



## The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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## Notes from The Chairman

I hope that you have all recovered from the Christmas festivities and are looking forward to 2019. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year from the Committee. A new year always brings new challenges and opportunities some of which we can predict and some we cannot, a bit like Brexit! We have enclosed with this issue your quick guide to the events and exhibitions for 2019. As usual we will be putting more detail where necessary in the Antiquarian so watch this space. The exhibitions will be held in our wonderful Heritage Centre, coordinated by Hilary Fletcher with Audrey Kirby and the rest of the exhibition volunteers. The social events are varied as usual and I hope you will find them interesting. The venue as always is the Assembly Rooms and that is the unpredictable part. As you are aware the Dicconson Room is to be converted to a Library. Work was supposed to start in November and as I write this before Christmas that has not happened. There may be disruption as there are a variety of improvements planned. If there are changes to the schedule, and let us hope that does not happen, an email address is useful as we can do a mail shot. If the worst does happen and we have to change venue at the last minute I will put posters at the Assembly Rooms and Heritage Centre for those without email.

I would like to finish on a positive note. Despite all the charity shops and others wanting volunteers, we have a loyal and enthusiastic core of members and others who love our town, and give up their time to help us run our four venues, I and the Committee would like to thank you all for this commitment and of course there is always room for more!

Until next time.

*Sue Forshaw*

# 2019

*Happy New Year!*

## New Members

Welcome to new members  
Joan Tuck, Mary Todd, P Green,

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# JANUARY 2019

# A Story about the Blowing Sands

## LYTHAM PRIORY AD 1190 by Professor Michael Tooley

The welcome report in the October 2018 issue of *The Antiquarian* by Steve Williams about the Exhibition last year in Lytham Hall on Lytham Priory reminds us of the rich documentary record of accounts that survives in Durham. The Lancashire antiquarian, Lieutenant - Colonel Henry Fishwick had transcribed these records in mediaeval Latin in the late nineteenth century and they were one of the sources for the book he wrote *History of the Parish of Lytham* published by the Chetham Society in 1907. His bound transcription is in the Central Library of Manchester.

The chartulary of Lytham Priory contain a wealth of social history and accounts of feuds with the inhabitants of adjacent parishes to which Steve Williams draws attention. In addition and quite unexpectedly they contain information in the accounts germane to a study of climate and sea-level changes along the Lytham and St Annes coast. What is remarkable is that this documentary evidence overlaps and confirms the record of these changes from the coastal sediments - the sand dunes, the buried peats and the buried tidal sediments that date back over a thousand years, indeed to the Neolithic and Mesolithic periods. They are a veritable archive that has been overlooked.

Some of the older members of the Lytham Heritage Group will recall that the tram track to Blackpool was regularly overblown by sand and passengers were put to work with spades carried on the tram to clear the tracks

The attics of the Victorian and Edwardian villas along Clifton Drive North had to be cleared of blown sand regularly lest the ceilings collapsed under the weight of sand.

Blowing sand, the so - called 'rage of sand', was a problem not only for residents over the past 200 years but also for the monks of Lytham. The sand did not blow continually but occurred in phases. In the period from AD 1448 until AD 1515 there were four periods of sand blowing when Durham received no receipts from Lytham; some were short, AD 1462 to 1466, but others were long, AD1476 -1510.

These periods coincided with the transition from a period of maximum warmth during what is called the Mediaeval Warm Period, AD 1000 to 1400 - much warmer than today and the temperatures proposed for the end of this century - to a period of colder conditions known as the Little Ice Age.

During the dry periods falling water tables in the dunes meant that the wet slacks or valleys in the dunes dried up and the vegetation died. The dunes became vulnerable to winds blowing off the sand flats and the dunes themselves and sand was blown landward well beyond Heyhouses Lane. There were several areas that were persistently overblown by sand - Old Park, Newhay and the Green and the area between the manor and the village of Lytham. The reasons are given - *herbagio ....totaliter vastatur per flatum zabuli.*

So important were the dunes for the stability of the coast to prevent flooding and for the farmland landward of the dunes that officials were appointed called 'starr lookers' [starr or marram grass, hence Starrgate] whose job it was to inspect the dunes and if there were signs of erosion the tenant farmers had to remove their animals from the foredunes, In January the farmers and farm hands were required to plant starr grass and were heavily fined if they did not.

