



## The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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## Notes from The Chairman

It does not seem anytime since I wrote my forward for the January edition but I think it has something to do with getting older. Somehow since retiring my days are as full but the difference is the activities are of my choosing! Talking of activities the social calendar started in March with Bernard Worsfold and his First Day Covers. In April we will have our local Coastguard Officer Paul Little to talk to us and in May Derek Timms about his life in libraries, so topical at the moment.

Talking libraries I am sure you are all following the events around our own libraries and the buildings that house them. There has been a lot of activity with public meetings led by Christine Marshall with representatives from various interested parties including us, to make the case for the full use of the Lytham Institute building. As of writing this there has been no decision and when one is made, hopefully soon, we can update you, especially on the future of our Archive.

Before the next edition there are two important points to note.

The subscriptions for the year 2018 - 2019 are due in April. We have maintained the cost at £10 for an individual and £15 for a couple/family. We would like to encourage new members so please tell friends and family what a bargain it is. We have several members who have moved away but like getting the Antiquarian to keep in touch with their heritage so you may know someone who would also enjoy a newsletter. How about giving it to someone as an inexpensive present?

Secondly the AGM is in June at the Lytham Assembly Rooms when we hope as many of you as possible can come along.

Easter will have come and gone probably before you receive this edition. However we can now look forward to warmer weather with the promise of summer. This will be when the Windmill and Old Lifeboat House will reopen for the season, so we look forward to yet another successful year.

*Sue Forshaw*

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# Deacon's of Lytham

In the eighteenth century, Lytham was no more than a small fishing and farming village owned largely by the Clifton family. The growing popularity of sea-bathing, however, prompted the Cliftons to develop Lytham as a seaside resort. The first hotel, the Wheat Sheaf, was built in Clifton Street in 1794, where the Post Office used to be, which is now Pizza Express. Some fifty years later the opening of a branch railway line, (the station being on Station Road) on the site now occupied by the Fire Station, made the town accessible to visitors for the first time.



*Lytham's first Railway Station*

In 1851 Lytham still had only 2,698 inhabitants, but the town grew rapidly, frequented during the summer months by the wealthy classes. The new assembly rooms and swimming baths (now the Assembly rooms and Flats) were opened in 1863, the pier, for promenading and steamer embarkation, in 1865, (sadly no longer with us in ) and a golf club (Royal Lytham) in 1886, which is world famous today.

In 1897 the Lytham Times noted 'Lytham has its charming walks and rich rural scenery and a quiet holiday can be enjoyed, there being none of the bustling excitement which is found at other much-frequented resorts... it is certainly the 'beau ideal' of a resort for those who desire a quiet holiday near the sea. Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank was quick to recognise the opportunity offered by the buoyant Lytham economy, this bank had been formed in 1890 by the merger of Williams, Deacon & Co., a London private bank founded in 1771, with Manchester and Salford Bank which had been established as a joint stock bank in Manchester in 1836. During the 1860s Manchester and Salford Bank had begun a policy of branch expansion in the north-west, and by the mid-1890s the bank had over sixty branches. The attraction of the Fylde coast proved irresistible and, in 1895, three branches were opened in Blackpool and Fleetwood within a few weeks of each other. All proved extremely successful. Encouraged by this early success, in February 1898 the directors of Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank authorised the opening of a branch in Lytham. Two months later the bank was negotiating the lease of a property in Clifton Street to erect a purpose-built branch bank and adjoining post office in partnership with the General Post Office. Discussions, although lengthy and prolonged, were satisfactorily concluded in January 1899 when a large plot adjoining Clifton Square was leased from John Talbot Clifton. I Earnshaw & Sons were appointed as architects and Robert Carlyle as contractor, and the construction



*Lytham branch in 1901 not long after it opened*

of a new building of brick and stone, comprising a branch bank and post office, was begun.

In the meantime, on 25 July 1898, Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank's new Lytham branch had opened in temporary shop premises in Park Street under the management of John Frederick Birley, aided by a single clerk. It continued to trade there until February 1901 when the building in Clifton Street was completed.

This new branch comprised a banking hall, managers office and strong room on the ground floor with a flat above on the first floor.

The brick and stone frontage, still extant today, featured the bank's name and coat-of-arms. In 1901 the bank's cumbersome title was

shortened to Williams Deacon's Bank Ltd., a change which reflected the growth of the bank's business beyond Manchester and Salford. The new site, at the heart of the resort, proved to be a good choice for in May 1903 the Fylde coast tramway, from Blackpool to St. Annes, was extended with new electrified tram tracks to Clifton Square.

