



The Newsletter of the Lytham Heritage Group

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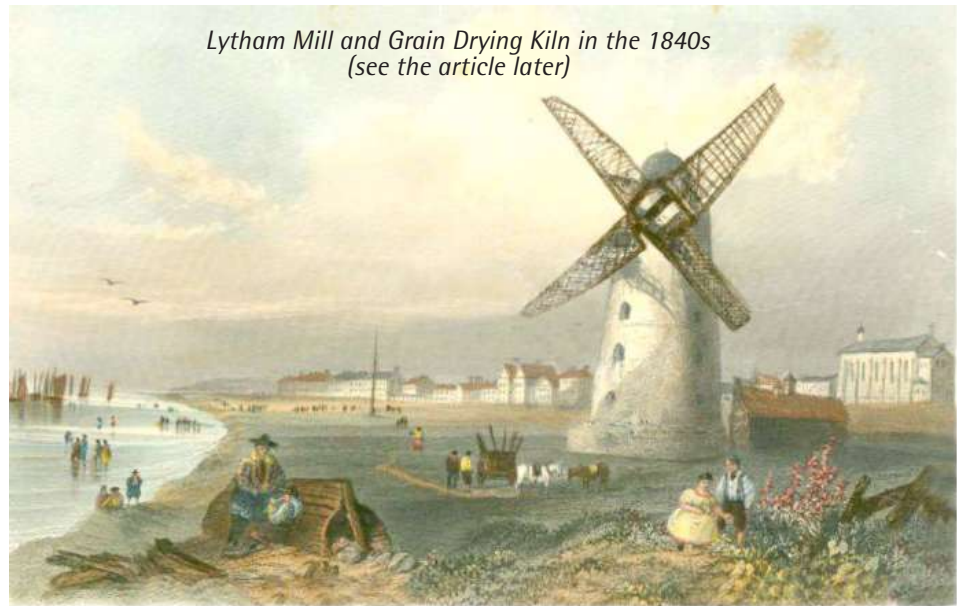
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Lytham Mill and Grain Drying Kiln in the 1840s
(see the article later)



Notes from The Chairman

I am writing this in late November in order to get the edition compiled ready for the first draft so it can be completed ready for distribution in January. The sun is shining but it is cold, though I still have bulbs to plant with the promise of colourful displays in Spring. In between we have Christmas and New Year ahead of us. We are all hoping that this will be a more "normal" celebration than last year. However, if the pandemic has taught us anything it is to wait and see.

We have at Lytham Heritage managed to end our year on a positive note with most of our planned activities going ahead, though some had to be curtailed. Our museums managed to open for the "summer" season on a restricted basis but still pulled in our fair share of visitors. As you will have noticed our iconic windmill is now missing something! I have not heard anymore since the announcement in the LSE Express about the works, on replacing the sails, to be done by a local firm. When we do know more, we will inform you via our website and in future Antiquarians. I am sure the council would like it completed in time for the Lytham Festival in summer 2022. Although the Archive has reopened on a Wednesday afternoon, Dave Hoyle reports few visitors / researchers have availed themselves of the facilities. Only one talk in the Assembly Rooms had to be cancelled and all the others drew good audiences. The Heritage Centre has hosted many successful art exhibitions finishing the year with our heritage one on the theme of the RNLI Disaster of December 1886 involving the barque the Mexico.

This edition contains some information on our plans for 2022 on the assumption that normal service will be resumed. There will be updates on the website of our activities and any other undertaking which is relevant to our objects and of course it will also be in the Antiquarian.

On behalf of the Committee may I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year and hope to see you in 2022.

Sue Forshaw

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The Lytham Windmill

Lytham Windmill has been described - erroneously, however - as the oldest of all the Fylde Windmills, the Daddy of them all.

According to the author Allen Clarke who was a great enthusiast adjudged our Lytham Windmill to have been built in 1762, a date which has appeared on some of the mechanical parts.

It has been hinted that Lytham Mill reaches back to the days of the Benedictine priory, founded in 1190 and dissolved in 1539. It is true that there was a mill within the manor in 1387 and records show that the Prior granted a "parcel of waste" land to John de Bradkirk and his wife for 4d per year on condition that all corn produced be ground at Lytham Mill.

Ten years later it was leased to William Myner of Warton .

At one time there was a great many dotted about our green landscape and a charming picture they made too.

During the 17th Century, according to a rough sketch of Lytham township a peg and post windmill stood between Lytham Hall and St Cuthbert's Church; and in 1786 two mills are marked in Lytham Hall Park on sites between the church and Fylde Rugby Ground.

