



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.co.uk email: archivecentre@lythamheritage.co.uk

website: www.lythamheritage.co.uk

Notes from The Chairman

Welcome to our July edition of the Antiquarian. The days have certainly lengthened but not quite the promise yet as far as the warmth and sunshine is concerned that we had at Easter.

From Easter onwards we opened up our two museums which have started the year very successfully with good visitor numbers I am sure in part due to the weather. I have never seen Lytham St Annes so busy over the Easter period. All car parks were full and there was some very interesting street parking going on! It was boom time for our cafes and restaurants and I am sure the shops in general.

Several school parties have booked to come round the Windmill and Old Lifeboat Boathouse this season and are being looked after by the Windmill team on the days the Windmill is shut. Unfortunately this does not include Margaret Nickson who has felt it was time to step down after many years at the helm. We thank Margaret very much for her dedication to the Windmill in particular and the group as a whole which she is continuing to support. 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.

The 3 speakers we have had this year so far have offered us a variety of topics often thought provoking and sometimes amusing so something for everyone. The Hot Pot lunch was well attended so I hope to include it in the Programme for 2020 which is already in the planning stage. 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 David Forshaw in October and Jennifer Ray in November and the Christmas Lunch which again will be in Lytham Hall in December.

You may have been following the events concerning Lytham Library and its future in the local press and on social media. I have been involved right from the start when Councillor Tim Ashton among others got the ball rolling. The trouble is the ball is still rolling and we do not yet have a goal to celebrate! To keep the comparison going not too sure which net it will land in. I am keeping a watching brief with both sides of the campaign in order to protect Lytham Heritage Group's interest which is a permanent home for the Archive. We can all decide which venue we would like to see our Library in but the fundamental aim is to reinstate it somewhere and quickly with the Archive's current venue protected for the people of Lytham. A postscript to this is that the goal has been scored and LCC are currently preparing the Dicconson Room at the Assembly Rooms for installing a Library facility. The debate about where it should be will no doubt continue.

Will sign off now and have a lovely relaxing summer and hope to see you at one of the events planned for the autumn.

Sue Forshaw

A Man and His Dog

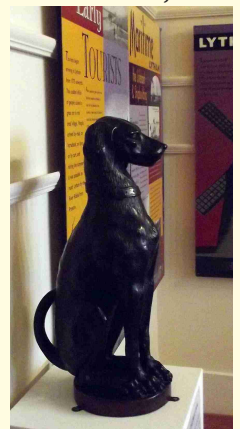


Antiques Road Show expert Ronnie Archer Morgan (left) and Dave Hoyle with the Lytham Heritage Group's Talbot Dog at Lytham Hall (photo Dave Hoyle)

Dave Hoyle, our Archivist, took the Talbot Dog which normally lives in our Heritage Centre, for a walkies to the Antiques Road Show recording session held at Lytham Hall on Tuesday 11th June 2019. There he met valuation expert Ronnie Archer Morgan. Dave refuses to say what transpired, being too excited to tell us after having lunch in the Hall with Fiona Bruce (and others we must hasten to add), and he says to find out you must watch the programme when it is transmitted in November this year. A bit of a spoil sport there we think.

Somewhere there is a second Talbot Dog as it was originally one of a pair. If anyone knows of the twin's whereabouts, or any other information about the history of the dogs, Dave would be delighted to hear from you please either at the Archive Room at Lytham Institute on a Wednesday afternoon or by email. dave@davidhoyle.co.uk

The Talbot Dog in its usual spot, guarding the St Cuthbert's Gallery in the Heritage Centre. (photo David Forshaw)



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Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on the 13th June in the Ribble Room of the Assembly Rooms and attended by 23 people. The entrance was not perhaps as tidy as usual but that is hardly surprising. The builders moved in the previous Monday to start work on the Dicconson Room to convert it to the Library facility. As of writing this the opening is yet to be finalised but the builders will finish mid-July and then fitting out will be needed.

I had mentioned that Michael Kershaw our President was unable to continue due to bad health so the search has been on for a successor. I am delighted to announce we invited Audrey Kirby to step into the role which she has agreed to do. There is an official regalia set so we have decided to present that to her at the Annual Lunch in September at the Glendower as a fitting occasion on our anniversary. She is able to remain on the Committee and vote on vital matters under our Constitution.

and organisations and future plans so will précis it here for all our readers.