In the area of Rossendale Road there were three periods of blowing sand, the first of which buried the pre-existing mosslands and heather moors there. The heather moor peat dated to about AD 1155 at just about the time the cell at Lytham was founded by the Benedictine monks of Durham Abbey. It was a period of dune stability, shortly to be followed by a period of blowing sand.

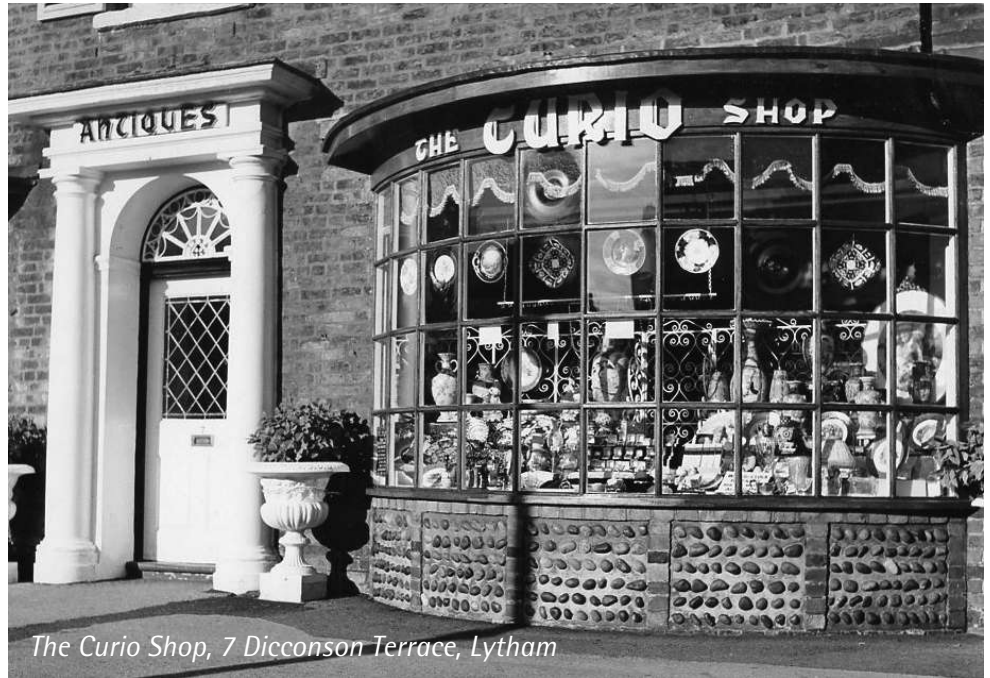
The archives of Lytham go back many years and comprise not only written records in the archives of the Lytham Heritage Group, the local authority and the County Record Office in Preston but also the natural archives of the hidden peat bogs and the layers of blown sand.

# A Short History of the Curio Shop, 7 Dicconson Terrace

I was born in Farnworth, Bolton where my dad had a rented shop in the town and a house in Fold Street where we lived with my grandmother who was very sick. My parents decided to move to the seaside as my grandmother had chronic bronchitis but unfortunately she died before they could accomplish the task.

When I was four years of age my dad bought the shop in Lytham at 7 Dicconson Terrace. I believe it was sold by auction for £5,300, which at that time was a considerable amount of money. The house was in disrepair and rundown as I remember going to see the property with my aunt and uncle and my aunt being astounded that in her words "were they really going to live in the dump?" but my parents were determined as this was all the money they had and a new start in a seaside town was their plan.

I remember the property had a lot of outbuildings in various states of dilapidation and also a lot of the land that belonged to the house also encroached on other neighbours. The bank next door, where the manager Mr Spencer lived, had a garden which belonged to our property and behind our own garden was an old coach house with an enclosed "garden area", - I use the word loosely! My father rented this to a local builder called Mr Butcher. He used part of the coach house and the garden for his building supplies but shared the coach house with dad so that



we could garage our own cars. Unfortunately it was quite a sharp turn to get a car in and dad had no trouble until one day after buying a Ford Zephyr (much longer than our old Standard Vanguard) he misjudged it and left it badly scratched. My mother and I walked on eggshells that week.

