



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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Notes from The Chairman

I hope you all had a wonderful summer even though the weather at times was distinctly not summer. As I am writing this the weather has turned quite Autumnal but we may yet get an Indian summer in late September.

The weather does not seem to have put off our visitors as the town has been buzzing. We do not really benefit from the Lytham Festival as we have to shut the Windmill and Old Lifeboat House although the Heritage Centre might have had more visitors. However the 40's weekend in August certainly did bring in yet more crowds and we played our part with a NAFFI café run by the WI at the Windmill and lots of visitors to admire the museums and both Steve Williams and David Hoyle in their respective services attire. I missed the show but very smart they were by all accounts. As the season draws to a close the Committee would like to thank all the stewards who have done such a wonderful job and continue to do so in the Heritage Centre for a while longer.

You will have seen in the local press, especially over the last few months, a lot about the future of the Lytham Institute building. I think now is the time to put differences aside, rejoice in the reopening of a Lytham Library and move on. The Executive Committee held a special meeting to discuss the issue as to both our interests and that of the community. From that discussion I devised a statement on those initial points. There is no doubt there will be a lot more to come. Fylde Borough Council with special emphasis on our continuing tenure of the Archive Room and groups like the LSA Civic Society, Lytham Institute Working Group and the Friends of the Institute will be exchanging ideas and hopefully coming up with a plan. As it is important for all interested parties to know what the "Community" want I am starting with all our members. I have included in this addition the statement I put together following our committee meeting and invite you to add what you would like to see in the Institute building or any comment for our consideration. These can be sent for my attention to the centre e mail address or hard copy again for my attention and we will see where we go from there. Ideally if they could be in for the beginning of November we can look at them in that meeting as an agenda item.

Hopefully we will see you at one of our autumn talks or the Christmas lunch. If I miss you at the latter, as this is the last edition of 2019, may I and the Committee wish you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. It might seem a little early but the Lytham RNLI souvenir shop has been selling Christmas cards since June!

Sue Forshaw

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The National & Provincial Building Society Building

Clifton Street, Lytham, now the Santander Bank

The last issue of the Antiquarian (No 131 page 5) showed a photo of the Building Society's building. After seeing the photo our President Audrey Kirby said she used to have an account there when it was a bank rather than a building society so a further look is of interest. It also highlights the vast changes in the British high street banking system which has been visible in our own town centres in recent years.

After the amalgamation with the Westminster Bank, the National Provincial Bank was re-branded to National Westminster as can be seen in the photo (right). The concrete lamp posts which replaced the old tram pole lamps were not the best looking but show the 1960s style well. (photo LHG)

Audrey had banked at the National Provincial Bank and remembers it changed to the National Westminster Bank. There was however no connection other than the building itself with the later occupant, the National & Provincial Building Society.



The National Westminster Bank was established on 1st January 1970 when the corporate name of the three high street banks involved in the amalgamation were officially changed following what must have been considerable preparation work after their merger two years earlier in 1968. The National Provincial Bank and the Westminster Bank

joined forces and this included the District Bank which had been a subsidiary of the National Provincial since 1962 although it retained its own identity until 1970.

The banking groups involved were all well over 100 years old. The National Provincial Bank had been founded in 1833 as the National Provincial Bank of England. The Westminster Bank had been founded

The National & Provincial Building Society Building

as the London County & Westminster Bank in 1834, later of course dropping the London County from its title. The District Bank was the oldest of the three, only just though, having been founded in 1829 as the Manchester & Liverpool District Bank. The National Westminster however lasted as a separate entity for only 30 years before it was bought by the Royal Bank of Scotland Group in 2000 although it retains its own identity.

The National & Provincial Building Society who took over the NatWest's Clifton Street branch did not have such historic origins being an amalgamation in 1982 of the Provincial Building Society and the Burnley Building Society. The Society lasted only 14 years before being taken over by the Abbey National in 1996, itself being

bought out by Santander in 2004.

The photo from our Archives shows that the Clifton Street building had been re-branded to the National Westminster name. At the same time the District Bank in the Square (actually 9 Dicconson Terrace) was also re-branded to National Westminster, later of course under the trading name NatWest. With two branches of the same bank in the same town centre plus the former District Bank at the top of the bridge in Woodlands Road also re-branded, it became inevitable that one would close but nobody could have foreseen back then that there would come a time when all three would be closed but with the advent of electronic banking times have changed.

