



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

The Heritage Centre, 2 Henry Street, Lytham. FY8 5LE

Tel: (01253) 730787 Archive: (01253) 730775

email: thecentre@lythamheritage.uk email: archivecentre@lythamheritage.uk

website: www.lythamheritage.uk

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

1926 - 2022

On behalf of the Lytham Heritage Group we send our thoughts and prayers to Her Majesty's family at this time of transition. She has been an example of dedication and service to us all for 70 years.

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The White Cottage (left) still standing on the corner of Central Beach and Bath Road. To the right is Whalley's Cottage which was replaced by the present terrace, built as guest houses. From a watercolour by D Scott (1867) kindly loaned by Mrs H Sidgreaves, Milner Road, Lytham.

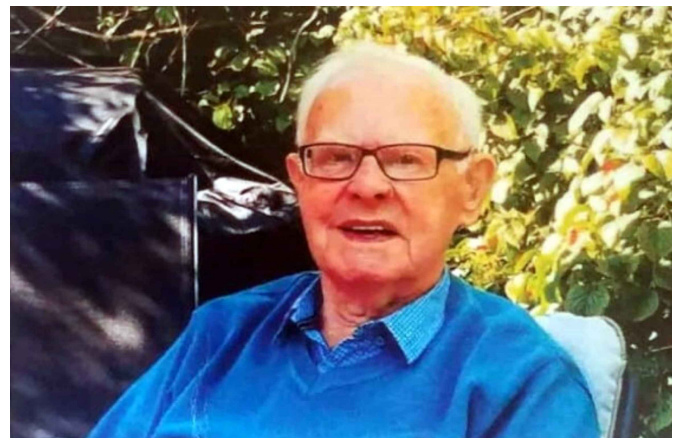
Herbert "Bert" Greaves OBE

Former LHG Vice Chairman

Herbert "Bert" Greaves OBE, Wing Commander, passes away

We are sad to have to report that Bert sadly passed away on Sunday 14th August 2022 just hours from his hundredth birthday and the celebrations planned for it at the Clifton Arms. As he was a Wing Commander in the RAF Air Cadets, a flypast had been arranged on his birthday to honour him. After some deliberation by his family, they went ahead with the party, reminiscing on a life well lived. As it turned out the dipped wing tribute from the Lancaster Bomber and later the flypast by the Red Arrows were witnessed by his family, close friends and former neighbours. It was both moving and very fitting and it was an occasion he would have enjoyed.

He was a true gentleman and the Lytham Heritage Group's condolences go to his family and thanks for his many years of work and support for the Group.



OCTOBER 2022

Herbert "Bert" Greaves OBE



Bert Greaves 1922 - 2022

David Hoyle adds his memories

Herbert was born in Bolton on August 5th 1922 and moved to St. Annes in 1927. His Father opened Greaves Fruit and Veg shop and Herbert often helped around the shop. He went to Heyhouses school and was also in the Choir at the St Annes Parish Church. At 9 years old he contracted tuberculosis and was sent to the Lake District for 12 months to recover. At 14 he left school and learnt a trade as a motor mechanic.

Herbert met his wife Mary Jackson in 1939 at the Parish Church, During the war he supplied fruit and veg to businesses and watched for enemy bombers from the top of various church towers. He married Mary in 1946 and had 3 lovely daughters.

He had a great connection to 177 squadron Ait Cadets where he became the Wing Commander and was awarded an O.B.E in 1985.

He was a great family man who enjoyed travel and watching birds from Ribble Lodge on West Beach, where he lived. He also enjoyed dancing and was a keen ice skater. He enjoyed cricket, football and badminton.

A member of the Lytham Heritage Group from the start, he also served on the Lytham Town Trust and the Probus group.

He always said "Have a Go" and was "A Good Un"

Notes from The Chairman

We have certainly seen some heat this summer although thankfully not as hot as the south, but hot enough. The town has been busy with visitors which is great to see and as I write this the bank holiday is around the corner heralding back to school for pupils, a date I am sure parents will be grateful for.

