



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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Notes from the Chairman

Welcome to our summer edition of the Antiquarian. The days have certainly lengthened and we have had some warm sunshine so long may that continue.

From Easter onwards we open up our two museums which have started the year very successfully with good visitor numbers. You never know, we may surpass our record as we are staying open slightly later in September. Several school parties have booked to come round the Windmill and Old Lifeboat Boathouse, and thanks to Margaret Nickson and her team who organise these on a Monday when both are usually shut. The perennial plea for more volunteers for all our venues is still needed so the Heritage Centre and Archive join with the Windmill and OLH for your consideration. If you contact the Centre someone will get back to you. As I write this we do not have a permanent secretary so bear with us if we do not get back to you promptly.

There have been speakers early in the year who have attracted healthy numbers, which is a relief for me as the organiser and pleasing for the speaker. As it is summer we tend to have a break and restart in September with our Annual Lunch, details of which appear later, followed by two speakers and the Christmas Lunch which this year will be at Lytham Hall.

Three members of your Committee as well as some members of Lytham Heritage Group have been representatives on the committee that was formed with other interested parties to 'Save Lytham Library'. As you will be aware the Conservative Group are now in the majority on Lancashire County Council including Councillor Tim Ashton, and they are actively looking at ways this can be achieved. This will be a slow process but we will try to keep you informed when we know anything definite.

Will sign off now and sit in the sun and make the most of it! Have a lovely relaxing summer and hope to see you at one of the events planned for the autumn.

Sue Forshaw

Contents

Page 1

Chairman's Notes

1940's Weekend

Page 2

Celebrating 30
Years

Tom Mellor Murals

Page 3

Lifeboat Drawing

Quiz

Page 4

Future 2017
Exhibitions

Future Events

Archive

Page 5

River Ribble Pilot
Boats

Page 6

Talk by
Jennifer Ray

Obituary

Syd Hardman

Page 7

Annual Lunch

Page 8

Contact



1940's Weekend

1940s Weekend, Lytham Green, 19th and 20th August
The Windmill and Lifeboat Museum will be joining in with festivities at this year's 1940's weekend with a theme on Agriculture and Land Girls.

The WI will be setting up Teas and Coffees in the Old Lifeboat House and the team at the museum will set up a themed display. Throughout the days will be joined by Brigadier General Hoyle, Winston Churchill and the Mayor / Deputy Mayor.

Come and join us. Bring your deck chairs and knotted hankies!



JULY 2017

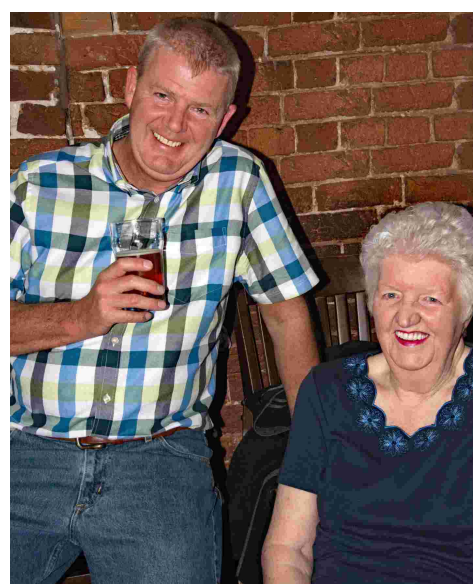
Lytham Heritage Group Turns Thirty

About 50 members turned up at The Taps in Henry Street on 3rd May 2017 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Group following the general invitation to all members on page 1 of the last issue of The Antiquarian.

To mark the occasion, Archivist Dave Hoyle had arranged with the Lytham Brewery to provide three special heritage beers which landlord Steve Norris had connected to the bar pumps. These were named The Ashton, The Kirby and The Forshaw, ranging in alcoholic content from 4.0% ABV to 4.4% ABV and were delicious. Food and refreshments were provided by The Taps which went down equally well and everyone seemed to enjoy the chat, the beer and the food.