The name, Mill-hill Wood, is still to be found on the Ordnance Survey today.

None of these earlier mills had any connection with the present picturesque landmark which is the pride of Lytham and the visiting photographer's delight. It was 1805 when Squire Clifton leased to one Richard Cookson a plot of land on "Lytham Marsh" on which to erect "A Windy Milne," and that the erection took place at this time is confirmed in con-temporary writings.

Presumably Miller Cookson had already purchased serviceable parts from derelict Fylde mills. Windmill machinery is tough and often outlives its accommodation and this, very likely, explains any misconceptions which have arisen regarding the date.

On account of its exposed situation the mill was solidly constructed, with a cellar and four storeys, millstones 5ft. in diameter and walls 5ft. thick at the base. Originally the sails were of canvas stretched over crude lattice frames and the constant battering by gales would necessitate frequent renewal.

In 1845 we find William Houghton of Kirkham soliciting the miller . . . "If it be so that you want a suit of cloths for her I should be much obliged to you for the order as I fit all in Preston and nearly all in the neighbourhood with mill sail-Cloths."

The accompanying steel engraving, after W. H. Bartlett, gives an impression of Lytham mill in the mid-19th century. The sails were turned to the Wind by means of a wheel worked by a rope from the ground.

In later years canvas sails went out of fashion and huge wooden blades, slatted like blinds, took their place. The cap, by this time, was automatically adjusted to the wind by a small fantail spinner.

There must be many grannies and granddads, who can remember picking daisies on Lytham Green within earshot of those high - reaching, deeply - dipping, blades. Rumble, creak and swish

their noise could be quite frightening to a child.

In 1909 a Manchester school-boy, over for the day, grabbed hold of a sail when it almost swept the ground and was hoisted high into the air. " Hold on!", called his teachers, but he lost his nerve and fell to his death.

For 113 years Lytham mill was as functional as it was decorative. The wooden machinery which turned the grindstones was rarely inactive. Then, on New Year's Day, 1919, fire broke out, gutted the interior, destroyed much grain and cast blazing timbers far and wide. The mill had ground its last corn.

Smartened up the structure was bought by the local authority and restored, it has been used by the Sea Cadets, and as an electricity sub-station, and also a cafe has been smartened up, fitted with a new hat, and equipped with purely ornamental sails. Now run by the Lytham Heritage Group with a team of excellent volunteers.

She is the borough's loveliest possessions, this white-frocked old lady who waves her arms to passing sailors and shakes her skirts on Lytham Green.

Now with no sails her dignity is lost, Would it not be splendid thing to see the sails turning once again when the sails return?

Not many have seen such a spectacle and I for one would be honoured to see our windmill sails turning once again.

David Hoyle with an extract from a 1962 newspaper article from the Lancashire Evening Post

Dave Hoyle

A No-sail Lytham Windmill



(photo supplied by Dave Hoyle)

A severe gale on the night of 1st October 2021 blew a sail off the Mill. This was followed on the 27th by a second sail and a third on the 1st November. The remaining sail was removed by Fylde Council on the 2nd November 2021 who are organising the repair / replacement of them.

Lytham in Bloom Community Awards

Lytham Heritage Group were entered for the annual awards for our garden dedicated to Alan Ashton. Judging for the awards took place at the end of the summer and our garden was judged in the non-commercial premises category. We were invited to a presentation evening which took place at the Clifton Arms on October 6th 2021. We were able to send 2 representatives so Audrey Kirby, our President and instigator of the garden, and myself as Chairman, went. It was a very pleasant and well organised evening with stunning images of the displays considered for each award shown on screen. Our category came towards the end so we had our fingers crossed and we won! The lovely cup and certificate are on display in the centre until we have to give the cup back next year. There are lots of people who have helped us win this award some of whom we do not know specific names but we are very grateful to such as the waterers of the flowers, stewards, committee members when they were passing, Fylde Borough when they watered the hanging baskets, LIB volunteers and possibly more. A big thank you must go to Fylde Borough parks department for the stunning hanging baskets, Bills Ices for sponsoring the annual planting and of course Audrey and Trevor Mackey from Lytham in Bloom for the concept in the first place and their continued collaboration. Roll on next year!