We have collaborated with the LSA Civic Society with Heritage Open Days for example. We continue to support Lytham Club Day by giving a grant to support the Rose Queen and her retinue. We have supported the setting up of a permanent exhibition about the Priory in a room in the newly revamped second floor suite of rooms at Lytham Hall. We have had a sneak preview but the area was not finished and Peter Anthony is yet to finalise the plans for visiting those new facilities. I continue to ensure there is a future for our Archive in the Lytham Institute building together with Dave Hoyle our Archivist. There has been a ruling by a top charity barrister funded by the LSA Civic Society about what cannot be done with the building but not about what can and that will be the next phase of the campaign to save the building for community use for the people of Lytham. Last year we worked with Lytham in Bloom to revamp our garden area with a bespoke planter which they will keep an eye on for us. Hopefully in a small way it will help them achieve yet more success.

Although our remit as a group is not specifically linked to preserving buildings we do have a Grade 2 listed building of our own. The Heritage Centre is beginning to look its age so we are putting in place plans to renovate and preserve the exterior of the building and an alteration to the configuration of the interior. Please do not worry, we are not planning to put up an awning!

When I have more news on any of the above I will let you know via the Antiquarian.



Our new President Audrey Kirby

Sue Forshaw

Margaret Nickson *Sue Forshaw*

Margaret has been a stalwart of the group for many years both at Lytham Hall and later at the Windmill. It was she who organised the rota and the school visits working closely with Sandra from Fylde Borough Council as the Tourist Officer and keeping the museum coordinator Steve Williams up to date with any concerns or suggestions for the Windmill. Reluctantly this season she has had to step down from this role and from the Committee through ill health but still likes to be kept informed about what is going on. We thank her very much for her dedicated service to Lytham Heritage Group and the Windmill in particular. Sandra has also not joined us this season, again for health reasons, and we also wish her all the best in the future.



Margaret and Sandra at the Windmill (photo Dave Hoyle)

Membership

We are sad to have to report the deaths of the following members

Robert Ashton, Thomas Westall, Margaret Worsfold.

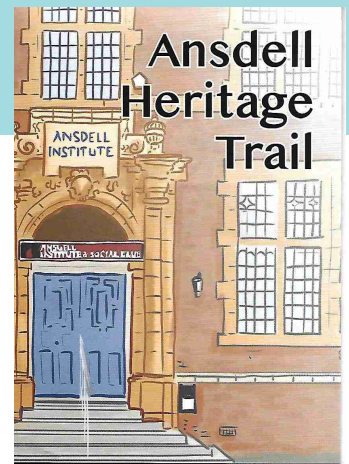
Our condolences go to their families.

We also welcome new members:

Master Robert Bear, our youngest member, Bryan Grundy and Mr W Smith.

Ansdell Heritage Trail

A new Heritage Trail leaflet has been produced to cover most of the suburb's heritage buildings. This excellent publication may be obtained at Ansdell Library.



The Streets of Lytham - Westby Street *Dave Hoyle*

Have you ever wondered who lived in your home before you and, maybe, what kind of life they led. It is, in fact, easier to discover such information if you live in an older house because of the census information that is available. The first census was conducted in 1801 and, thereafter, every ten years with only one exception -1941, during World War 2.

Although a wealth of information has been compiled about people up to 2019 there is a catch in terms of accessing this data. There is a 100-year bar on releasing census records to the general public! Therefore, at present, we can only obtain details from those censuses up to and including 1911 which means that only inhabitants of houses of at least that age will benefit. Furthermore, the earliest censuses did not gather detailed information about houses and their occupants so data can only be accessed for the period 1841-1901 inclusive. Despite these restrictions, much can be learned about the period from 1840 to 1900.

At the start of this period only four of the streets that we see today had been set out, namely The Beach, Clifton Street, Dicconson Terrace and Henry Street. Ten years later development had begun on Ashton Street, Bath Street, Bannister Street, Beach Street, Market Place, Queen Street, Station Road (the railway was opened to Lytham in 1846) and Warton Street. Along some of the street's development occurred over a considerable period of time - for instance, houses were still being built on Warton Street fifty years later.