Simon Ray, with Jennifer assisting, took a number of photos of the gathering. Space prevents more than a couple being shown here but we hope to arrange to display them, possibly on the web site, in the future.

Thanks must go to Dave Hoyle for arranging everything and to all members who attended and made it a delightful evening.



Top: Group members in The Taps

Above: The bar pumps line up

Right: Group Archivist Dave Hoyle who organised the celebration with his mother Joss Hoyle.

All photos Simon Ray



Tom Mellor Mural

David Mellor, the son of Tom Mellor, mentioned prior to us staging the exhibition about his father that he remembered him painting a mural on the wall of their dining room in Riversleigh Avenue. I decided to call to see if it was still there. The house was up for sale and the owner told me that all the walls were wallpapered but he would try peeling off the paper on one corner. I gave him my telephone number but never heard from him. To my surprise four weeks ago he rang to say that the new owners were having extensive alterations and under five layers of wallpaper had uncovered the mural! David estimates that it was painted by his father about 1949/ 1950 because of the drawing of their drophead Sunbeam Talbot which he remembers vividly as a small boy. It is about eight feet wide and shows what I take to be Lytham Hall, St. Cuthbert's church, the water's edge with small boats and many other things. The owners are delighted and have employed someone to restore the parts which have been damaged during the wallpaper removal. A very happy ending.

Hilary Fletcher

Lifeboat 'JHW' drawing by Tom Mellor

A beautiful pencil drawing of 'Lytham Shipyard' by Tom Mellor from 1933 (or possibly 1938), has been donated to LHG. The picture, detailing a lifeboat in the sheds at the Dock Road site, was kindly donated by David Mellor after the recent Tom Mellor exhibition.

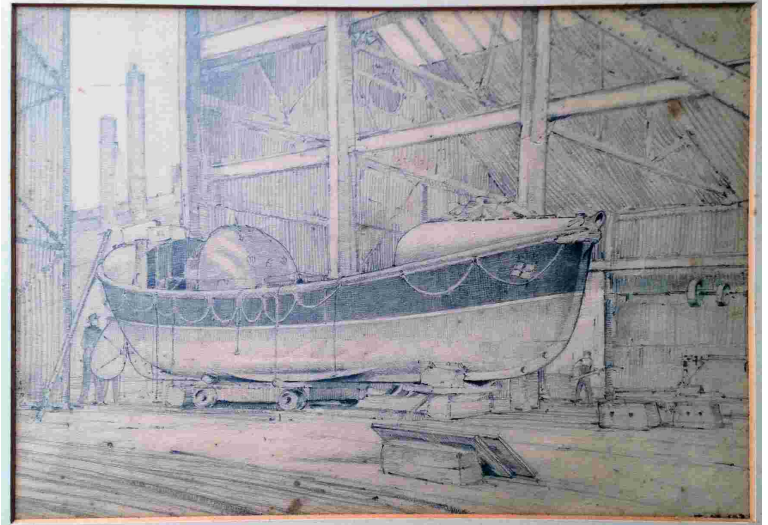
David Forshaw, our expert lifeboat historian, commented on the excellent find *"The Lifeboat depicted is a 35 foot 6 inch self-righting motor Lifeboat and is almost certainly the JHW, stationed at Lytham (1931 - 39) at the time. This I am 95% certain, as most of the others of that class were stationed too far away to come to Lytham for overhaul and apart from the war years they did not travel as far in those days to find suitable boatyards. See separate photo of the JHW to compare.*

Lytham Shipyard did overhaul the odd lifeboat for the RNLI and it would not be surprising that they had the JHW hauled up for any work required, being so close. They did not work on many lifeboats however, as their principal business, of course, was steel shipbuilding. Mayor's Boatyard at Tarleton also overhauled some lifeboats. The major local boatyard was Allanson's at Freckleton, who had regular contracts with the RNLI, until the yard was burnt down in the early 1970s. Although a different firm re-opened the yard, it never regained contracts.

No RNLI lifeboats were built at Lytham, just overhauls / repairs. Plenty of ship's lifeboats were built, of course, to go onto the ships built but they are not the same thing."