David Forshaw

Lytham Cricket Club 1855

Lytham Cricket Club was founded in 1855 by Squire Clifton of Lytham Hall. In 1946 Lytham joined the Manchester & District Association having been involved in playing friendly matches for the previous 91 years.

Lytham Hall estate of which the cricket ground was part, was sold by the squire to the Guardian Royal Insurance Company in 1963. In 1967 the club became a multi-sports club incorporating cricket, tennis, hockey and soccer. The club purchased the ground in the late 1980's thus ensuring that cricket would be played at Lytham in perpetuity.



Col J.T. Clifton

First Class cricket came to Lytham in the early 1980's even though benefit matches & 2nd XI County Championship matches had been held earlier. The first County Championship match was held in 1985, the visitors being Northampton CCC. Since that date regular 1st and 2nd XI county matches have been held at Lytham when the ground takes on a festival atmosphere firmly establishing Lytham as one of the favourite out grounds in Lancashire.

Lytham CC left the Manchester & District Association in 1997 as champions and joined the expanding Liverpool Competition. In 1999 Lytham were promoted to the Premier Division as that season's 1st Division champions.

The Liverpool Competition was accredited as an ECB Premier League for the season 2000 thus ensuring that Lytham had achieved one of its objectives by becoming a founder member of the ECB Premier League.

The Liverpool Competition ECB Premier League is considered to be one of the top 4 ECB Leagues in the country. The league team won the League Cricket Conference Presidents Trophy in both 2002 & 2003 beating the Durham Premier League and the Nottinghamshire Premier League respectively.

Lytham CC is now considered to be one of the top 5 strategic clubs in Lancashire. We are also one of the top 200 clubs in the country, being Clubmark accredited in May 2003 and CCDF registered in September 2003.

In 2003 we were also acknowledged as BBC Community Club of the Year for Fylde with Steve Perkins also being honoured as Coach of the Year for Fylde.

Our junior section is the largest in the area and has the highest number of ECB qualified coaches in the vicinity. The junior teams play in the Palace Shield junior section. We run a Kwik Cricket section from age 8 and currently field 8 junior teams in the league, 3 at under 11, 3 at under 13 and 2 under 15.

Our juniors over the age of 15 play in the senior teams at their appropriate level. Many of our juniors play in the league representative teams and are expected to play in the newly formed Borough teams. Lytham CC is an active member of the Fylde Borough Council Cricket Development Group and through this organisation delivers coaching to schools in the locality.

We are also closely involved in the LCB Lancashire Cricket Partnership which strives to bring together the top clubs in the region in order that they may exchange ideas and gain support from the LCB.

Dave Hoyle



*Lytham Cricket Club pavilion
(photo David Forshaw)*

Lytham Heritage Group Archive

Dave Hoyle reports about a number of books being prepared -

A book about Harry Clifton's final years by Peter Wilson and a great new book about the lost Hotels and guest houses of Lytham St. Annes by renowned Author Janet Rigby. A John Bonny History is to be written by his Grandson Ray and he has been with us for 2 months and it looks to be a good read.

Lots of LHG images have been scanned, borrowed and sent to these budding Authors.

We have had a few collections given to the Archive including a collection from the Unitarians of Lytham, one from the Yacht club, one from Hope Street Bowling Club, and one from the Lytham St. Annes Floral Society where my Mother Jos was a member for many years.

We are still going through the War Memorabilia we have amassed over the years in the Archive with Andrew Whiteside who has been a great asset to the group. David Price and his sister Janet and also John Jameson have all been working hard with our many visitors.

Without their dedication the Archive would not be as popular as it is.

Lytham Heritage Group and Lytham Institute

Below is the document put together in September after an Executive Committee meeting. This included the thoughts and actions of other organisations and individuals. What happens next is still a waiting game but Fylde Borough is looking into Trust status for the building. I am sure when that is obtained we will see progress.

Aims:-

1. To play a key role by providing a Heritage Archive within the building to augment the fundamental reason why the building was gifted to the town in the first place.
2. To support the organisation who will be tasked with the running of the Trust.
3. To be active, through representation, in the decisions of the future of the building as a whole.