Our venues have also been busy with visitors although during the Festival we had a prolonged shutdown for 3 weeks of the Windmill and Old Lifeboat House. Apparently, the Festival will only be a week next year but will still involve a shutdown of 2 weeks for setting up etc. There seems no way for access with all the barriers to the venues although we have looked at it.

However, as I write this, we have just had the 40's weekend in Lytham the first since 2019 and it was absolutely heaving with people. Steve Williams has reported the number of visitors to the Windmill and O.L.H. was over 4,000 which must be a record. Lots of costumes from the era as well as hairstyles and handlebar moustaches - great fun. Steve Williams and his WI ladies did a splendid job at the Windmill and O.L.H. welcoming visitors with refreshments and Steve looked very smart in his uniform. John Parr, who owns the Chapman Lifeboat we have on display, was there on Sunday and enjoyed talking to visitors about his boat. The event concluded with an acrobatic display by a Spitfire which was mesmerising and it got a clap from the audience all over the Green even though the pilot could not hear it! The Spitfire is from the museum at Blackpool Airport.

There has been some progress to report on the fate of the Lytham Institute. Apparently there has been some maintenance and upgrade work lately. The Charity Commission has responded to Marion Coupe from the Civic Society and a response is being drawn up. I have met with Marion recently and there is a universal agreement that our Archive not only needs to stay in Lytham but needs to be developed in a permanent home for the preservation of our heritage.

Lots of events and exhibitions coming up and of course the Christmas meal at Lytham Hall to look forward to so hope to see you at one or more of what is to come.

Enjoy the Festive season and we will return in January

Sue Forshaw

Welcome to the following New Members

[John Jones](#) of Warton

[Diana Boyes](#)

[Ruth Howe](#) of Fleetwood

[Mike Downer](#) of Blackpool

[Peter Gallatt](#)

[Alan Clay-Johnson](#) of Lytham

and finally to [George Middleton](#), the owner of Kildalton, the Victorian Castle on the Isle of Islay in Scotland bought by John Talbot Clifton in 1922, after he was forced out of Ireland by the IRA.

Welcome to you all.

Hard Copy of the Antiquarian

Members who need or would prefer a hard copy of the Antiquarian and have not been receiving one, please contact Dave Hoyle via The Centre or through email (address on last page). Thank you.

Private 1055 Frank Barlow

With the Remembrance Day fast approaching next month, John Jameson has written this article commemorating one of Lytham's "lost sons" and how he was found.

BODY OF PRIVATE 1055 FRANK BARLOW - LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT - IDENTIFIED BY HIS SIGNET RING by John Jameson



Private 1055 Frank Barlow, was the son of Mrs Mary and William Barlow. His father, a fisherman, was a member of the Lytham lifeboat crew involved in the rescue of the barque Mexico 9 December 1886. William had already died in April 1899 when accidentally knocked overboard by the boom of his shrimp boat as he was swilling off the deck while returning from fishing. Frank's brother Joseph who was with his father at the time was unable to save him and his

body was found that afternoon.

Frank lived with his mother at 37 East Cliffe, Lytham and worked at the Lytham Shipyard. He joined the Lytham Territorials, (1st/4th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment) who were in camp near Kirkby Lonsdale when war broke out on 7 August 1914. The "Terriers" were recalled and were amongst the first batch of Lancashire men to go to France. He died at the Battle of Festubert on 15 June 1915 when attacking the German line. His body was not to be noticed amongst the dead and his family were subsequently notified that he was missing.

Another Lytham soldier who was with Frank at the time of his death was Private Arthur Dagger a close friend and neighbour of Frank, He wrote to his mother and the letter was published in the Lytham Times newspaper on 25 June 1915;

'Frank and I arranged that all correspondence for us should be seen to in case anything happened. I enclose your letter back. Sorry the dear old chap is unable to deal with it. Well Joe, I must tell you Frank suffered no pain. While in the charge he was shot through the head and his last words were "Oh Mother!" and then he died instantly. We agreed to get a keepsake of each other on the battlefield but it was worse than one can realise to exist through it, and I could not get near him at the time. The shot wherever it came from might have done for me. I should have liked to have got his ring, which his young lady gave him, but I was more than happy when we were relieved next morning to get away from the sound of guns, and from the shellfire. Not ten yards away a lad was shot through the neck. When I was marching away I felt downhearted at having to leave my chum behind'.