*Tram approaching Clifton Street. With Deacon's Bank on the Right*



# Deacon's of Lytham

By the end of 1903 Lytham branch had become well established with 168 accounts on its books. During the following years, Lytham remained a resort for quiet family holidays. The Clifton family carefully controlled the construction of housing and provision of amenities to retain the town's appeal to middle-class residents and visitors. The arrival of Sunday excursion trippers was vehemently opposed, booths and stalls were prohibited on the promenade and amusements were restricted to the pier. The town was promoted, as 'Leafy Lytham', for its rural character location.

By the outbreak of the First World War Lytham branch had almost 400 accounts on its books. The war years were, however, characterized by a falling off in trade, low money market rates and staff shortages. In 1916 lady clerks had to be employed for the first time. Meanwhile, Lytham remained fairly buoyant, as many of the south and east coast resorts were closed for the duration of the war. In 1923 the towns of Lytham and St. Annes on Sea were formally linked as the Borough of Lytham St. Annes. However, the bank as a whole, with its business concentrated in Lancashire, was severely affected by the deep depression in the cotton industry and by the end of the decade urgently needed support from a larger partner. In 1929, through the offices of the Bank of England, The Royal Bank of Scotland made an offer for the company's entire share capital, which was finally agreed the following year. The English branch network continued to trade separately under the Williams

Deacon's name. By 1939 Lytham branch had around 550 customer accounts. In that year The Royal Bank of Scotland acquired the old established bank of Glyn, Mills & Co. in the City of London, but both of the English banks continued to trade as separate entities under the title of The Three Banks Group. During the Second World War the bank in Lytham experienced similar

problems as in 1914-18, Again large numbers of staff joined up, requiring the recall of retired employees and more widespread use of women workers.

In 1970 The Royal Bank of Scotland - English constituents -were merged to form Williams & Glyn's Bank Ltd. Lytham branch was renamed accordingly and another local branch of the new bank was opened at Kirkham. In 1985 Williams & Glyn's Bank and

The Royal Bank of Scotland finally merged fully, trading together throughout Britain as a single bank, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Today, a full century later it has become a restaurant serving the people of Lytham once again and keeping the name Deacons helps the town remember some names of the past.



*Deacons as it is today*

David Hoyle Archivist of Lytham

## CREATURES ARE WATCHING YOU - BUT WHAT AND WHERE? *David Forshaw*



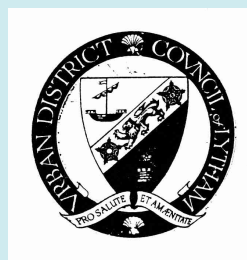
Quiz answer 14

The shrimp was part of the Lytham Coat of Arms carved into the first floor level of the Institute / Library on the Clifton Street frontage.

The simpler Lytham Urban District Council

Coat of Arms replaced this original version. The shrimp was replaced by a lion, far grander for a booming township, and the original supporters, King Neptune and the mermaid, were pensioned off

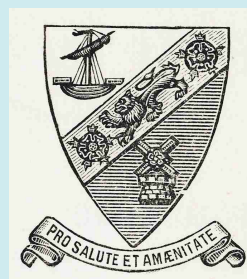
and replaced at times by a simple "scroll" bearing the Council's name. It may have been grander but not as cheerful or entertaining.



Quiz question 15



Yet another fishy creature but plumper than the last one in Question 12. You have to travel the back streets of Lytham to see this but not too far.



# Lytham Windmill and Lifeboat



Lytham Windmill and Lifeboat reopens for the 2018 Season on the 28th March

Open Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays from  
Open 10.30am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Entrance is FREE

Perfect for all the family

Discover and Explore....

The Workings of the Windmill

Old and Ancient Lytham's Past

The Great Lifeboat Disaster of 1886

Milling and Breadmaking

Lytham School Days

The Restored Victorian Lifeboat "Chapman"

Opening Dates

Easter Period

Wednesday to Sunday & Bank Holidays

Wednesday 28 March - Sunday 8 April

Open 10.30am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Spring Season

Weekends & Bank Holidays Only

Saturday 28 April - Monday 28 May

Summer Season

Wednesday to Sunday & Bank Holidays

Wednesday 30 May - Sunday 16 September

Open 10.30am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Autumn Season

Weekends Only

Saturday 22 September - Sunday 30 September

Open 10.30am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm



Special Events

St George's Charity Day Festival - Monday 23 April to Sunday 29 April

National Mill's Weekend - Saturday 12 May & Sunday 13 May



Wartime Weekend - Saturday 18 August & Sunday 19 August

Heritage Open Days - Thursday 6 September to Sunday 9

September and

Thursday 13 September to Sunday 16 September

Closed Lytham Club Day - Saturday 23 June

Closed Lytham Proms Week - Wednesday 18 July to Sunday

22 July

Mondays - Closed School Parties Only By Appointment

Tuesdays - Closed School Parties Only By Appointment

*Please Note. The Museum is managed by a small group of volunteers from Lytham Heritage Group. The Old Lifeboat House is only open at weekends subject to availability of stewards.*