David added, *"I have had an email from Pat Jopling at Amble who owns the former Lytham Lifeboat DUNLEARY and was trying to get her returned to Lytham for preservation. Steve Williams visited and surveyed her and unfortunately at 46 foot she was too large a project for LHG. She, the DUNLEARY, has now been taken on by a preservation group at her original*

Pencil drawing of Lifeboat 'JHW' at Lytham Shipyard by Tom Mellor

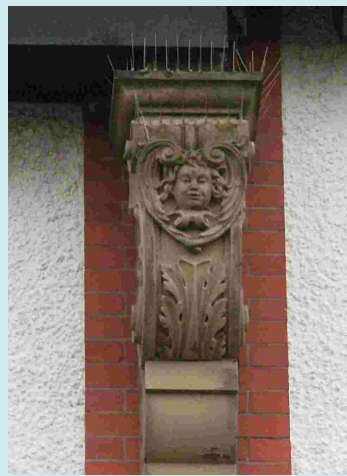
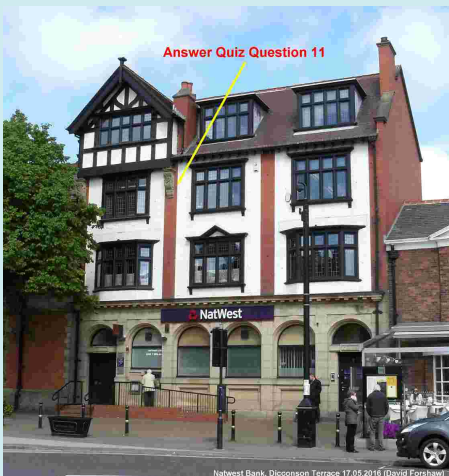


station Dun Laoghaire (the town was called Kingstown when she was stationed there) so that is good news. It was looking very much like she would be broken up the way things were going. They hope to have her preserved and ready for the 200th anniversary of the building of Kingstown / Dun Laoghaire Harbour."



CREATURES ARE WATCHING YOU - BUT WHAT AND WHERE?

Question 11 answer - The now, as expected, recently closed National Westminster Bank in Dicconson Terrace has fairly basic stone work to the ground floor face but two stone carvings surprisingly are "supporting" the top story.



Question 12 This little fish has been swimming overhead for many years but do you look up?

David Forshaw

Heritage Centre Exhibitions

13 June – 2 July
"A Taste of Clay" Northern Potters
ceramics exhibition

The North West potters are back with another amazing display of ceramics – both functional and decorative, but always great artistry.

4 – 23 July
"Colour through the Seasons"
paintings by Margaret Rodwell

Returning with her marvellous paintings, Margaret once again shows us how much talent she puts into her art.

25 July – 13 August
"Underground Overground"
textile art by Diversity.

A new group exhibiting all textile art – this will be a refreshing change putting the spotlight on this unusual art media.

15 August – 3 September
"Art for your Home"
paintings in different media by The Brentleigh Group of artists

Programme Change:
5 – 24 September

please note the new title for this exhibition is:

"Reflections of an Outdoor Painter and a Ceramic Artist"
Watercolours by Peter Slater and Ceramics by Marie Kershaw.

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

Future Events

LYTHAM HERITAGE GROUP ANNUAL LUNCH

This will be held at the Glendower Hotel St Annes on Monday September 11th at 12.30 for 1pm. Details of the price including tip, menu choices and booking form are found later in the Antiquarian.

TALK BY TONY FORD

This will be held at Lytham Assembly Rooms on Monday October 9th at 2.30pm. Tony is a long serving member of the group and is involved in a variety of roles within Lytham St Annes. His talk is on one of these as a Community Councillor about which I know nothing, so I for one will be looking forward to being enlightened. See you there!

TALK BY HEATHER DAVIS

This will be held in Lytham Assembly Rooms on Monday November 13th at 2.30pm. Heather is our advisor on all matters concerning our museums and works for Lancashire County Council and occasionally sits in on our committee meetings in that advisory capacity. She is going to talk on 'Conserving Lancashire's Heritage' a very important matter when most of the museums in Lancashire are or were shutting. It is important to know what we have in Lancashire and the best way of ensuring its future, so do come along to find out!

