

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

Issue no 44

July 2020



### The Judges' Lodgings in July

With still no clear opening date ahead Museum Manager, Lynda has some interesting news –

“A couple of updates on the state of play. While we do not have a planned re-opening date, Judges' Lodgings is going to be the 'tester' for Lancashire County Council museums in the process of making the building Covid secure. This will probably mean a bit more work for us but it'll make sure that we have all the right processes and equipment to make the museum safe for all volunteers, visitors and staff and with a bit of luck may mean we are able to get back onsite quicker. When we do eventually re-open to the public, visitors will be required to wear face coverings onsite and the council will provide all front facing volunteers and staff with their own face visor which they can keep and are responsible for cleaning. If anyone has any particular concerns and questions about returning as a Room Steward, please get in touch.”

Being a 'tester' will be very interesting and should give the JL a head start in the new opening season, since it's assumed that Covid-secure arrangements will have to remain in place in 2021. The JL staff will have a good idea of what works and what doesn't and be able to share best practice round the other Lancashire Museums – and beyond. (the County Council, by the way, has 400 buildings to make Covid-Secure, which is a slow business – but they're getting quicker, we understand).

### July in the Garden

The rain in July and the random bursts of sunshine have encouraged a great array of plant growth in the garden – some of it very attractive, some of it less so. Thanks very much to Lynda and Jenny for keeping it in check on their own – as if they have nothing else to do.

The steps leading up from the ground courtyard where the Victorian Tea room took place had been placed out of bounds as they looked as though they were coming away from the main wall. It appears



now that they merely need pointing, so access from the ground floor to the Garden will be straightforward on re-opening, and could even lead to tea being taken in the Garden.



Outside the JL the position was not so attractive. Weeds have grown up around Covell Cross and sprouted from where walls meet pavement – not a welcoming sight once the main doors are open to visitors



Mandy, a JL volunteer and a member of the Friends' Committee, organised a weeding session, having consulted with the City Council, who provided purple rubbish bags and undertook to collect them once the session was over, and with the County Council and carried

out a risk assessment, borrowed hi-vis jackets and generally made sure it all looked authorised and safe.

And what a difference a day makes –





Many thanks to Mandy for organising the day (and the weather) so well, and to all the Friends who turned out with their sophisticated weeding equipment to help out so effectively

## The Welcome Gallery

The early nineteenth century painting of the Judges' Lodgings, which the Friends of JL raised the money to conserve and make ready to hang is now installed in the Welcome Gallery with a small descriptive plaque and a list of donors in the fund-raising project. It looks very fine there and in the flesh it is more beautiful than in the image.



Thanks are due to Lancaster City Council for making a long-term loan of this beautiful image

## The Friends of JL Committee

The Committee members met for the first time towards the end of July – via Zoom, as so many people seem to meet these days. It proved to be an effective way of getting us all together, even if the technology creaked a bit here and there – no doubt the fault of the organiser. It was good to see each other again after four months and a little bit depressing to find that the minutes from the previous meeting were now more or less irrelevant, since most of the projects we were hoping to start are now on hold. But few of them are time specific and can be reinstated as soon as possible.

We were also hoping to work on the presentation of events for the Friends, who have been loyally supporting us throughout this period of inactivity and there may be more news of that shortly – so watch this space. If anyone out there has ideas about online activities which we could promote to the Friends and at the same time use to promote the Judges' Lodgings itself, please let me know at the email address at the end of this newsletter.

## Join Us

If you have not yet joined the Friends, or you have friends and neighbours who would be interested in supporting our work to ensure that Lancaster Judges' Lodgings remains open and accessible to the public, please contact me, and encourage them to do the same – [sue.widden@outlook.com](mailto:sue.widden@outlook.com) – and I'll send joining details.

Please feel free to forward these newsletters to your friends and relatives and encourage them to join us in our work.

Comments and ideas from everyone are always welcome and we are happy to share them widely. If you have a view or a comment to contribute to UPDATE, please email me at the address below.

Sue Widden  
Newsletter Editor  
[sue.widden@outlook.com](mailto:sue.widden@outlook.com)