Sue Forshaw

Lytham Heritage Group President Audrey Kirby (left) is presented the Lytham In Bloom Gold Award cup and certificate for non-commercial premises from Yvonne Ball at the Lytham In Bloom award ceremony (photo Sue Forshaw)



Christmas Meal 13th December 2021



Sue Forshaw

This was held at the Best Western Glendower Hotel for the first time at Christmas as we have been several times for a meal in September. The hotel had gone to town with very tasteful and attractive decorations to put us in the festive mood. As usual we were able to use 2 rooms to have a pre-lunch drink and chat then go into the separate Dining Room. The tables were set attractively but with no numbers, however confusion was short lived and all were seated on time. As we were not in any hurry, and the hotel did not need to get rid of us, the meal

*Another Lytham building bites the dust. The Hole in One public house on Forest Drive was opened in 1979 but finally demolished in October 2021 after several years of inactivity.
(photo David Forshaw 28.02.2015)*



progressed at a steady pace. We held a splendid raffle and raised £87 for our funds. Comments from guests were on the whole positive for the food, which

with mass catering, is not always the case. Judging by the level of chat and people lingering over coffee an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Sue Forshaw

Heritage Centre Exhibitions Programme 2022

We have had an excellent year since we reopened on 22 June despite the strange circumstances as the Covid rules changed gradually.

The last two art exhibitions were very successful and our own heritage exhibition about the Mexico Disaster was very well received. The Christmas Fayre (pictured) will hopefully end the year on a high.

Next year we have a full Programme, details below, with some returning artists and groups, and some new ones. It begins with a very exciting exhibition: a new exhibition about the history of Lytham Shops produced by our own Archive team - this should prove to be very interesting to locals and visitors. The first art exhibition will be paintings by local man Jeffrey Hammond - an illustrious musician in his younger years. He paints large scenes with wonderful details and people. He does not wish to sell his paintings but it will be a superb exhibition.



EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME 2022

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 08 Feb - 27 Mar | "History of Lytham Shops" by Lytham Heritage Group. |
| 29 Mar - 18 Apr | "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something True?... " paintings by Jeffrey Hammond. |
| 20 Apr - 08 May | " INSPIRATION 2022 " An Eclectic Mix of Colours and Styles by Members of The Blackpool Art Society. |
| 10 - 29 May | " Emergence " Stitch, Print and Paint by Garden Walk Artists. |
| 31 May - 19 June | " Sea-Clay " Ceramics by Northern Potters (West). |
| 12 - 31 July | "Abstraction and Portraiture" a Posthumous exhibition of paintings by Will Pickering. |
| 02 - 21 Aug | The Brentleigh Artists - exploring Contemporary Art. |
| 23 Aug - 11 Sep | "Human Land" Photographic Studies and Landscapes of Northern Britain by Peter Laurence. |
| 13 Sept - 02 Oct | "Autumn Exhibition" by LSA Art Society. |
| 04 Oct - 06 Nov | Heritage exhibition about local War Memorials. |
| 08 - 27 Nov | "A Family in Art" paintings, prints and designs by Tony Fowler and family. |
| 29 Nov - 04 Dec | Christmas Fayre - original art gifts. |

Hilary Fletcher

Re Letter From Buckingham Palace in Antiquarian 140

I lived at 27 Mythop Ave 1974-76. Two sisters lived at No. 29 with their elderly mother - I'm pretty sure their name was Rogers. One of the sisters was Valerie and I recall she got married c1976. I remember she was blond, keen on golf and had an old sports car locked up in their garage.

I moved shortly afterwards and don't know what became of them.

1939 census

29 Mythop Avenue, Lytham St Anne's M.B., Lancashire, England

Household members (4 people)

Last name(s)	DOB	Sex	Occupation	Marital status	Schedule	Schedule Sub	Number
John	15 Jun 1890	Male	Corporation Rate Collector And Warrant Officer	Married	287		1
Violet C Rogers	09 Apr 1894	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	287		2

The record for this person is officially closed.

The record for this person is officially closed.

Janet Turner

Our Web Site

I have been developing our web site to provide more information, making it easier to find specific information and make it much easier to add more information. You can find the site at <https://lythamheritage.uk>

One of the sections that I want to develop is Local History providing information and pictures about places in the ancient parish of Lytham. There are a few pages already which need developing and we need to provide a lot more information. Adding information is now quite easy as it is all done via a web browser. There is a link on all the pages which allows you to log in via a user name that we can allocate to you. Once logged in an Edit link appears on the pages which you click to change that page. The edit process is just like changing a text file on your computer. There are also options to add pictures and also mark the location of that place on a map. So this work can be done anywhere, you don't have to do it at a special location, and the changes become visible immediately. There are options to go back if a mistake is made.

So I would like to find some members who would like to help with this for which training and assistance will be given although it is quite easy. I can demonstrate how to do it in the Heritage Centre when we re-open after the break, or for those who can't easily get there via Zoom.