In later years I learned to drive myself and dad had the builder take down part of the wall inside the coach house in order to accommodate my mini but with a large sign a good foot behind his car "STOP HERE!"

The old main post office also had an interest in our property as their vans had to access the rear of the post office for collections and deliveries by using part of our land.

The outhouses were demolished and dad put in a fish pond which he built himself and a plateau extension on the back door on which a conservatory was built. Unfortunately a large lightning conductor was placed on the roof three stories above and in the first bad storm (it is rather windy near the coast) the whole lot came down during the night and crashed through the glass roof of the conservatory beneath.

Another incident was the disappearing urn. Dad used to buy all sorts of items and often had garden paraphernalia. He once bought a job lot of huge gnomes which promptly appeared in the garden, much to my mother's dismay. The urn disappeared one morning and once again the air was blue as dad went to investigate only to find that where he had positioned it was over the top of a well which we had no idea was there and it had gone down below overnight. I cannot remember if he got it back or just filled in the well.

Dad decided to change the look of the shop front in the early years and added a bay window on the shop front to replicate the look of Charles Dickens' "Old Curiosity Shop" from which he had derived his own shop's title. A little time later, as he was pleased with the results, he added another bay window to the opposite side. All went well until my mother realised that there were people coming to look at her in the lounge and peering in the window as they thought it was more shop front. So dad had to put some large urns containing flowers in front and around the window to stop her voyeurs! Success and peace ensued.

I remember many happy years at no 7 and eventually it was sold to Norman Butler who used it for his own photography business and home. Unfortunately my dad was planning on retiring but died of cancer shortly afterwards but he loved the property in Dicconson Terrace and never regretted buying it.

*Barbara Witts*



# 2019 Social Calendar

All members, guests and non-members are welcome.  
To be held on a Monday at 2.30pm in the Lytham Assembly Rooms unless otherwise stated.  
For catered events there will be a small supplement for non-members.

## March 11th Speaker - David Hewitt

Title - "Joseph Blackburn, a man from the Fylde, and the events of 1917".

## April 8th Speaker - Peter Fitton

Title - "My memories of a Coastline Railway".

This includes a Hot Pot lunch @ £6 a head and £7 for non-members.

Pre booking is essential.

The event will commence at 1.15pm

## May 13th Speaker - Phillip Stringer

Title - "Lytham on film in the 1960's".

## June 13th - AGM

Commencing at 7.30pm. Please note this is a Thursday.

## September 9th - Summer meal

To be held at the Best Western, Glendower Hotel, St Annes

12.30 for 1.00pm.

The price will be £22.50 for members and £24.50 for non-members

## October 14th Speaker - David Forshaw

Title - More Images of FY8

## November 11th Speaker - Jennifer Ray

Title - "We wish you a Nostalgic Christmas"

## December - Christmas lunch.

Details of date, venue, menu and time will follow later in the year.

*\*Further details of all events will be published in the Group's quarterly newsletter\**

*"The Antiquarian"*

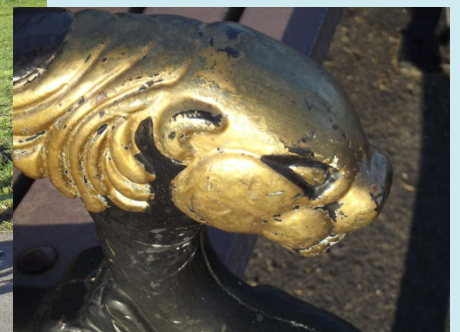
## Quiz

### CREATURES ARE WATCHING YOU - BUT WHAT AND WHERE?

#### Quiz answer 17

I'm sure you all felt that was an easy one. The pride of lions is on the seat arms along the promenade but did you remember the second pride on the seats surrounding the cenotaph in Market Square?

David Forshaw



# Heritage Centre Exhibitions 2018 and 2019

## Heritage Centre Exhibitions 2018 and 2019 by Hilary Fletcher

Once again our 2018 Programme of exhibitions at the Centre proved to be popular, being visited by about 12,000 people over the year.

The first exhibition was our own fabulous display of information and photographs about St Johns School - so many people were enthralled to see and read about themselves and relatives. Others were fascinated and amused by the differences between schooling and life then and now.

The art exhibitions were the usual mix of old and new faces. A personal favourite was Tom Eccles - so wonderful to see his great talent again in so many paintings.