If you are interested in helping as a steward, please contact

Margaret Nickson or myself Steve Williams email

[steve.williams@lythamwindmill.co.uk](mailto:steve.williams@lythamwindmill.co.uk) telephone 07842 178470

## OBITUARY

Mrs Norma Darley

We are sorry to have to report the death of Mrs Norma Darley who passed away a short time ago. Norma was a founder member of the Lytham Heritage Group in 1987 and a member of the inaugural committee. Our condolences go to her husband Keith and family.

# Home Farm of Lytham Hall

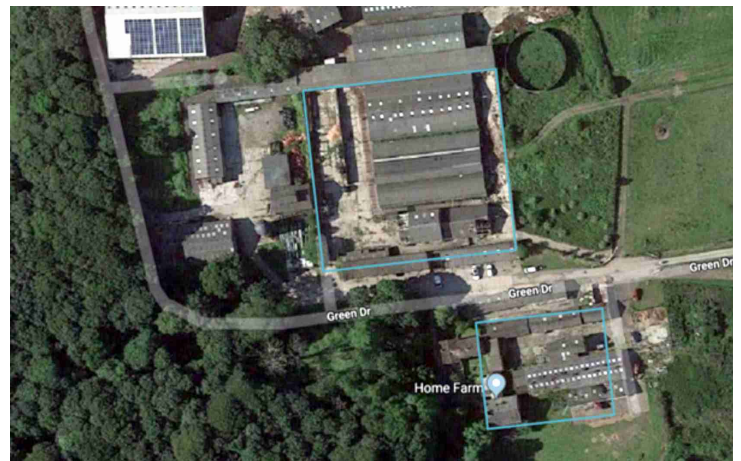
Home Farm, lies within the boundaries of the Lytham Hall Country Park. Lying just to the North East of Lytham Hall, tucked away out of public view.



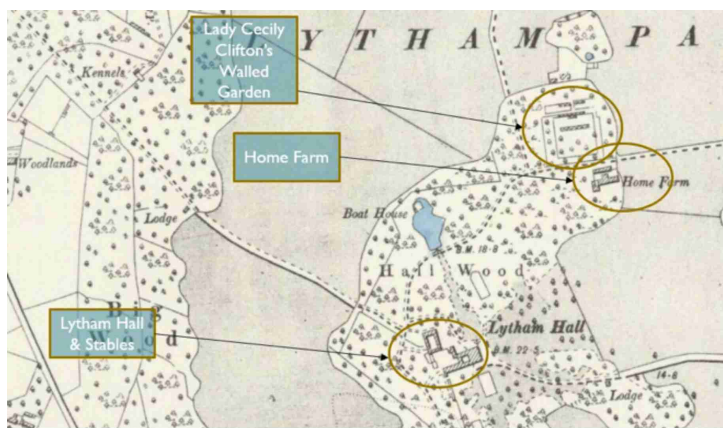
The existence of the monkey puzzle tree close to the farm house illustrates the importance of the area in terms of garden design. An ornate layout of paths and beds can be seen in the 1845 OS map. The farm predates the revamped garden and contains cobble walls within the farm buildings immediately to the rear.

The Clifton family lost their estate to their creditors Guardian Royal Exchange in the 1960s and the whole Lytham Hall estate was in the ownership of GRE until 1996. The accumulation of buildings which are known as the Home Farm of Lytham Hall and the extensive kitchen garden only went into separate ownership about 20 years ago, when GRE sold the Hall and its grounds separately. The Hall and 78 acres went into the ownership of Lytham Town Trust, now run as a community charity and managed by the Heritage Trust for the North West.

The Farm has been operated commercially for many years and this has continued, with modern buildings sitting alongside the remains older walls and buildings. The farm house itself remained in occupation until about three years ago. The site, with its separate access through Watchwood Drive, off Ballam Road, has various sheds that are let out as stabling for horses, including those in use pre C20th.