Outcomes of discussions so far :-

Following a special meeting of the Executive Committee on September 2nd 2019 and culminating in an extensive discussion, after months of considering the future, the following points were put forward.

- It was agreed, for a variety of reasons, that the Archive staying in the Institute building was to be our main focus. As we are a small group as far as membership is concerned and we run four separate venues - two museums in Fylde's wonderful buildings, the current Archive and the Heritage Centre for popular Art Exhibitions, in other aspects we are only able to offer a supporting role.

- David Hoyle our Archivist put forward lots of ideas about a future Archive to enhance not only the experience but preserve what we have for generations to come. He feels as it is the main source of historical data in the town it needs to be centrally placed and more readily accessible. He has put his ideas in more detail as a separate document but it was agreed that most costs associated with refurbishment of any future Archive would be met by Lytham Heritage Group. It at the very least will necessitate a change of room/s hopefully more area as the Archive is expanding.

- Another topic which needed consideration was how the building could be used for both commercial inputs in order to support the running costs associated with any Community Hub and other uses. The former we felt was outside our area of expertise such as raising funds for building refurbishment and businesses which would find both the position and the extensive space attractive.

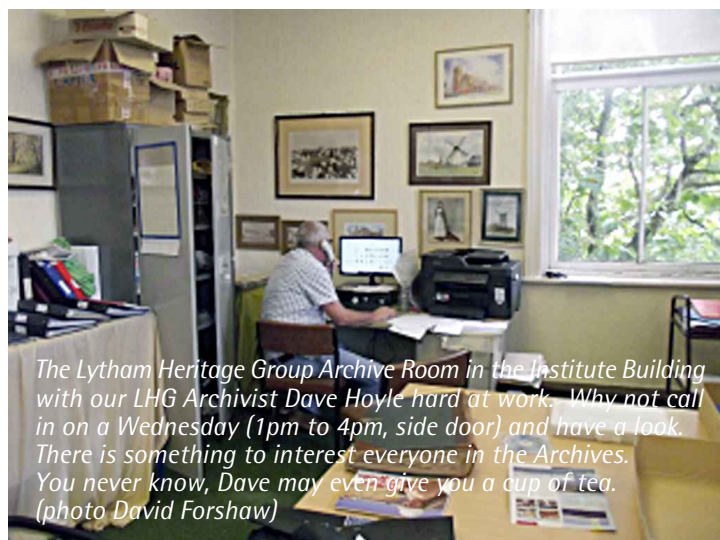
- However we did put forward several ideas as to how the rest of the building could be used and even bring in extra income. Again David Hoyle has lots of possible income streams. In the meeting a few were discussed as being of importance in any Community building.

- The first was a community space which could be booked for events such as fundraising for a charity or a group wanting a space to meet on a regular basis. Also as the new Lytham Library area is small they may not be able to put on a full range of activities in their space so occasionally could outreach.

- Hopefully the Arts in its widest sense would be well represented with facilities for classes, an exhibiting space although we would be retaining our Exhibition space at the Heritage Centre and last but by no means least a space for the LSA Art Collection. We have a wonderful and valuable collection hidden away in a cellar and it rarely sees the light of day. In this modern age there is no reason why a virtual gallery could not be formed with set up costs but no worries over insurance and security.

There will be a lot of discussion in small groups and no doubt larger public forums as after all this is a community building and people need to have a say. The Lytham Heritage Group has always supported financially local heritage linked projects such as our ongoing support of Lytham's Rose Queen and historically Lytham Hall and Lytham Town Trust and sees no reason not to do so in any future Trust for the Lytham Institute.

Sue Forshaw Chairman, Lytham Heritage Group



The Lytham Heritage Group Archive Room in the Institute Building with our LHG Archivist Dave Hoyle hard at work. Why not call in on a Wednesday (1pm to 4pm, side door) and have a look. There is something to interest everyone in the Archives. You never know, Dave may even give you a cup of tea. (photo David Forshaw)

Past Events

Summer Meal 9th September 2019

This was held at the Glendower Hotel in our usual rooms which always look inviting. They had been a Best Western Hotel so we asked the question why that was no longer on their signage. Apparently they are now a Signature Hotel but still part of the Best Western group for all of you who may have been curious over the sign disappearing. Well you may have been! The menu offered a good choice, looked attractive with generous portions and those

I spoke to enjoyed it.

