



Notes from the Chairman

May I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Hopefully by the time you receive this issue the decorations will be in the loft until next December, the freezer will be a little emptier and those New Year resolutions will have been made (and probably some already broken)!

A review of 2016 would fill several pages as we have been busy as usual promoting the varied and interesting past of "The Ancient Parish of Lytham". A quick synopsis will have to suffice although most have been fully documented in both this edition and the four throughout the year.

Our museums in the Windmill and Old Lifeboat House were open for our usual season of Easter to mid-September and a record breaking year it was. The availability of stewards

continues to be an issue so the Old Lifeboat House tended to open at only weekends and bank holidays and that is likely to be the same in 2017. Although the Windmill is fully open, and will be this year, more stewards would always help to make the rota easier for Margaret. If anyone can spare some time please contact the centre so we can pass details on. The appeal for stewards/helpers applies to our other venues in the Heritage Centre with the rolling exhibition programme we offer and the Archive in the Lytham Library building on a Wednesday afternoon.

The social programme of talks and two lunches has been successful in 2016 with good attendance for all events in our varied programme. This included talks by our members Joyce Wiseman, David Forshaw, David Hoyle and Bernard Worsfold and in 2017 we have Tony Ford in October and Heather Davis in November. Details of these and the exhibitions Hilary and her team have put together can be found in the enclosed leaflet. If any member feels they can give a Heritage related illustrated talk to our members in 2018 please let me know via the centre.

We will endeavour to keep you up to date with developments in the borough where they impact on the group and what we are custodians of.

I hope to see you in March at the first of our Heritage talks by David Mellor on the two exhibitions we have put together on the life and work of his late father Tom Mellor who has an international reputation as an architect and designer.

Sue Forshaw



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The Sound of Bells - Part 2

In the first part of the story of bell ringing in the area, we saw how things developed in Lytham. The growth of the “West End” from the hamlet of Heyhouses into the resort of St. Annes was accompanied by an increase in the number of bell towers in the area.

St Annes Parish Church Tower

Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton, concerned that there was no place of worship at the West End, provided the money for the building of St. Annes church and laid the foundation stone in 1872. The building of the tower was begun in 1887 and completed in 1890 at a cost of £261, which the parishioners had some problems in paying off. In the same year, due to the ever present generosity of Lady Eleanor, eight bells were commissioned and cast by the firm of John Taylor and Son of Loughborough.

Each bell was named after one of the Clifton family.



Bell	Name	Cwts	Qts	Lbs
Treble	Frances Victoria & Charles Caryl Clifton	3	3	11
2	Harry Arthur Clifton	4	0	18
3	Constance Gertrude Cecily Clifton	4	3	20
4	Cuthbert Clifton	5	3	18
5	Madeline Edith Clifton	6	3	0
6	John Talbot Clifton	8	3	0
7	The Lady Eleanor Cecily Clifton	11	1	7
Tenor	In Memoriam Thomas Henry & John Talbot Clifton	16	1	10

The bells were dedicated on 18th September 1890 by Rev. Canon Hull, Vicar of All Saints Northampton. The parish magazine records that ringers from Lytham “opened these bells but were only able to chime them on account of the tower being so new”. The vicar, the Rev. Terry, was obviously delighted with the tower and bells and he records the dedication services in some detail. There was a short service with a psalm and special hymn in the Belfry, followed by evensong with special hymns and an “appropriate sermon”. Later in the evening there was a full choral service also with special hymns and a sermon given by Dr. Moorhouse, the Bishop of Manchester. He remarked, “The parishioners must be proud of their beautiful church and charmed by the sweet sound of the bells. Everything that was beautiful - beauty of architecture, beauty of music and beauty of simple service was valuable in the service of Almighty God.” I think we can say that the tower and bells were well and truly dedicated. The bishop then brought the congregation down to earth by adding, “Seeing then that you have put your hands

to a good work, I hope that you will speedily finish it, and, by contributing to the collection, clear off the debt” (for the building of the tower).

On 5th January 1891 ringers from St. Cuthbert’s returned to St. Anne’s to undertake the first change ringing, completing a half peal of Taylor’s Grandsire Triples in 1 hour and 35 minutes. Three months later the first full peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by members the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers. The parish magazine acknowledges the help of the Lytham church thus: “We are much indebted to Mr. H Gregson, of Lytham, for the trouble he is taking in teaching our St Anne’s ringers and it must be gratifying to him to see the improvement they make from week to week.” The names of the first St. Annes ringers are recorded as John Townsend (captain), G Birtwistle, J Eastham, J Eaves, F Richardson, W F Fenton, Thos Kendal, Thos Cookson and Wm Eaves.