In 1928, some 13 years following his death, the Imperial War Graves Commission wrote to Frank's mother in the following terms;

"I am directed to inform you that endeavours are being made by means of a gold ring to identify the body of an unknown soldier of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in order that the grave may be marked with his name.

From investigations which have already been made, it is considered that the body is one of three soldiers who were killed in action on 15th June 1915, near the spot where the body was found, Private F Barlow being one of these.

In order that conclusive evidence may be obtained in the matter, I am to ask you to be good enough to let me know as soon as possible, whether to your knowledge this soldier was at the time of his death in possession of a gold ring, and. If so, whether you can give a description of it."

The signet ring in question which became the means of identifying the body of Frank Barlow was given to him by his fiancée on the eve of his departure for France in 1914 and was inscribed with the initials "F.B."

It was a great consolation to Mrs Barlow that her son's body had been found and he was buried at Arras Road Cemetery Roclincourt, France.

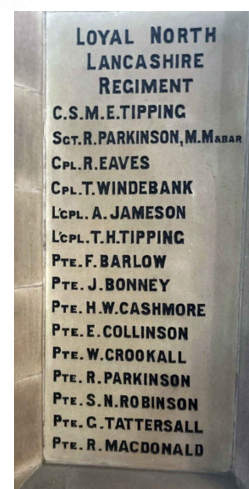
In 1928, Arthur Dagger was in business as a coal dealer in Lytham, whilst the donor of the ring was married, living in the district.

In Memory Of
Private
FRANK BARLOW
Service Number: 1055
1st/4th Bn., The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment who died on 15 June 1915 Age 21
Son of Mrs. Mary Barlow, of 37, East Cliffe, Lytham, Lancs.
Remembered with Honour
ARRAS ROAD CEMETERY, ROCLINCOURT
III. L. 10.



IIIIII
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
IIIIII
COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Private Frank Barlow is remembered on the War Memorial, in Market Square Lytham and (right) in the War Memorial Chapel at St John the Divine, Lytham



Future Events

The Autumn events began in September with our annual lunch at the Glendower Hotel where Dave Hoyle gave a short presentation about all the local anniversaries commemorated in 2022.

Both the following talks are to be held in the Lytham Assembly Rooms as usual at the times indicated.

Monday 10th October @ 2.30pm

Speaker - Greg Anderton of "Leafy Lytham"

Title - "Autumn Gardening in Lytham"

As you know Greg runs the garden hub in Lytham Hall and no doubt, he will let us know about all the other activities he is involved in, not only for the Hall, but also the wider community. For example, I do know he is very involved with Lytham in Bloom. We shall also look forward to what he has to show us.

Monday 14th November @2.30pm

Speaker - Elizabeth Bickerstaff from AKS Archives.

Title - "Stories from the Archives - KES and QMS"

When I last spoke to Elizabeth, she was writing a book about Queen Mary School which will be on my Christmas list! For those not brought up in LSA, KES was the boys school as King Edward VII School and both school buildings are still in existence but only one as a school - AKS. I am looking forward to a bit of nostalgia from the 60's!

Monday 12th December - Christmas lunch at Lytham Hall.

There will be further details of exact venue, time, menu and any other special arrangements later with this edition. It is usually a popular event so early booking is advisable. We hold a larger raffle at the event so any donations towards it would be gratefully

Sue Forshaw

Heritage Centre Exhibitions Programme 2022

Our art exhibitions continue to be very successful - the posthumous exhibition of Will Pickering's paintings sold 38 pictures. His family were selling them very cheaply but nevertheless they were delighted. The two ladies in the Brentleigh Group were also very pleased to have a high level of sales, and the current exhibition by Peter Laurence, photographer and Marie Kershaw, ceramics, is selling well too.



The remaining exhibitions this year will be:

13 September - 02 October

"Autumn Exhibition" by LSA Art Society.