The art included paintings, ceramics, jewellery, photography - and even antique advertisements and dolls! It is very satisfying to have many quality artists who continue to enjoy the space available and ask to come back every few years.

The last exhibition was our coverage of the impact of WW1 in Lancashire, with some emphasis on the Armistice. The Centenary media programmes have helped to raise awareness of the horrors of this part of world history, and we are pleased to have played just a small part towards this.

We are reaching a milestone: since the first exhibition at the Centre in 1997 we have held 299 exhibitions. At that first exhibition we were lucky enough to show the coveted paintings by Richard Ansdell that are owned by the Lytham St Annes Art Collection. Our Group and the Centre have continued to thrive over the intervening years; as has the Art Collection.

So, for our 300th exhibition we thought it entirely appropriate to hold another display from the Art Collection - with a theme that is close to all our hearts: family, children and domesticity. We thank the "Friends of Lytham St Annes Art Collection" and Fylde Council for assisting us with this.

The Centre is flourishing and 2019 should be no exception, with another great mix of Heritage and art; the new Programme is enclosed with this issue of the Antiquarian.

To our STEWARDS and HELPERS - a huge THANK YOU so much for all your hours and hours of support, assistance, and sometimes quite hard work.

I wish you all a wonderful year, with the very best of health and happiness. *Hilary*



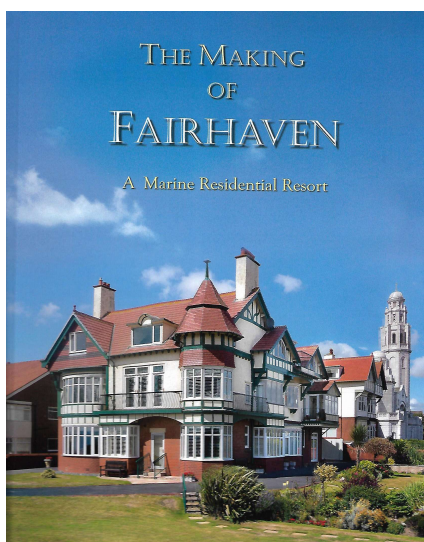
## New Book

### A Marine Residential Resort by Brian Turner

The latest book by Brian is a comprehensive look at the founding of Fairhaven and the plans for its development into a major residential seaside area. Not all of these plans came to fruition but with the Fylde Council's current ambitions for Fairhaven Lake, the book gives you an insight into what might have happened in the past if the founder's vision had become reality with the Lake extended over the Lytham boundary into St Annes.

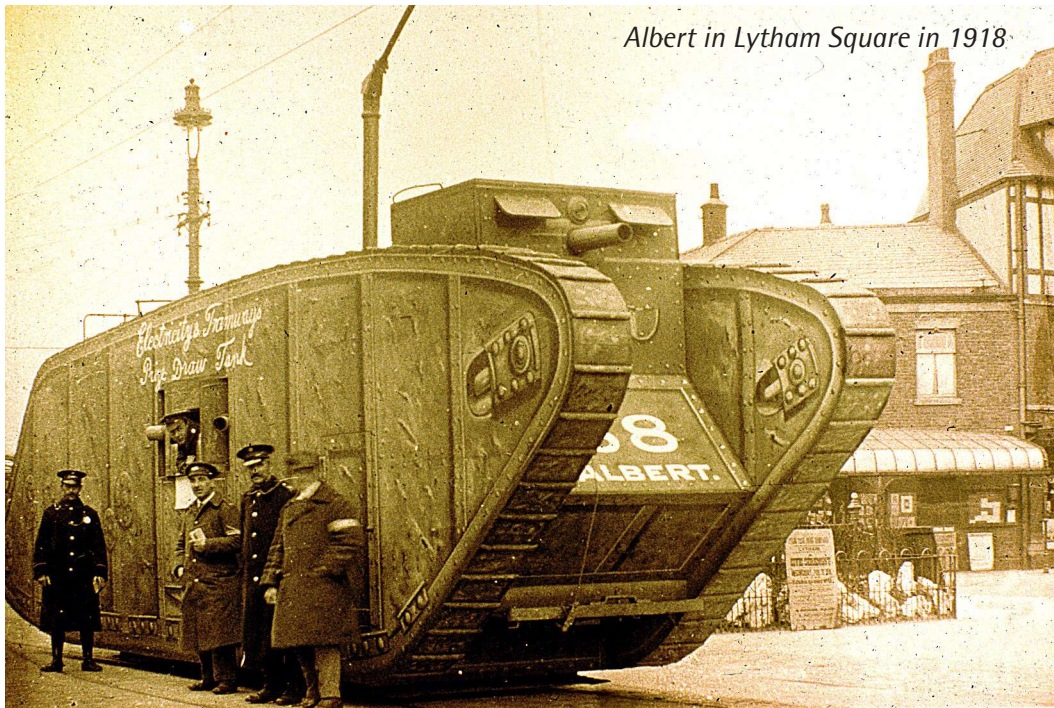
The book is profusely illustrated throughout its 132 pages.