Westby Street is one of the longest streets in Lytham and as there was not the same pressure for development as there is now, house building was carried out over three decades. In the 1861 census, for example, there appears to be no mention of this street but, by the date of the next census in 1871, over fifty houses had been erected. During the following ten years, all the odd-numbered houses had been built and by 1901, the street was substantially as we see it today. What can be learnt from the census records? Apart from the information that is specific to each house, there is a body of data that can be compiled for interpretation. For instance, trends can be plotted although these could be misleading if extracted from a single

street. The average size of family during the last forty years of the nineteenth century may be of interest to researchers and even though the larger houses in Westby Street were built towards the end of that century, the limited amount of information shows that there was a gradual decline in family size from 4.5 per home in 1871 to 3.5 thirty years later. These figures would appear to be lower than average but, looking at the individual properties, it can be seen that while there are some large families including one or two with ten or more members there are also houses with a single occupant. The records show that relatively few houses had servants although, in many cases, daughters may have acted in the capacity of servants in their own homes. It can be seen that a higher proportion of houses took in lodgers with nearly a quarter of all houses in 1871 having boarders among the occupants on the census day.

The census records also show how people were employed but the data can be interpreted in different ways. Noting all forms of employment in the returns, it can be seen that domestic servants and dressmakers were among the most common occupations but they were not usually the work of the breadwinners. In the region of 10% of householders were self-employed as boarding-house keepers for much of this period but, towards the end of the century, over 20% of the heads of families were dependant on income from



A much quieter time in Westby Street (Lytham Heritage Group)

investments. Property-related employment was common during the last forty years of the nineteenth century and many facets such as carpentry, plumbing, painting and bricklaying are represented here. Fishing and farming employment both declined a little during this period if the Westby Street returns are anything to go by but caution should be exercised in drawing too many conclusions from relatively small samples. There was, in fact, an egalitarian aspect to this street if the variety of professions and trades was any guide. Farming and fishing; railways, horse- drawn transport and shipbuilding - all were employers but a church minister, captain in the army, chimney sweep, clogger and pier manager lived here at one time or another.

Lists of the most popular personal names can be compiled to

The Streets of Lytham - Westby Street *Dave Hoyle*

provide a useful statistical trend. For instance, in 1881 there were over three hundred individuals and analysis of their names together with those of the other census records show that the most popular boy's name was John, throughout the period, though Thomas, William, James and Edward also frequently occurred. Easily the most common name for girls was Mary with Elizabeth, Margaret and Jane also prominent. Other names such as Ellen, Edith, Agnes, Martha and Beatrice, though appearing several times over the years, have since declined in popularity. One interesting statistic that arose was the variety of girls' names compared with boys' - almost twice as many.

One of the columns in the census returns gives details of the place of birth of individuals and, from this, it can be seen how many inhabitants had moved into the area and how far they had travelled. Judging from the sample provided by Westby Street it can be seen that the percentage of people living in Lytham and born in Lancashire was as high as 90% in 1871 (with a sizeable proportion having been born in Lytham) but declining gradually to 75% twenty years later as more settlers arrived from beyond Lancashire's borders from all parts of the British Isles.

The census returns list the individual properties including the house number (since the middle of the nineteenth century the practice of numbering houses had become more popular for a variety of reasons such as aiding the postal service) the individuals living in each house and the relationship of each to the head of the family, whether married, unmarried or widowed, the ages of the individuals, the occupation (including scholars), and the place of birth. It is interesting to note that despite the census information being every ten years the ages of some individuals can increase by anything from eight to twelve years. While there may be various reasons for such discrepancies it is probably safe to assume that people were not so concerned about age at that time and that birthdays were not celebrated in the same way that they are today. At a time when working hours were much longer, disposable income was smaller and there was much less leisure time, it is hardly surprising that the recording of one's age did not rate as an important event. The inability of many to read, write or add up would also have played their part. So much for the types of information that can be extracted from old census forms but what about the individuals? As far as can be seen, no families remained in the same house during the whole period of thirty years to 1901 - it has to be remembered that few people owned their houses at that time - but there are instances of families recorded at the same place for three successive census dates. The Stanhope family were residing at 5 Westby Street in 1881 where 60-year old William, a greengrocer, lived with his 64-year old wife, Ann,