This will be the annual display of multi media, multi talented, very varied art by our local art society - always a great success.



04 Oct - 06 November

"Shops and Businesses Part 2" by Lytham Heritage Group.

The promised follow up to our heritage exhibition at the start of the year, when we received lots more information about the local commerce over the last hundred years.



08 - 27 November

"A Family in Art" paintings, prints and designs by Tony Fowler and family.

Tony and family have exhibited previously - lots of excellent art with many themes, potential Christmas presents?

29 Nov - 04 Dec

Christmas Fayre - original art gifts.

The final exhibition will provide a week of Christmas shopping, several artists will display their art together, offering multiple ideas for just the right gift.

Hilary Fletcher

Quite possibly the Lovliest House in Lytham

David Hoyle with excerpts from the Parish Magazines

I have been very lucky to view some lovely properties in and around Lytham.

The Waters Edge and Grove cottage and many on East and West Beach are among the many I have visited but this one could well be the loveliest house in Lytham:-

If an estate agent was describing the St Cuthbert's Vicarage, with a view to putting it on sale, he - or she - would probably couch it in the following terms:- "A highly desirable detached residence, set in two acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, in a commanding position overlooking the River Ribble". Asking price? The imagination boggles...

This situation concerning the Vicarage could have come about at least once in fairly recent times, at a period when finances were somewhat strained.

Let us go back a century or so, however.

Some historians believe that the vicarage began life as the Dower house of the fabulously wealthy Clifton Family, squires of Lytham and lords of the manor for centuries, who at one time were reputedly amongst some of the most influential people in the land. There is, however; no evidence to show that it was ever used as the Clifton dower house. Neither is it known for certain when it was built, although this is likely to have been in the 1850s.



St Cuthbert's Vicarage, Lytham 17.02.2013 (David Forshaw045)

Lytham Parish Church (St Cuthbert's) Vicarage

What is known for certain is that it is in the same style and period as two large, nearby houses - "Fairlawn" and "Edenfield". Additionally, it was constructed by the same builder, James Eden. It was erected by the Clifton Trustees on the site of an earlier house built for John Clifton to accommodate his racehorse trainer sometime after the completion of the present Lytham Hall in 1764.



Lytham Parish Church (St Cuthbert's) Vicarage
(Lytham Heritage Group)

At the time of the building of the present church in 1834, the Vicar of Lytham lived in a farmhouse within sight of the church. It is believed that this would have been at the Church Road end of the Woodville Terrace / Swainson Street block.

For many years up to, and just after, the 1914-18 war, the Cliftons had generously granted its use as a vicarage house, at a nominal rent.

As the Parochial Church Council had in 1921 made themselves responsible for the upkeep of the property, which was in drastic need of repairs, it was decided to approach the Clifton Estate with a view to purchasing the house and gardens. The Squire, John Talbot Clifton, generously agreed to sell for £1,500, so in 1932 the parishioners decided unanimously to accept the offer; and to modernise the house.

The property was duly purchased, and more than £2,000 was spent on the modernisation, making a total outlay of £4,200.

Lytham Parish Church (St Cuthbert's) Vicarage

It was put on record at the time that thanks were to be given, for their "invaluable assistance" to the Clifton Estate agents, firstly Mr. Thomas Fair and then Mr. John Fair, over a period of many years. The note went on, "For three generations, the name of Fair has been inseparably linked with Lytham, and successive heads of the family have helped to guide its development with far-seeing wisdom. We gratefully acknowledge the kindly offices of these agents, both past and present, in matters connected with the Church".

Thus, it came about, that the Vicarage, the churchyard and the Parish Hall were all owned by the church, or at least the Church Commissioners.

However, half a century or so later, finances became stretched. The Parsonages Board decided that the Vicarage and grounds were too large, and the upkeep too high. Plans were already available for the erection of a modern house on a portion of the land, which would enable the remainder, and the Vicarage, to be sold. The essence of that arrangement would be that the

Church Commissioners would be left with substantial funds, and the parish would have the benefit of reduced running costs. There were difficulties in producing a detailed scheme, not the least of which involved drainage, and fortunately as time passed the financial urgency receded. It was also recorded at the time that whilst there would be no difficulty in actually selling the Vicarage and some of the land, it might be impossible to impose restrictions whereby the site would remain as it was, although it was noted the house itself was a listed building.

