he had used. Many thanks to Damien and Leanne from LTT for taking advice from our Media Coordinator Phil Stringer and suppliers to come up with an easy-to-use and effective system.

*Sue Forshaw*

# Windmill and Lifeboat Opening Times 2022

## Easter

- Wednesday 13th April 2022 to Sunday 24th April 2022
- Wednesday - Sunday including Bank Holidays - 10.30am - 1.00pm then 2.00pm - 4.30pm

## Spring Season (Including Bank Holidays)

- Saturday 30th April 2022 - Sunday 29th May 2022
- Weekend & Bank Holiday opening - 10.30am - 1.00pm then 2.00pm - 4.30pm

## Summer Season (Including Bank Holidays)

- Wednesday 1st June 2022 to Sunday 11th September 2022.
- Wednesday - Sunday including Bank Holidays - 10.30am - 1.00pm then 2.00pm - 4.30pm.
- Please note the Windmill is closed for Lytham Club Day Saturday 25th June

## Autumn Season

- 17th September 2022 - 2nd October 2022
- Weekends only

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### National Mills Weekend

- Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th May 2022 - 10.30am - 1.00pm then 2.00pm - 4.30pm

### Queens Platinum Jubilee

- Thursday 2nd June - Sunday 5th June 2022 - 10.30am - 1.00pm then 2.00pm - 4.30pm

### 1940's Wartime Weekend

- Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st August 2022 - 10.30am - 1.00pm then 2.00pm - 4.30pm

### Heritage Open Days

- Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September & Saturday 17th to Sunday 18th Sept 2022 - 10.30am-1.00pm then 2.00pm-4.30pm.

## WINDMILL CLOSED

Lytham Club Day Saturday 25th June 2022

Lytham Festival Weekend and run up, Wednesday 29th June 2022 to Sunday 10th July 2022

*Steve Williams*

## Amazon Smile

Lytham Heritage Group is registered at Amazon Smile programme. The AmazonSmile programme offers customers a new benefit, making a donation to a charity of your choice. You need to always start at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) to support The Lytham Heritage Group. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Group

Further information may be obtained from Mike Bell at [treasurer@lythamheritage.uk](mailto:treasurer@lythamheritage.uk)

## TED LIGHTBOWN (1943-2022)

It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Blackpool & Fylde Historical Society's Secretary, Ted Lightbown, on Thursday 3 March 2022. As Blackpool and Fylde's foremost local historian, Ted's extensive knowledge of the local area was unrivalled, and his passing is a considerable loss to their Society and the local history community in general.

He was a great friend to the Lytham Heritage Group, always willing to share information and expertise. The Group sends its condolences to his family and friends and the Blackpool & Fylde Historical Society.

## A Little Extra

With this issue there are 2 documents either attached to your email as an attachment hard copy relating to membership fees, and the AGM. Both are also available on our new website. [www.lythamheritage.com](http://www.lythamheritage.com).

Membership fees are staying the same at £10 for an individual member and £15 for a family. You may have organised direct debit which requires you to do nothing or need to post a cheque/cash and completed form addressed to the centre please. The fees are due on the first of April please, so prompt payment would be appreciated - thank you.

The AGM attachment concerns notice of the meeting and

current officers and members of the Committee. All posts are available to express an interest in on the form. However, there are 2 posts with scope for a joint role with the current person in post. Dave Hoyle has a lot of different LHG activities within his remit. One of which is membership secretary, which now with our new computer set up, is a more straightforward task. It is perhaps one he can hopefully relinquish to release more time for his other tasks. The second is to work with Hilary Fletcher, our Exhibitions Coordinator, to assist her in the Changeover Role managing the artists and their exhibitions as well as the Heritage ones. If you are interested in either of these roles they can be contacted via the website, or at the centre, for more information. *Sue Forshaw*

## A New Year Honour

As this concerns our Editor, he has the last say on its inclusion. As you are now reading about it, I have managed to persuade him! David has been awarded a "British Empire Medal" in the Queens New Year's Honours List for the 37+ years of service with the RNLI. He has taken on a variety of roles at the Lytham St Annes station including, crew member as Head Launcher, DLA - Duty Launching Authority, Press Officer and Archivist to name but a few. The Cabinet Office also mentioned his work with Lytham Heritage Group, the LBES - Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society and the Lifeboat Museum 1986 - 2004 now run by LHG. He does admit that receiving a "gong" for enjoying what you do cannot be bad! *Sue Forshaw*



Lytham Heritage Group new website

[www.lythamheritage.uk](http://www.lythamheritage.uk)

# Contacts



We welcome all queries and suggestions. Please contact us at the Centre or by email to:

## General enquiries

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