The Archive

Sometimes the Archive seems like a rather silent member of Lytham Heritage Group, so here's an update on what happens in our room at Lytham Library. We continue to receive enquiries from people researching their family history and finding they have connections with Lytham, often people living far away from here, and from people new to the area who are interested in the history of their house or street.

We also receive requests from people who have been here all their lives and are looking for some information about their past. We can often help them with maps, references in trade directories, newspaper articles, photographs, burial records, or sometimes even correspondence, programmes, or lease details. These enquirers either come in person, or make contact by phone, email or letter. We don't often have Visitors who are interested in the history of Lytham in general, and we would like to remind you that you are very welcome to come any Wednesday afternoon to browse through the very wide-ranging collection. Open 1pm till 4pm at Lytham Library on the First floor via the side entrance.

And last, but definitely not least, we are still receiving very valuable donations to the collection, valuable historically of course, not financially. Some of the items we have received recently include a number of photographs and postcards, a collection of old newspapers, and a picture of our twin town, Werne, which was a gift made to the Lytham Townswomen's Guild who were the first group to visit Werne as part of the town-twinning scheme. In addition, we have received some interesting early 20th century building plans for East Beach houses, and for fencing at King Edward's and Queen Mary's, and from the same donor, an almost complete set of Lytham St Anne's Corporation Council Minutes from 1922 until its demise, a wonderful source of information about almost every aspect of life in the borough, a gift to the researcher.

If you've got items lurking in your attic which have a connection with Lytham St Anne's, and are more than thirty years old, you might think of our archive as an appropriate long-term home for them. We have a cut-off date because although of course everything today is the history of the future, we can't collect it all!

David Hoyle The Archivist of Lytham

The River Ribble and the Pilot Boats Part 1 - Stanley Brown

Stanley Brown was invited by the Ribble Pilots to take trips out with them and this two-part article describes a typical day in the 1940s or 50s. The Pilot cutter was moored alongside a barge situated one mile below Lytham's pier. Pilots, who escorted shipping up the Ribble to the docks at Preston, embarked at Lytham and could disembark at the Pier before the tide ebbed too far.

As one sits on the bus, listening eagerly for some hint of what vessels are due, one contemplates the scene. A half full bus, a housewife with her shopping here, one there, two children - they should be in school - those six men, two here, three there, one there. The other folk in the bus don't know, for to them they might and could be six men out for the day, or going to the races, a rattling cap here, a white macintosh there, neat flannels, brown brogues, tweeds there, a trilby, a bowler, a plastic mac, yellow socks, young men, they're certainly together but whatever do they do, whatever are they doing? And if you knew how to look I think that there is one clue and one clue only which would lead you to solve the little mystery which you have set yourself. More than ordinarily tanned faces and fresh clear far-seeing eyes that obviously cannot spend their days focussed on pieces of paper on desks in offices and banks, near-sightedly and with furrowed brows. And as one listens, eagerly seeking out some reference to what is due this tide, some sailing date perhaps, the casual reference to some foreign name you have heard, that but for Bill starting leave, this one would have been working outwards, and sure there are only four to sail, he would have been off this ride and he would have run the wife up to the Lakes for the afternoon.

And as they jump off the bus, and stroll leisurely down the centre of the road, so much like a men's club on a day out, a rain coat flying casually open, a leisurely amble, imperceptibly purposeful, a trilby swinging from a hand, a mac thrown over a shoulder, and as they amble now it seems, out of earshot of their fellow passengers on the bus, they yarn.

A baby expected here, a greenhorn to be pranked there, the prospect of an evening in Blackpool there, the distance to the Lakes, how many miles to the gallon, that bally pump that wouldn't get out of the way as I came down yesterday with a tender ship and southerly gale and you know how she is on her helm.