The note went on "We are sure that if the beauty of the present aspect were lost there would be an outcry not only from the Parishioners but also from Lytham as a whole. It would therefore seem that if we are to preserve our heritage, our wisest course, although it would mean some financial burden, is to concentrate on maintaining what we have which is a magnificent vista of a great Church and Vicarage"

So, despite the ever-watchful eyes of the developers this will remain forever the loveliest house in Lytham.

David Hoyle



St Cuthbert's Vicarage, Lytham 19.12.2010 (David Forshaw032)

St Annes Foundation Stone

The Antiquarian No 137 page 4 & 5 mentioned the date stone 1875 on Alpha House commemorating the building of the new town of St Annes out of the West End of Lytham Parish. While this was the first permanent building completed, the official start of the new town was celebrated with the laying of the foundation stone for the St Annes Hotel on Wednesday 31st March 1875 by 6 year old John Talbot Clifton, grandson of the Squire of Lytham. The St Anne's Land & Building Company organised an elaborate ceremony which was attended, according to The Lytham Times, by at least 2,000 people.

Although the Hotel was the first building started, due to its size it was the following year before construction was finished and the hotel opened, allowing Alpha House to nip in and claim the accolade of the first building completed.

The St Annes Hotel was demolished in 1985 and The Burlington Centre shops and a new public house were built on the site. This pub, rejoicing to various names over the years, The St Anne's Tavern, The Crescent, and now The Town House, was built to incorporate the original, superb Tiles Bar of the St Annes Hotel, the only part to remain from the original structure apart from the foundation stone laid in 1875, which was saved and embedded into the building.



The original St Annes Hotel of 1875 with the Tiles Bar centre bottom on the St Andrew's Road North frontage.



*The Town House with the Tiles Bar at the bottom
(photo by David Forshaw)*

In 2022 a replica of the original stone, sculpted by local stonemason Liam Galvin, was erected in front of St Annes Station on the St Andrews Road North roadside, directly opposite the Tiles Bar. The project, thanks to the backing among others of Tony Ford, Chairman of the South Fylde Rail Line and Vice Chair of Community Rail Lancashire, was delayed somewhat by the pandemic but is now in place. Interpretation boards will be added to show the importance of the original stone to the history of St Annes and Lytham.



The replica 1875 date stone installed in 2022 in front of St Annes Station and across St Andrew's Road North, directly opposite to the Tiles Bar.

(photo by David Forshaw)

David Forshaw

Contacts



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

General enquiries

Chairman - Sue Forshaw	thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk
Deputy Chairman - Michael Bell	chairman@lythamheritage.uk
Secretary - Jennifer Trueman	deputychairman@lythamheritage.uk
	secretary@lythamheritage.uk
Antiquarian - David Forshaw	antiquarian@lythamheritage.uk
Archive - Dave Hoyle	archivist@lythamheritage.uk
Centre Stewards Co-ordinator - Jennifer Trueman	hcstewards@lythamheritage.uk
Digital Media Co-ordinator - Phil Stringer	webmaster@lythamheritage.uk
Exhibitions - Hilary Fletcher	hcehibitions@lythamheritage.uk
Exhibition Supporter - Audrey Kirby	hcehibitions@lythamheritage.uk
Membership Secretary - Dave Hoyle	membership@lythamheritage.uk
Old Lifeboat House Exhibitions - Steve Williams	lhexhibitions@lythamheritage.uk
Old Lifeboat House Stewards - Steve Williams	lhstewards@lythamheritage.uk
Press & Publicity - Peter Anthony	publicity@lythamheritage.uk
Social / Speakers - Sue Forshaw	speakers@lythamheritage.uk
Treasurer - Mike Bell	treasurer@lythamheritage.uk
Windmill Exhibitions - Steve Williams	wmexhibitions@lythamheritage.uk
Windmill Stewards - Steve Williams	wmstewards@lythamheritage.uk