a lodging house keeper, and three children, Elizabeth aged 30, James (a plumber) aged 28 and Maria (a greengrocer's assistant) aged 24. There was also a grandson - Joseph Woods aged 2. Only Ann, who hailed from Westby, was not born in Lytham. By 1891, William Stanhope claimed to be 68 and his occupation was a lodging housekeeper. He is now a widower with, at the date of the census, just the one daughter, Elizabeth, at home. Her occupation is housekeeper and, unlike her father, for whom time seemed to be slowing down, she has recorded her age as 42 which suggests that time was flying by! The grandson, Joseph, now aged 12, was still living at the house. Then in 1901 we lose touch with William. Whether he died or moved home Elizabeth is now head of the household and described as a lodging housekeeper. Her nephew, Joseph, is still there with his 19-year old brother Charles. Joseph is now a plumber (maybe he learnt his plumbing skills from his Uncle James) while Charles is a tailor. At the time of the 1901 census there were two visitors, Elizabeth Longworth aged 66 and Margaret Longworth aged 4, both from Manchester. Meanwhile Elizabeth Stanhope appears to be making a reasonable living as she had three boarders - John, Rosa and Maude Stringer from West Yorkshire. John is 33 and pursuing the trade of draper and, almost certainly, it was this John Stringer whose name is now perpetuated in the Lytham store of the same name.

One of several families with a long history in Lytham was the Nottingham family at 9 Westby Street in 1891. Although they had not appeared in Westby Street before, they had clearly lived in Lytham for at least fourteen years as their second son, Henry, aged 14, was born in the town. In 1891, Thomas, aged 46, lived with his wife, Elizabeth, aged 40, and their four sons and three daughters. Thomas was born in Thistleton and, after marriage to Elizabeth, did not immediately move to Lytham as their eldest son, William, aged 17, was born in Rawtenstall. Thomas was a coachman's groom at the time of the census but William was employed as a butcher. Indeed, it is this William who ran the family business, initially from Albert Street (where he and his young family appear in the 1901 census) before moving to Station Road. It is also his daughter, Mary, appearing as a 5-month-old child in the 1901 census, who would later become Lytham's Rose Queen in 1914.

If this brief look at Westby Street has stimulated an interest in either family or local history then it is suggested that you pay a visit to the Archive in Lytham Library where all the census records for 1841-1911 inclusive can be found on either microfilm or microfiche for the local areas.

Open each Wednesday 1pm until 4pm. Hope to see you there

David Hoyle, The Archivist of Lytham

Past and Future Events

May 2019 illustrated talk -

Lytham on Film in the 1960's by Phil Stringer.

This certainly got us looking forward to Lytham's premier event, well at least it was in the 60's, Lytham Club Day. Some might argue it is the annual invasion by fans of the likes of Kylie and Rod but that has nothing to do with Lytham's traditions. Some parts of Phil's films were still familiar today and some less so. All were nostalgic and I for one remembered wearing similar Capri pants and thinking as a teenager I was the "bees knees".

Both Phil's films and those the month before by Peter Fitton strike home about the lack of health and safety in those days. Who would allow children with blankets to run alongside the railway line putting out the fires caused by the steam trains? Mind you as an official "Grumpy Old Women" H+S has now gone too far! Many thanks to Phil for his trip down memory lane with his personal reminiscences.

Sue Forshaw

Future events

Monday 9th September 2019

at 12.30pm for 1 o'clock

Annual lunch

This is to be held at The Best Western Glendower Hotel on North Promenade. **Please complete the form on the back page and return it or email to the centre.**



Talks for Autumn 2019

These will be held in the Lytham Assembly Rooms at 2.30pm in the Ribble Room.

(£2 entry includes tea / coffee. Raffle tickets £1 per strip)

Monday 14th October - David Forshaw

David will continue with images of our past in FY8, as always with several linked topics for his Heritage talk.



The National Provincial Building Society in Clifton Street in 1983 flanked by Crackerjack clothing shop, the "In the Mood" Night Club and Burton's Bakery. (photo David Forshaw)



Times change as you may have noticed. By 2019 a rebuilt Santander Bank is flanked on the left by The Coffee Bean, the "In the Mood" is now the Clifton Walk Shopping Arcade and Burton's is now Greenhalgh's Bakery. (photo David Forshaw)

Monday 11th November - Jennifer Ray.