The last of the local churches to install bells was St. Josephs in Ansdell. The foundation stone of the church was laid in 1909. The local Roman Catholics must have been very keen to hear the sound of bells as eight were cast by Mears and Stainbank of the Whitechapel foundry in 1908 and installed in 1911 well before the church was finished in 1914. The bells costing £800 were paid for by parishioners and friends of the church in memory of Mgr James Taylor and a plaque was placed in the entrance to the church:

“In loving memory and esteem for the revered memory of the Right Rev. Mgr James Taylor, rector of St. Peters Lytham, who died on 3rd January 1908 in his 78th year of life and 50th of his sacred priesthood. His congregation of Lytham and Ansdell and other friends, have presented the peal of bells to this his Memorial Church.”

As with other church towers the list of the first ringers contains many well known local names including five Gilletts, J Harrison, Clayton, Cartmell, Valentine, two members of the Cross family and E Smith.

The Sound of Bells - Part 2 cont.

Bells in St. Josephs Tower (Courtesy of St. Josephs Church)

After over one hundred years of ringing, the bells were in need of a complete overhaul and in 2014 a restoration appeal was launched in an effort to raise £5,000 towards the cost of restoration. This was achieved and a service of rededication took place on 21st October 2015 and subsequently an opening quarter peal was rung.

As with many walks of life bell ringing has its traditions and customs, one of which is putting inscriptions on the bells often in Latin. For example the St. Johnis inscriptions (in Latin) include a reference to the purpose of the bells and words from the Book of Common Prayer and are:

Treble	Devotion death and happiness bid us sound
No 2	Oh Lord open Thou our lips
No 3	And our mouth shall show forth thy praise
No 4	Grant Thy people salvation
No 5	Lord have mercy upon me
No. 6	The glory is to God



The bells at St Josephs, in a poetic way, remind us of the purpose of bells and are also in Latin. They include, St. James pray for us, scatter the winds, pacify the bloodthirsty, announce the Sabbath, smash the thunderbolts and to make sure everyone is awake and alert, spur on the lazy!

Anyone straying into a bell tower and hearing the ringers discuss their art may be forgiven for thinking they are speaking in a foreign language! Hand stroke and tail stroke, doubles, triples and bobs, minimus, minor and major all have a very specific meaning. There are hundreds of different "methods" for ringing changes many with wonderful names, which are evocative and quaint, such as Plain Hunt, Grandsire Doubles, and Kent Treble Bob Major. All of these produce the wonderful sounds we hear.

Bells have been rung for hundreds of years to mark church services and community events such as wedding and funerals. They have been and still are used in times of national celebration and sorrow and even held in reserve as a warning in times of national emergency. This is well summed up in the St. Annes Parish Magazine of October 1890:

In sorrow or sadness
In pleasure or gladness
Now softly stealing
Now loudly pealing
The bells have a message for all.

Post Script: Congratulations to the ringers at St. Annes Parish Church who reached the final of the National Remember World War I Awards, which acknowledge the different ways communities are honouring the fallen of the Great War. The ringers, supported by other local churches, are ringing Quarter Peals on the anniversaries of death of those who gave their lives from the parish and town. Eventually this will honour over 180 men.

Correction: In part one of the article I stated that the bells at St. Johns were rehung in 1992 at a cost of £500. This should, of course, have read £15,000. Apologies to all at St. Johns for this error.

Fiona Wilson

CREATURES ARE WATCHING YOU - BUT WHAT AND WHERE?

Question 9 Answer



The gentleman lives over the main door of the Estate Offices in Hastings Place. (See below)



Question 10

Another weather vane and another bearded gentleman



The Story of “Hungry Moor”

I was asked recently where the name “Lowther Gardens” came from. Here is the answer:

In 1858 the Squire and Lord of the Manor of Lytham, Colonel John Talbot Clifton (the Colonel) through his agent, James Fair, wrote to the town's Improvement Commissioners stating that the land, known locally as "Hungry Moor" had to "remain unbuilt upon". This area of land, now Lowther Gardens and Lytham Cricket Field, would provide for the Clifton family, an unobstructed view from the south front of Lytham Hall through to the Ribble estuary. A covenant was drawn up which committed the authority to honour this agreement in perpetuity.

The land from Gregson Street to beyond Fairlawn Road was a farm holding; the farmhouse was occupied by the current incumbent of the Parish Church of St Cuthbert (at that time the Rev Robert Lister - 1800-34).