You can contact me by phone on Lytham (01253) 730999 or leave a message at the Centre, or by email. webmaster@lythamheritage.uk

Phil Stringer

Lytham Heritage Group

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Lytham Heritage Group was established in 1987 to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the Ancient Parish of Lytham, which includes Lytham, Saltcotes, Ansdell, Fairhaven, Heyhouses, Kilgrimol and St Annes.

The Group with its large and active membership, regular presents exhibitions and social events. It also has wide ranging facilities including the Heritage Centre for exhibitions, the Archive Centre, the Windmill Museum, and the old Lifeboat House.

We are adding pages about the local history of the area.

Heritage Centre Archives Lytham Windmill Old Lifeboat House

Lytham Heritage Group Charity No 706152
Preserving and Promoting the History and Heritage of the Ancient Parish of Lytham

Heritage Talks at the Assembly Rooms

We were able to carry on with our talks to the end of the year with a lot of restrictions lifted. My thanks must go to Leanne from Stringers who is our liaison with the Town Trust and is always helpful despite any set backs or problems I put in her way. One instance I came in to find notices on all toilets "out of order". There was no way I could run the talk with no facilities. When she came over, between us, we deduced the library had put the notices on in the morning when they were open to stop the public from using them and forgot to remove them - panic over! I have suggested to the Town Trust an idea for how they can provide audio visual equipment to help our speakers and other groups who currently have to provide their own equipment every time. They have taken the suggestion on board and hopefully we will have some good news in the next edition. A big thanks to all the volunteers who help with the talks, Marie and Jennifer helping on the desk, Jill with the refreshments and David and others for setting out and putting away chairs etc. Let us hope that Covid does not spoil our plans for next year.

October 11th Peter Anthony the General Manager of Lytham Hall and a Committee member, ably assisted by Paul, gave an excellent illustrated talk to an audience of 20 on Lytham Hall. He started with post Guardian images of how the Hall had looked and how it was run mainly by the use of volunteers. Volunteers are still a vital part of the running of the Hall in a variety of capacities and the figure is still rising. However, the difference is now there are 25 paid employees - a vast increase from before. Peter outlined what had been achieved during his tenure and we all appreciated his hard work and dedication to restore and improve the building, its contents and the experiences on offer. Of course, the Antiques Roadshow was a factor in seeing increased visitor numbers outside the Covid enforced closure. He outlined his plans for the future using funding from grants and donations, catering and other social events and of course the Proms with its sizeable donation this summer. We wish them luck with future projects and together with Steve Williams from LHG helping with their exhibitions from our Archive, to continue to grow and prosper.

November 8th Brian Topping, our booked speaker, rang me a few days before the talk to inform me he was Covid positive. He was most apologetic but these things happen. Luckily Phil Stringer stepped into the breach with a couple of his father's cine films copied into modern format. For those of us brought up in Lytham St Annes it brought back specific memories of both places and sometimes people from our childhood. However, everybody of a certain age, and most were, it was nostalgia. Many thanks to Phil for stepping in at such short notice. An audience of over 20 passed an enjoyable hour.

Future talks

There is a full itinerary of the talks in the Assembly Rooms and Exhibitions in our Heritage Centre included with this edition. The first two talks are: -

March 14th Brian Topping has agreed to come back to deliver his postponed talk now being fully recovered from Covid. He is a retired customs officer and some of you may have heard him on the speaker's circuit. He does tell some unbelievable stories of his contact with certain sections of the travelling public, and weaves an amusing tale.

April 11th Anne Aitken, Deputy Chairman of the Lytham Club Day Committee is coming to talk about the events history and assures me she has lots of material. I am sure it will be of interest to all, even those who are new to the area. Anne is a very enthusiastic person and it will be a fun filled afternoon of nostalgia.



The 1925 Lytham Rose Queen Louie Firth represented St John's Sunday School. (photo Denise Jones)

Louie's commemoration medal



Sue Forshaw



The Mill and Lifeboat House of 1863. The Mill has dispensed with sail cloth and now has the long 'modern' patent sails. These have wooden slats the angle of which could be adjusted by levers. (Think of a Venetian blind in a house or office.) (Lytham Heritage Group)



The Mill after the disastrous fire of 1st January 1919 which finished its life as a working mill. (Lytham Heritage Group)

Contact Details



We welcome all queries and suggestions. Please send emails to
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or leave a note addressed to The Editor, at the Heritage Centre.

Archive - Dave Hoyle dave@davidhoyle.co.uk

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

Press & Publicity - Peter Anthony [via The Centre](#)

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