Jennifer has entitled her talk "We wish you a Nostalgic Christmas". I know we would prefer not to think ahead too early but as the shops will have been full on Christmas since October then why not. I am sure she will set the mood for the season to come.

Jennifer Ray



A BRIGHT SUMMER PROGRAMME TO COME TO THE CENTRE!

11 - 30 June: A Retrospective Exhibition of the artist **Michael Green.**

This exhibition by a new artist to the Centre, covers a wide variety of styles from the portfolio of this well-trained North West artist.

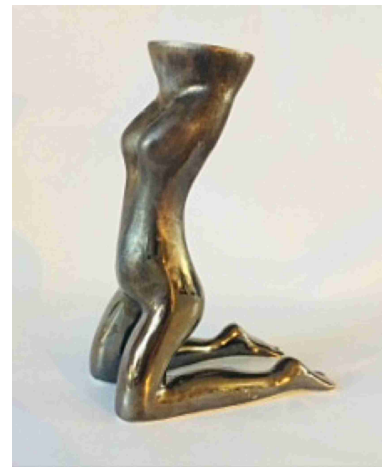
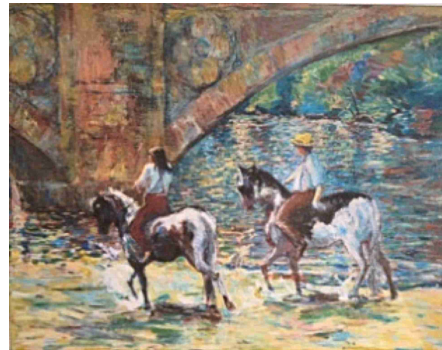


02 - 21 July: "Concepts in Clay" by Northern Potters Association (West).

We look forward to this biennial exhibition by the talented group from all over the North West, who produce such a diverse exhibition of ceramics - some functional, some arty and some quite amazing, but all of great quality.

23 July - 11 August: "Paintings and Ceramics" by David and Roger Lloyd.

It is many years since we had an exhibition by these talented brothers. They both produce beautiful art but using totally different media. This exhibition is not to be missed.



OH YEA ... OH YEA ... OH YEA !!!!! CENTRE EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME CHANGE

Due to popular demand we are going to trial two Christmas Fayre Weekends at the end of the Programme, which will be changed to read as follows:

15 Oct - 24 Nov

"Intrepid Explorer and Lytham Squire, John Talbot Clifton" by Lytham Heritage Group.

29 Nov - 01 Dec

06 Dec - 08 Dec

Christmas Fayre Weekends: with cards, art, jewellery, pictures etc by: Clay Works, Diversity Textile Group, Kew Art Club, Peter Laurence & Elizabeth McMorran.

A Squire John Talbot Clifton exhibition is at the Heritage Centre from 15th October to 24th November 2019



Summer Meal

Menu for Summer Meal September 9th 2019 @ 12.30 for 1pm

Starter

Cream of Tomato and Basil Soup, garnished with Pesto oil

Ham Hock and Parsley Terrine, Piccalilli and Micro shoots

Assiette of Gallia, Honeydew and Water melon with a Berry Compote

Main course

Goosnargh Chicken Breast, Braised Shallots, Wild Mushrooms, Creamed Leeks and Anna Potatoes.

Pan Fried Sea Bass, Seared Fennel, Roasted Vine Tomatoes, Sautéed Potatoes and a Balsamic Reduction.

Wild Mushroom Risotto, Garstang Blue Cheese and Truffle Oil.

Dessert

Warm Chocolate Brownie and Vanilla Bean Ice Cream

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake, Strawberries and Clotted Cream

Trio of Ice Cream

Followed by Tea or Coffee,

This is to be held at The Best Western Glendower Hotel, St Annes On Monday 9th September 2019

At 12.30pm for 1 o'clock

Please complete the form below for your choices which must be returned to the Heritage Centre for the attention of Sue Forshaw by Friday 30th August at the latest.

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 _____

Postcode _____ 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 £ _____ made out to Lytham Heritage Group

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.

Archive Dave Hoyle dave@davidhoyle.co.uk

Exhibitions Hilary Fletcher [via The Centre](#)

Social Events Sue Forshaw [via The Centre](#)

Windmill and Old Lifeboat House - Steve Williams steve.williams@lythamwindmill.co.uk