It was an occasion where we formally welcomed our new President Audrey Kirby following the resignation of Michael Kershaw due to ill health. There is a formal silver regalia which was presented many years ago by Bert Briggs as a badge of office. Audrey graciously accepted it and gave a short speech. We hope she enjoys her tenure and are delighted she accepted the post. She will remain on the Executive Committee and play a full part in discussions and decision making.

Sue Forshaw



Mike Bell (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer), Audrey Kirby (President), Sue Forshaw (Chairman), Dave Hoyle (Archivist and Membership Secretary) (photo David Forshaw)

The President's Regalia

Future Events

2020 events

We now have a complete art Programme arranged for 2020 with our own Heritage exhibition finishing off the year. The first heritage date slot for 2020 is the Schools Art exhibitions with Kate Cartmell. We are emailing the schools suggesting a 3 week exhibition of Primary Schools art in February and a four weeks exhibition of Secondary Schools' art in March. The Primary Schools are all in FY8; the Secondary Schools are all in FY8 or have participated in one of Kate's art exhibitions previously.

Hilary Fletcher

Future Events

Future Social Events

There are 3 events to take us to the end of the year for our social calendar. We start off in October with David Forshaw giving a presentation on yet another slant on the area of FY8 we live in and it's past. As I write this he is in the process of putting it together so the topics will have to be a surprise! In November we welcome the return of Jennifer Ray an enthusiastic local historian who is going to talk to us on the theme of Christmas past.

The last event of the season of course is our Christmas lunch at Lytham Hall. This is a pre bookable event and guests are welcome. All details are later in this edition. Please note there is a small charge for a tip and for being a non-member. At the event we like to hold our grand raffle. All proceeds go to help run the Heritage Centre and our other venues to the tune of thousands of pounds a year so every bit helps. If you are coming to the meal and can bring a raffle prize that would be gratefully accepted.

From now on we are sharing the Assembly Rooms with the Library. I do not foresee any problems as the Library closes on a Monday at 1pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Just to remind you there is a small charge of £2.00 to cover our costs for everyone including members.

**Monday October 14th at 2.30pm -
David Forshaw**
An illustrated talk on FY8.

**Monday November 11th at 2.30pm -
Jennifer Ray with her talk entitled
"We wish you a Nostalgic Christmas"**

**Monday December 9th at 12.00 for 12.30pm.
Christmas Lunch at Lytham Hall**

We are holding our annual Christmas Lunch at Lytham Hall again all being well in the Gold Room. There has been a slight increase in price but this reflects our surroundings. We were in the Gold Room last year as a last minute change. I have attached the menu and the order sheet. Please could I receive the orders and payment by Thursday 28th November at the latest. This end date is important for me as I have to collate the order for the catering, sort out the table plans and pass it on to Lytham Hall a week before the meal. I am sure you can appreciate last minute orders cause difficulties. Cancellation, for whatever reason, however is always just one of those things.

Sue Forshaw



Members in the Gold Room at Lytham at the 2018 Christmas Lunch (photo David Forshaw)

The Reception Room where members gathered before the 2018 Christmas Lunch (photo David Forshaw)