There were two thatched cottages still standing in Gregson Street; now a slate-roofed part of the farm complex, a poor habitation, swept over by sea, wind and sand, hence the name "Hungry Moor". The farmhouse was to be replaced by a beautiful residence, "Woodville", which was renamed The Leylands before being demolished to make way for the modern townhouses with the same name.

Next to the Parish Church is the Vicarage which had been built by John Clifton for his racehouse trainer. John Clifton, grandfather to the Colonel, owned a stud of fine racehorses.

In 1860 John Talbot, the Colonel, had constructed and provided pleasure grounds with a pond, and a fountain issuing from a central rockery. Extensive tree and shrub planting, pathways, lawns and flowerbeds, completed the grounds made available for public pleasure and enjoyment. The name "Lowther Gardens" introduced the connection between the Cliftons and the Lowthers. John Talbot had married Cecily, daughter of Colonel Henry Cecil Lowther. His father, Sir William, first Earl Lonsdale, brought useful connections into the Clifton family.

Lowther Terrace provided the eastern boundary to the Gardens, and Woodville Terrace bounded the western limits. The development of Lytham, due now to easy access by road, rail and sea, providing an enlarging visitor attraction, also meant that the local commissioners had to be replaced by an Urban District Council.

In 1906 John Talbot Clifton, grandson of the Colonel, gave the land and pleasure grounds to the town. Immediate plans for further improvements to the gardens resulted in a wooden pavilion, bowling greens, tennis courts and a bandstand.

The gardens today are well maintained by the Fylde Borough Council, supported by voluntarily arranged provision of new rose beds. Many community events are part of this day-to-day use of such a splendid in-town facility.

The Rose Queen crowning ceremony on Club Day; theatrical and society use of the pavilion; bowls on first-class greens; tennis and a children's play area; colourful summer gardens and a cafe, make this a great all year round attraction for locals and visitors to the town.

The statue we see today, depicting our shrimping industry, is evidence of the town's past, its people, and of a heritage worth preserving.

It may also be of interest to note that the pond was built over the farm well, said to be fed by a natural spring and from the air we see a Kiss, a gift from the Squire.

By David Hoyle the Archivist of Lytham

Local Artist Mrs M. Goode, student of Walter Eastwood

Research in the Heritage Group Archives in the Library (or should we now revert to saying “in the Lytham Institute”) by Elizabeth Bickerstaffe turned up an interesting article in the Lytham Times edition for 19th December 1937. Elizabeth was looking into the history of Queen Mary School when she came across the article which announced the presentation of a painting of the Lytham Lifeboat Coxswain John William Parkinson in his RNLI guernsey and cap to the ex-Coxswain himself.



Coxswain John William Parkinson by Mrs M Goode

It was given to the by-then-retired 75 year old by the artist, Mrs M Goode of Vernon Bank, South Promenade, who had been a student of the famous Walter Eastwood at his shop in Market Square.

Some excitement was caused when it was thought at first, but only for a very short period, that it may refer to the missing Walter Eastwood painting of Coxswain Clarkson which vanished from the Town

Hall in the 1990s. This was not the case however and the search is still on. If anybody comes across the missing painting please let us, the Art Society or the Tagging the Treasures Team know. Fortunately a good quality copy was photographed in 1986 for use in the Lytham Lifeboat Museum and one copy is now on display in the Old Lifeboat House Museum and one in the Viewing Gallery at the Lytham St Annes Mersey class Lifeboat House on South Promenade.

John William Parkinson was one of the Lytham Lifeboat Crew who saved the lives of the twelve men on board the German barque Mexico in 1886 when 27 Lifeboatmen lost their lives in Southport and St Annes Lifeboats in the attempt. After 15 years as 2nd Coxswain and time away on war service, he was appointed Coxswain of the Lytham Lifeboat in November 1917 until he retired in March 1928.

The missing Walter Eastwood painting shows Thomas Clarkson who was Coxswain at the time of the Mexico service when John William was a crew member. Thomas was awarded the RNLI Silver medal for gallantry and was in post as Coxswain from October 1878 to August 1902.

Further research by Veronica McDonnell turned up an article in the Lytham St Annes Express for 16th June 1939 when a reporter visited Mrs Goode’s artist’s studio in Wood Street. After her time as a student of Walter Eastwood she also trained in London. Her first love was portrait painting which she always returned

to, although she did depict many other themes over the years and enjoyed producing miniatures. Her painting of John William Parkinson has been cherished and passed down through his family since his death.



