

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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### The Judges' Lodgings in November

It was rather sad that the Judges' Lodgings had to close after only one day in November, thanks to the current lock-down, but at least it closed on a rousing finale, with an excellent turnout for the Hallowe'en weekend. Staff all entered into the spirit of the event (sorry if there's a pun there – quite unintended) wearing spooky/scary clothes and



visitors, children especially, wore fantastic costumes.





October showed very good figures for visitors – 409, with a huge spend of £1133; and there were 29 visitors just on 1 November before the Museum closed, spending £138 in the day. Lynda, Museum Manager, says – “A MASSIVE THANK YOU from all of us at JL for your support as we re-opened this year. I know it's been a very difficult year but I am so pleased we got a short season in and great to finish on a spooky Halloween weekend! Lovely to hear happy families enjoying the creepy atmosphere and we've had some more 5 star reviews on google too.”

All available Christmas Cards of the newly conserved painting of the JL have been sold, raising money for the JL. There are still some of the prints left – A4 unframed @ £4.99. Excellent value and a great Christmas present. If you would like one please email me [sue.widden@outlook.com](mailto:sue.widden@outlook.com) and payment/delivery/collection can be arranged.



Your print could look something like this

Once lock-down is over (not long now) Lynda will be looking for volunteers to help with the cleaning and maintenance in the JL over the winter closure. If you would like to help with these essential tasks to make our beautiful building fresh and ready for the spring

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please contact Lynda - [Lynda.jackson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda.jackson@lancashire.gov.uk). She will be happy to hear from you. Jenny (Site manager) says – “It is interesting doing the cleaning as it is also taken as an opportunity to thoroughly check for pests and mould etc. so we get to peer into drawers and cupboards normally not seen. I particularly like the intricacies of the Gillows work revealed by so doing. Last year we found a local infestation of clothes moth by opening a drawer lined with felt so it is very important that this work gets done.”

The Judges’ Lodgings sometime earlier put in a bid for a Green grant, which was awarded and has been spent on bicycle racks. These are now awaiting installation by Lancaster City Council and should be fully operational by the next open season. Pity the JL is up such a steep hill – but I suppose it’s nothing for really hardy cyclists, and wimps like me can always push our bikes upwards.

## In the Garden



*Clematis seed heads*

The Garden is of course past its best as far as colourful displays are concerned, but there is always beauty in the pale seed heads, leaf skeletons and late flowering which autumn brings. Of course with this year having



*Cranesbill*



*Hypericum*

been so difficult progress in the development of the

Garden has not been as speedy as one would have hoped, but the good thing about gardens is that they’re still there next year, waiting to be developed or even developing all on their own. Many thanks to the volunteers who have been able to get out into the Garden and helped to keep it tidy.

## Events

The JL events team is planning a wide range of activities for the 2021 season, all covid-secure as that’s likely to be necessary, for part of the year at least. A schedule will be made available as soon as possible. The Friends are also planning some activities, the earlier ones probably based on short Zoom talks which will be free initially. We hope to put one out in time for Christmas, as a mini-workshop on making Christmas Cards. Watch out for a Zoom invite coming your way.

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## 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](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)