Down the steps, over the stones, and on to the sand. This is one of God's own days, the sun beating down, the seeping, ticking noise of the wet sand, the faint zephyr charged with that clean green sea smell, a tiny crab scuttles across one's path, a patch of

thin mud to walk carefully through. Some stop and roll their trousers up a couple of turn ups. Down across the sands rippled in herring-bone pattern from the last tide, pools of clear shallow water broken by occasional bubbles from the sand beneath, the casts of the rag worms, an empty bottle, and on to the Scar. That curious outcrop of mussels and shells, matted together everywhere you can see, just shells and shells and shells. And crunch, crunch, crunch we go and before us the Barge and the Cutter and Charlie.

The barge an old tug, defunnelled, moored there, now in retirement serving as a look out, a telephone link with the shore, the outpost of the dock 9 miles upstream, whereby the watchman, who also tends her navigation light, can ring the harbour master, or vice versa with advices about the comings and goings, whether to keep the lock gates open for a late comer and so on. Wharfed alongside, a black motor fishing vessel with miniature wheelhouse, painted buff with a white lettered board on its side, 'Pilot'. A white dinghy, a man standing in her stern, facing us, and sculling with one oar over the stern with that ease of the boatman, comes

rippling over the 50 yards or so of the still water intervening between the sea and the barge. Charlie holds her whilst my companions use him as they might a post to hoist themselves aboard, and with his oar swings us round and sails us out to the barge.

As we nose alongside, hands come out and pull us to, whilst one by one we clamber up a short rope ladder and aboard the cutter. One of my companions is in the wheelhouse speaking into a

telephone. A deep sonorous, very richly brogue Irish voice issues from the ear piece, "... OK, Helen Craig calling Preston Pilot. Yes, receiving you loud and clear, can you hear me, over". He places the instrument to his head and finding the middle of the handpiece squeezes it which automatically switches the set on to transmit instead of receiving, a whine sets up on the grey painted set beside him and goes up the scale, and as it stops and he speaks, "Preston Pilot, calling Helen Craig, can you hear me?" "Yes, getting you loud and clear. Good morning, Cap, how many are there out there? Over." "Helen Craig calling Preston Pilot, well there's the Bally... at anchor here with me, there's two foreigners just south of Nelson, the Prior's coming down, from the norwest, at least I think it's the Prior. Ay, and there's smoke away to norward. Over to you, over." "Hello, Helen Craig, Preston Pilot to Helen Craig. OK, Cap, thanks a lot, we'll give you a shout in three quarters of an hour, and see if there's anything else. Thanks a lot, Cap. Over and down, gone out." "Helen Craig to Preston Pilot. Righto. I'll be listening out for you then, over and out, gone."

To be continued in the next issue of the Antiquarian.

Ribble Pilot Vessel, 'Fawn', Entering the tidal basin at Preston Docks
Preston Digital Archive Flickr



Talk by Jennifer Ray on Monday 8th May

Jennifer ably assisted by her husband Simon gave an appreciative audience of 30+ members and guests a very entertaining illustrated talk. The theme of Military Hospitals, especially from the 1st World War, was expanded to give an insight on the type of care they offered as well as the history of the buildings that were used and some moving human stories. So many of the buildings have had a variety of roles over the years as schools, offices, flats and even hotels and that is still the case today. I am sure we will be seeing her again as her knowledge of the history and heritage of Lancashire is extensive and she has other talks on different themes to offer.

Sue Forshaw



Simon Ray, Jennifer Ray and Bernie Worsfold

Obituary - Syd Hardman

A member of the old Lytham Fishing community

The Lytham Heritage Group is sad to report the death of long time member and former Heritage Group Archivist Syd Hardman who passed away last December at the age of 98. For the last few years of his life he moved down to live with his daughter Eve Greenfield in Cambridge but his heart was still in Lytham and he remained a Heritage Group member from its inception until his death, always enjoying local news and history.