The missing painting of Coxswain Thomas Clarkson by Walter Eastwood

Elizabeth Bickerstaffe is using our extensive archive to look for the written history of Queen Mary School for a book she is compiling. If anyone has something they think would be of interest to Elizabeth she can be contacted via AKS.

Sue and David Forshaw

Tom Mellor 1914-1994, Architect, Artist, Designer

Heritage Exhibition from 22 Nov - 11 Dec 2016.

At the Private Viewing on November 22nd, Tom Mellor's son-in-law opened the exhibition and included the following insights about TM:

"Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I extend a warm welcome to you all on the occasion of the first of two exhibitions on the life and work of Tom Mellor, the architect and painter, who lived and worked in Lytham from 1922, when the family moved from Blackburn, until 1968 when he moved to Crook in the Lake District.

When I have asked residents of Lytham St Annes if they know who Tom Mellor was, those who recognise the name say he was a local architect who designed the War Memorial in the Big Hall of King Edward VII School. ...Yet Tom had over 50 commissions for private and public buildings in the Borough, including a house for the then mayor Norman Utley on the Inner Promenade and the three bungalows at the junction of Seafield Road and West Beach. One of these was for Lancashire County Clerk, Sir Robert Adcock. Among public buildings were the Maternity Wing of Lytham Hospital, Cookson's Bakery, St Annes YMCA and the Douro Wine Shop in St Annes, with the pebble frontage.

Tom received an OBE for services to architecture in 1961 and I thought there must be information about him in the British Architectural Library in London. In fact there are only 25 items listed in the catalogue of which only 15 are by or about Tom and his buildings. My search in the Library and elsewhere yielded 22 articles by Tom and 32 about him. What was equally rewarding was the discovery of 33 letters written to the artist John Piper CH between 1954 and 1984 in Tate Britain Archives discussing a drawing by Piper on the reredos of St Bernadette's Church in Lancaster. More information about Tom came from university archives and all has enriched the exhibition.

The Christmas cards displayed cover the years from 1938 until his death in 1994 and touch on aspects of family life and political issues and fashions of the day. In a letter to his friend and collaborator, the painter John Piper, Tom wrote in May 1984 '...looking back [the Christmas cards] can be seen as a sort of life history with all the good and bad overtones that implies.' Earlier that year Piper had written, 'Many thanks for your delightful letter. We often speak of you, and have missed the delicious Christmas cards you used to send - no doubt you don't do them anymore.' Tom responded by sending a selection of cards to him that were in the Piper archive in Tate Britain until 2013, but are now lost.

All but one of Tom's Christmas cards were black line drawings; in 1972 the card showing a cracker having just landed like a rocket with Father Christmas on board was coloured red and green but was not used - and for the first time has been shown on the announcement for this exhibition.

An earlier coloured Christmas card signed but not dated shows a mill town on the coal field in Lancashire with rows of terrace houses of Accrington red brick, dozens of mills belching smoke and coal measure waste heaps - not an attractive scene at Christmas but redolent of many mill towns in east Lancashire at the time.

Tom also drew Christmas cards for family and friends; his cousin Jenny Smalley drew her own delightful cards but her sister, Marjorie did not, so Tom obliged for many years. In 1954 Tom drew a Christmas card of St. Bernadette's Church, Lancaster for the priest, Father Aspinall and in 1967 a cut out Christmas card of Lytham Hall for Lytham St Annes Civic Society.

Both of Tom's children, David and Rosanna, have drawn and sent out Christmas cards, David for nearly 50 years and Rosanna for 25 years until her death in 1996.

When Tom was invited to write illustrated articles for *The Architectural Review* in 1955 on Church Wood, his home in Lytham, and on the Music Room at Prospect House, Grindleton, he was asked to provide a thumb nail sketch of his career and summarize his likes and dislikes in that section of the *Review* entitled 'Marginalia.' His dislikes were listed as 'television and reading about the New Brutalism.' Of the former he wrote, 'likes drawing, peace (non-political), romantic scenery, East Lancashire and caves'.

In this exhibition, you will see examples of his drawings, glimpses of romantic scenery in his paintings, the sort of mills you would have seen in East Lancashire but here in Preston, but no caves!

In addition to the Christmas cards given by Stanley Brown and Joe Lee, and framed using a gift from the local Rotary in 2004, we have included in the exhibition Rosanna's Dolls' House, a few items of furniture, photographs of Tom's buildings and some paintings of which Prefabrication Preston 1947 sums up the response to the housing crisis in the UK after the Second World War.

The next exhibition in February 2017 will include details of more buildings designed by Tom, a greater number of paintings, photographs of his murals, furniture and fabrics he designed for David Whitehead and Sons.