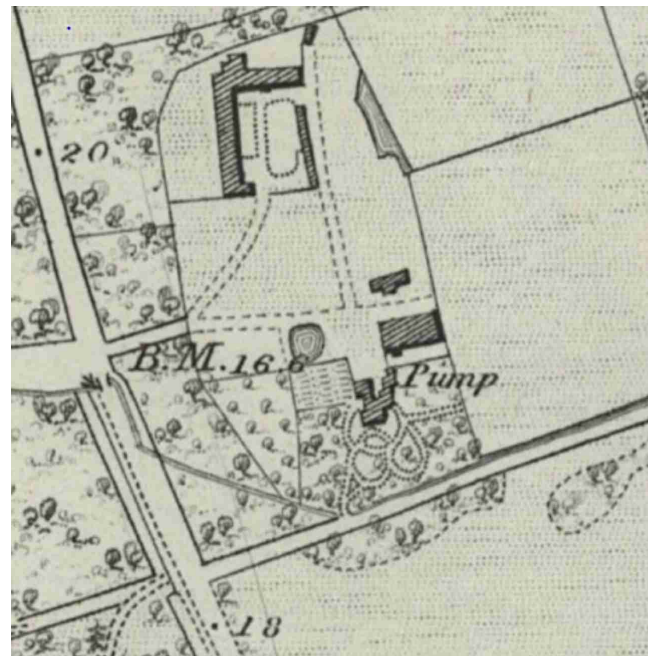
*Satellite View of Home Farm and Outbuildings*



*1891 OS Map*

In 1857 the Walled Garden of Lady Eleanor Cecily Lowther was constructed to the north of Home Farm, soon after her marriage to John Talbot Clifton. It contained extensive glass houses. Most of the walls are still in place on all sides, along with the beautiful gate piers and decorative crests

*Map from 1891 OS overlaid on modern satellite imagery showing Walled Garden*



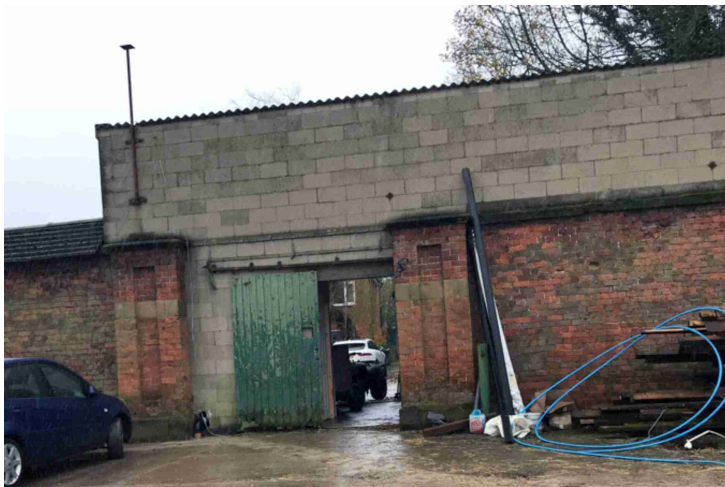
# Home Farm of Lytham Hall

*Circa 1890s photograph of the Entrance to The Walled Garden from the Collodion Collection. Note the glass houses behind and the Clifton Crest to the right*



The house has a symmetrical front with enclosed entrance porch. There are two main rooms at the front of the house and two at the back on both floors. The plan is much more complicated than this however and there is evidence of several re-modellings over a long period at the rear.

The front elevation is likely to date to the re-design of the garden site around 1857. This is the date of the Clifton crest on the kitchen garden wall. A large project was embarked on at that time as evidenced on the 1893 OS map. Watchwood Drive and its lodge house are not shown on the 1847 OS map and a separate entrance was created into the new enclosed gardens. Changes to the configuration of the entrances also date to the coming of the railway from Lytham to Blackpool in 1863. Maps indicate the presence of the property Home Farm on this site since at least 1812.