The book is available from the Heritage Centre, price £25.



# Photos from the Lytham Heritage Group Archives

## The Tram Tank ALBERT



The "latest hi-tech equipment" at the time, a First World War tank was sent to Blackpool in 1918 to raise funds for the War effort by promoting the sale of War Bonds. The idea that this tank, given the name "*Julian*", would lumber around the Fylde Coast was obviously not relished as the Blackpool Tramways Department quickly created an alternative to assist with the fund raising in the shape of a "replica" tank built on the chassis of an old 1885 vintage tram. This was given the name "*Albert*" after the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Albert Lindsay Parkinson, and the number 88, the Mayor's telephone number.

Albert (the tram-tank, not the Mayor) travelled the length of the Fylde Coast, the tram lines at that time running from Lytham Hospital to Fleetwood Ferry, with a crew of wounded soldiers selling raffle tickets to raise funds and this photo from the LHG Archive shows her in Clifton Square in 1918

## ANOTHER PHOTO FROM THE CENOTAPH CEREMONY



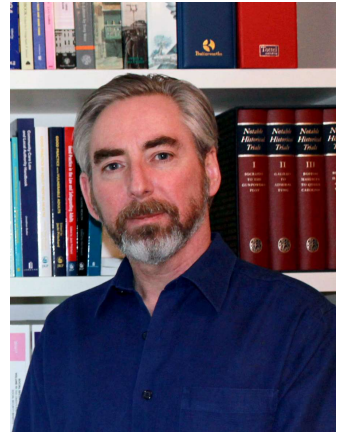
In the last issue of the *Antiquarian* we had an article and a photo of Mrs Wakefield unveiling the Cenotaph in Market Square. Her grandson, Dereck W. Waters has brought in this photograph of the ceremony for the Lytham Heritage Group Archives.

# The next Talk

Monday 11th MARCH 2019 at 2.30pm

## "Joseph Blackburn, a man from the Fylde, and the events of 1917"

The speaker will be David Hewitt who has written a book based on a true story "Joseph, 1917" about a soldier from Lytham and his experiences in the 1st World War both at home and at war. It links with our last exhibition of 2018 on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. He has delivered his talk all over Lancashire in museums, archives and groups like ours who have found his story both interesting and thought provoking. He will be bringing his book for sale on the day.



## Future Talk and Lunch

### Monday 8th APRIL 2019 at 1.15pm "MY MEMORIES OF A COASTAL RAILWAY"



Our speaker for this talk and audio presentation is Peter Fitton. He is not only an avid railway enthusiast but knowledgeable local historian. His nostalgic journey will take us into the steam age based around the railways of the Fylde. All of us of a certain age can remember the smoke, engine noises and the soot messing up the whites on the clothes line! I am sure the talk will take us back to that era without mobile phones and future HS2. We are combining the talk with a hot pot lunch at £6 for members and £7 for non-members. The lunch will start at 1.15 pm and the talk as usual at 2.30 pm.

Pre booking for the lunch is essential and there is a simple booking form below.

*The present Lytham Station in its glass verandered glory days.*

### Booking form for the Hot Pot lunch April 8th

Please complete the simple form below and return for the attention of Sue Forshaw to the Heritage Centre with your remittance by March 26th 2019. Please make cheques payable to 'Lytham Heritage Group'.

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

Contact details-phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment - Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non Member \_\_\_\_\_

Any allergies/special requests \_\_\_\_\_

Sweet choices - Lemon cheesecake

Fresh fruit salad



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.