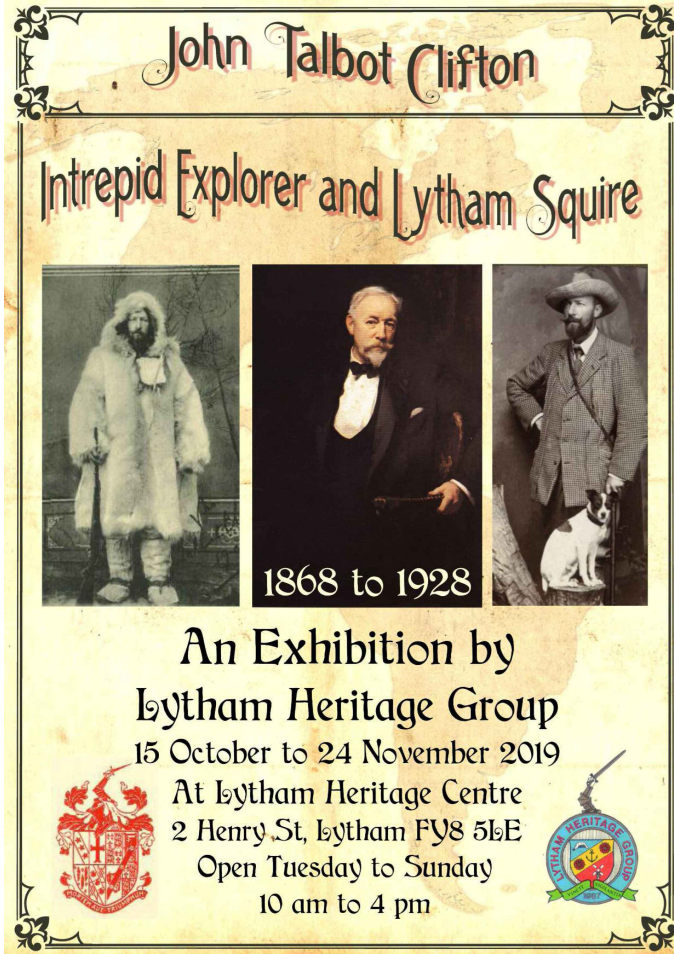


Future Heritage Centre Exhibition Events

"Autumn Exhibition" 24th September to 13th October 2019

paintings by Lytham St Annes Art Society

Welcome back to our local art society, who always bring a wide variety of styles, subjects and media. It is always a pleasure to browse so many quality pieces by such great local talent.



The poster features a decorative border with floral motifs. At the top, the name "John Talbot Clifton" is written in a stylized, cursive font. Below it, the title "Intrepid Explorer and Lytham Squire" is written in a similar font. Three black and white photographs are arranged horizontally: the first shows a man in a heavy, white, fur-lined winter suit; the second shows a man in a dark suit and white shirt with a bow tie; the third shows a man in a suit and hat standing next to a small dog. Below the photos, the text "1868 to 1928" is written. Further down, it says "An Exhibition by Lytham Heritage Group" and "15 October to 24 November 2019". The location "At Lytham Heritage Centre, 2 Henry St, Lytham FY8 5LE" and the opening hours "Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm" are listed. There are two crests: a red coat of arms on the left and a circular "Lytham Heritage Group" logo on the right.

"John Talbot Clifton, Intrepid Explorer and Lytham Squire"

by Lytham Heritage Group. 15th October to 24th November 2019

This is a brand new heritage exhibition at the Centre about the travels and life of one of the Clifton Squires who lived from 1868 to 1928. He led an amazing life, determined to explore many parts of the world, no matter how difficult - especially given the tools and transport in his era. It should prove to be a wonderful journey with him through his adventures.

Christmas Fayre Weekends

29th November to 1st December and

6th to 8th December 2019

with cards, art, jewellery, pictures etc by: Clay Works, Diversity Textile Group, Kew Art Club, Peter Laurence and Elizabeth McMorran

Come and buy original cards and artwork, ideal for presents.



Membership

We are sad to have to report the deaths of the following members: Marion Mansfield who was a Steward at the Centre for several years. Miss Mary Chandler. Mrs Alison Howard, also a steward at the Centre. Mrs Dianna Greenhough. Our condolences go to their families.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch at Lytham Hall on Monday 9th December 2019
12.00pm for 12,30pm

Please complete the form below for your choices which must be returned
to the Heritage Centre for the attention of Sue Forshaw by
Thursday 28th November at the latest please

Cost will be £20.95 for members and £21.95 for guests
(These prices include a tip for the Hall staff)
Please make cheques payable to "Lytham Heritage Group"

Menu

To Start

Tomato and Basil soup, roll and butter or
Chicken liver, clementine and cranberry pate

Main Course

Tradition Roast Turkey and all the trimmings or
Roasted Red Onion Gruyere Tart (v)

Dessert

Festive Irish cream malt torte or
Cheese and biscuits or
Vanilla Ice Cream

Optional extra

Tea or Coffee & Petit fours £2.00



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