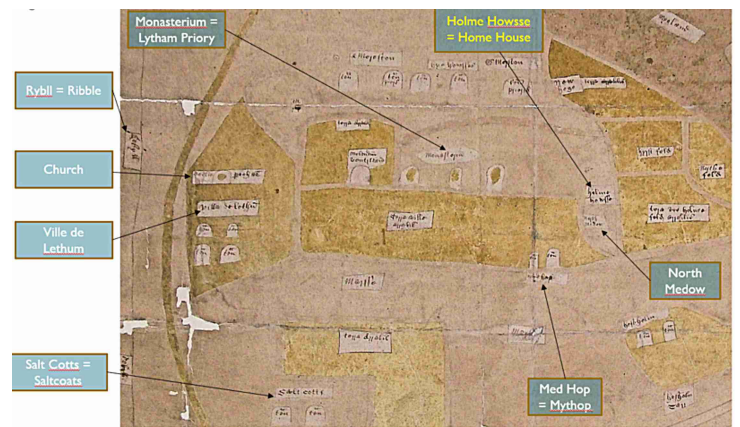


In the period from approximately 1190 to 1535, there was a Priory on the site of the current hall, managed by the monks of Durham. The prior's map of 1531 indicates a presence of a Holme Howsse (Home House) on what appears to be the same site as today's farm, indicating a possible history going back almost 500 years. The priory itself is grandly referred to as a Monasterium, which, despite being a considerable local economic unit, appears overstated, as there were only 2 or 3 monks on site at any one time.

*Current day picture of the entrance Pillars from the opposing view*



*Photograph of the Clifton Crest today showing date of 1857*



*1531 Prior's Map (North to Right) Ref LRO DDCL Acc 110*

*by Marion Coupe and Steve Williams*

# Centre Exhibitions 2018

Our 2018 Programme of exhibitions at the Centre started with a superb heritage exhibition about St John's School of Lytham.

Prepared by our Archive team plus several helpers and ex-pupils who loaned or donated information and photographs about the school, teachers (some shown here), and pupils.



The art exhibitions started on 20 March, running till 8 April, with

"Coo - Coo Cahoots: A year in the making by 2 artists working together." Paintings, ceramic sculpture & prints by Jayne Langhorne and Corrine Streetly.

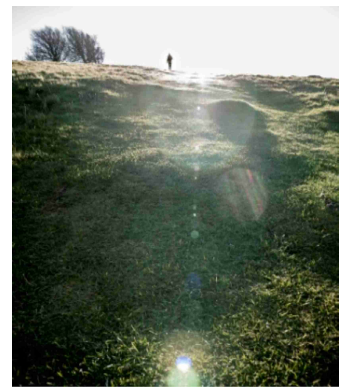
This is a modern eclectic mix of different media by two quite different artists.



Following this, from 10 - 29 April, will be

"Revealing" art photography by Contemporary Photography North West.

This group do not wish to sell their wares, they are very keen photographers who just want to exhibit the shots that have taken so much time and effort.



"Spring into Spring" art by The Blackpool Art Society. will run from 1 - 20 May; another varied set of paintings by the talented members.

"DREAMS AND FUSION" Printmaking and Paintings by Barbra Cropper and Sculpture and Creative Glass Design by Nicola Thompson.

An unusual mix of media running from 22 May - 10 June. Barbra is a regular exhibitor, but for Nicola its her first time.



*Hilary Fletcher, Centre Exhibitions Coordinator*



**Annual Trip to the National Waterways Museum on June 20th.**

Please complete the pro forma and sent fod my attention to the centre together with a cheque payable to Lytham Heritage Group. All details and monies need to be at the centre no later than May 15th please.

*Sue Forshaw*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Home \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

E mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_£\_\_\_\_\_

## Future Events

Please note-

There is a change to the programme as included with your January Antiquarian. The talk on October 8th is now an old friend of the Heritage Group Jerry Wolstenholme, whose title is "Whitehall Reminiscences". Unfortunately Richard was unable to come to talk on the Illuminations but hopefully we can rearrange that.

Monday 9th April will be Paul Little on his work as our local coastguard.

Monday 14th May will be Derek Timms on his life as a Librarian.

Details of both these talks can be found in the January edition of the Antiquarian. They will be held at Lytham Assembly Rooms at 2.30pm. The cost is £2.00 which includes tea or coffee.

Monday 11th June is the Annual General Meeting again held in the Lytham Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm, our only evening event this year. Light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday 20th June we have been invited to join Lytham Menis Forum on their annual trip. It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable day visiting 2 locations in Cheshire. The first is the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port and includes a short canal boat ride followed by a visit to Ness Botanic Gardens overlooking the river Dee. The cost is £32 pp and includes entrance fees and coach but not lunch. There will be various pick up points and details of those and times etc. will be sent, nearer the time, to those who wish to go. Please complete the form included in this edition and send with a cheque payable to Lytham Heritage Group to the Heritage Centre for my attention by May 15th at the latest.

*Sue Forshaw*



### Contact Details:

We welcome all queries and suggestions. Please send emails to

[thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk](mailto:thecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk)

or leave a note addressed to The Editor, at the Heritage Centre.