I hope you enjoy this exhibition and will tell your friends and colleagues about and come to the exhibition next year.

Professor M J Tooley

The main contributors to the exhibitions were Tom's son, David, and Peter Boyd, a Director of Mellor Architects.



*Above:
Michael Tooley with
David Mellor*

*Right:
Mr and Mrs Peter Boyd
at the Private Viewing.*



Heritage Centre Exhibitions Report

2016 - Last exhibitions

11-30 October (715 Visitors)

"Promen-art and Perspectives" photography by Barry Marshall-Kalina & "Abstract Dimensions" artworks by Jason M Graham - a combined exhibition of contrasting art media.

This was a very different type of art - a mix of photography with a twist and eye-catching modernist paintings.



01 - 20 November (902 visitors)

"Vibrant Views Creative Canvases" by Photographic Artist Elizabeth McMorran.

A very popular exhibition, full of colour and beautiful images, candles and cushions.

22 Nov - 11 December

"Tom Mellor OBE 1914 - 1994 Architect, Artist, Designer" a Lytham Heritage exhibition.

Celebrating the talent of this acclaimed local architect with photographs, paintings and artifacts kindly loaned by Tom's family and friends. This is an early taste of the main exhibition about Tom Mellor, including the many Christmas cards that he drew, some furniture and paintings.



Shown above, Mayor of Fylde with TM's granddaughter, Anna Tooley at the Private Viewing.



Heritage Centre 2017 First Exhibition



14 February - 9 April 2017

"Tom Mellor OBE 1914 - 1994 Architect, Artist, Designer" a Lytham Heritage exhibition.

Please come and see this, the main exhibition about TM: displaying the spread of his work as an architect and his many years as a painter. There will also be a room with furniture that he designed.

If you have any comments, please put them in the Visitors Book, or via the Contact details on Page 8.

Hilary Fletcher, Centre Exhibitions Coordinator

Social Events Past



Talk by Joyce Wiseman October 12th 2016.

One of our members Joyce Wiseman volunteered to speak on her experiences in the USA which she visited with her family. As a nurse she was asked to take part in the experience of the profession "over the pond". One of the highlights had been participation in the programme set up at that time to look at the particular needs of the Native Americans. This had evidently left a lasting impression on Joyce as her illustrated talk was full of happy memories.

Talk by David Forshaw November 9th 2016

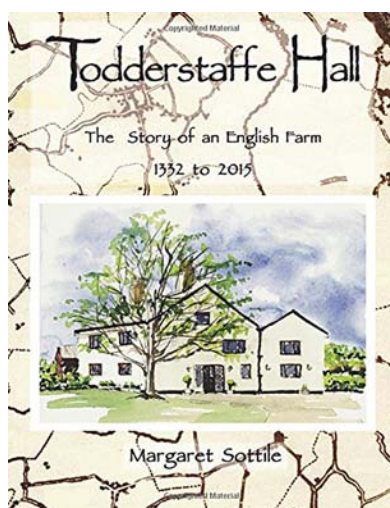
David gave a second installment of his FY8 illustrated talk to over 40 people. He concentrated on a coastal journey from the Clifton Arms to the racecourse at Squires Gate with themed threads such as hotels and back again to Lytham Shipyard. It was a nostalgia trip especially for the "sand grown uns".

Sue Forshaw

Future Social Events

Talk on Tom Mellor Architect and Designer to be held on Monday 13th March 2017.

This talk will be presented by Tom's son David and will be based on the exhibitions of his work that have been the last of 2016 and the first of 2017 in the Heritage Centre. It will be held in the Assembly Rooms at 2.30pm. Both exhibitions touched on different areas of his life and work. The first included the theme of Christmas and the second will include items of furniture he designed amongst other exhibits. This talk is a must for anyone with an interest in design.



Illustrated talk by Margaret Sottile on Todderstaffe Hall 1332 - 2015 and its Clifton Connections to be held on Monday 10th April 2017.

Margaret is now resident in the USA but her family home is Todderstaffe Hall where her brother still lives. She has written a detailed book of its history but will concentrate her talk on the Clifton Connection. Those interested in the history of the Cliftons and Lytham Hall will I am sure find this talk very informative. The venue is the Assembly Rooms at 2.30pm. She is coming for a visit to the family in April so there will be no need for a video link!

Sue Forshaw.

Membership Information

We are delighted to welcome several new members:

MR PETER BOYD (Preston)

MR & MRS WORSFIELD (St. Annes)

MRS EVE GREENFIELD

Sadly the following member has passed away:

BET CRANE
(Founding Member)



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.