

LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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The Judges' Lodgings in October

The Judges' Lodgings fared well for visitors during October – half way through the month, the numbers were almost equivalent to September's number of visitors, and Hallowe'en looked as though it would do exceptionally well. Even in the first half of the month the visitors spent more per head than in the previous months which is always a welcome development. Four new volunteer Room Stewards have been appointed – there is some concern about any anxieties the volunteers and staff may feel once the season closes on Sunday 8 November. It's possible there may be maintenance and cleaning jobs during the winter – deep cleaning of upholstery etc, which is all essential.

Hallowe'en seems likely to be a very successful weekend, with the JL staff dressed appropriately and a spooky trail laid round the



building – a black crow on the judge's wig in the Welcome Gallery looked particularly sinister. Even the Gillow



chairs lent themselves to a display of ghostly/ghastly objects for the trail participants to add to their list. The imposing figure of Death dominated the kitchen which was swathed in cobwebs and spiders – she was prepared to

show a lighter side of herself by removing her skull if small (or not so small) young people looked like taking fright. The JL staff and volunteers are to be congratulated on putting together a suitable celebration of this traditional event.



Christmas cards and a print of the newly conserved painting of the JL in about 1805 are now on sale in reception at the JL - £4.99 for the A3 unframed print and £2.25 for one of the cards, £5.00 for a set of 3 – all excellent value for money. These will still be available after the Judges' Lodgings closes for the winter season. After the museum closes on 8 November they can be bought by emailing Garth at Lindrups@gmail.com. P+P of £3.20 will be added. Season's greeting cards of the painting are also on sale at the museum from today - £2.25 each or £5 for a pack of 3. Again after the museum closes these can be mailed out, using the contact details given for Garth above. P+P will be advised according to the quantity required.

There has been a new acquisition donated to the JL – a 1984 Tomy Robot, now a collector's item, described in a contemporary Christmas catalogue as “a sophisticated butler who amazes children and adults alike with his charm and intelligence.” This charmer will not be on display yet but we look forward to seeing him next year perhaps.



In the Garden

Maintenance work has been continuing in the garden, but some of the volunteer sessions have had to be cancelled because of the unsettled weather. More bulbs have been planted for next spring – something to rejoice the spirit during the winter.

Events

Lancaster County Council has been considering the worst-case scenario, that Covid-19 restrictions will still be in place at least at the beginning of next year's season, so that it

will be difficult to hold live events. Members of the Friends are rapidly learning new IT and online techniques and we hope to be able to offer talks and other activities as we get to grips with the technology. We'll keep you posted.

Volunteering at JL

You can volunteer at JL through the LCC Volunteering Programme either to act as a Room Steward or to join the Gardening Team – follow the link <https://lancsvp.org.uk/opportunities>

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 – 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.

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