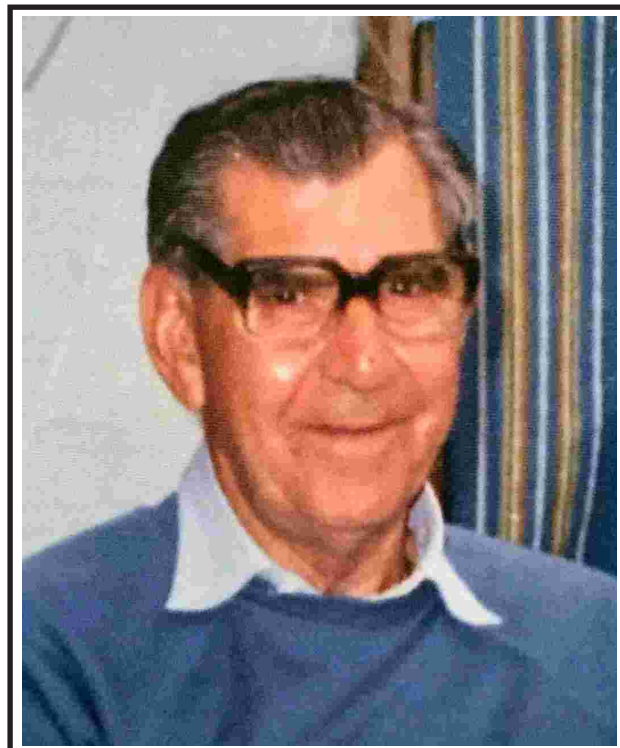
Born in Lytham in 1918, Syd was a grandson of Thomas Hardman, a member of the Lytham 'Heroes' Lifeboat Crew who saved the shipwrecked sailors from the German barque Mexico in December 1886 when 27 Lifeboatmen from the St Annes and Southport Lifeboats were lost in the worst disaster to befall the RNLI.

Syd attended St John's School, Lytham but he had never time to be idle as he had plenty of jobs and duties to keep him busy on top of his school work. Being part of the Lytham fishing families, he helped out with the family horse and cart round selling wet fish to the housewives on their doorsteps. Before school he would often have to deliver

fresh fish to Lytham Station to catch the train for the inland markets, then afterwards he had a newspaper round. What time he had left often saw him delivering groceries to customers from one of the town's shops. Purely through circumstances and family needs he left school with no

qualifications but this did not stop him achieving his true potential, rising to become the Chief Welfare Officer of all the UK National Savings Departments following time in the RAF, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, then based in Lytham St Annes, and the Premium Bonds.

Syd had an older brother Tom who was also a stalwart member of the Lytham Heritage Group, a younger brother Allan who sadly lost his life flying in 1939, and a younger sister Grace who still lives on the Fylde Coast at the age of 90.



Syd was real gentleman, always friendly and helpful and, sadly but inevitably a little bit more of the old Lytham fishing community to pass away. The Group's condolences go to his family.

Future Events

ANNUAL LUNCH

This is to be held at Best Western Glendower Hotel, St Annes

On Monday 11th September 2017

At 12.30pm for 1 o'clock



Lunch at the Glendower Menu choices

Starters

CREAM OF TOMATO AND BASIL SOUP
with Pesto Oil

WATERMELON AND CUMBRIAN AIR DRIED HAM
Lancashire Cheese, Raspberries

HAM HOCK AND PARSLEY TERRINE
Piccalilli, Truffle Oil

Main Course

GOOSNARGH CHICKEN BREAST
Braised Shallot, Wild Mushrooms, Creamed Leeks,
Anna Potatoes

FILLET OF SEA BASS
Fondant Potato, Butter Beans,
Baby Spinach, Chive Butter Sauce

WILD MUSHROOM RISOTTO
Garstang Blue Cheese, Truffle Oil

Desserts

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING
Treacle Toffee Ice Cream, Butterscotch Sauce

BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING
Earl Grey Soaked Apricots, Double Cream Ice Cream

TRIO OF ICE CREAMS

Please complete the form below for your choices which must be returned to the Heritage Centre for the attention of Sue Forshaw by

Friday 25th August at the latest please.

Cost will be £23.00 including tip for members and £25.00 for guests

Please make cheques payable to 'Lytham Heritage Group'

Name(s)

No in party Members Non members

Address

AddressPostcode

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 £.....



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.

