

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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### The Judges' Lodgings in May

Hooray – our Museum opened again to the public for the summer season on Friday 21 May and (we hope) will now maintain normal opening hours until the end of November. Restrictions remain in place until 21 June (and maybe even beyond) but the JL team have worked hard to ensure that the building and its contents are Covid-secure, and will continue to do so as regulations change. The first weekend of opening saw 99 visitors across the threshold, many of them from out of town, which is encouraging as an indicator that Lancaster as a whole is opening up again. One of our stewards carried out an informal survey of the visitors she met and reports that two couples came from London, with other couples coming from Lytham, Wales and Preston. Lynda and her team have worked very hard to make the JL really family-friendly. There are new garden games which proved attractive, even though the weather at the time was not very inviting.



One of the rooms on the upper floor has been set aside as a Breast-Feeding Room, and another room downstairs has been designated a picnic room, where visitors can consume their own meals and refreshments. There are new activity bags

and craft packs for families.

The Lytham Hall Clothes Press will be coming on loan to the JL sometime soon. In this instance a clothes press is not an advanced form of steam iron, but a large cupboard for clothes, with hanging and drawer space. The image shows a mahogany clothes press attributed to Gillow about 1770, with Christie's, not the Lytham Hall piece, which is currently in the County Conservation Studios.

A new guide to the JL has been designed, with new text, illustrations and research, on sale in the museum shop for £1.00.



## Friends' Events

We have another Zoom presentation in prospect – Alan Rice, Professor of English and American Studies at UCLan, will give an online talk on **Black Lives Matter – Then and Now** – on Wednesday 30 June at 7.30pm. We'll be sending round a reminder and a Zoom link nearer the time. In the meantime please keep the date free in your diaries.



## Victorian Tea-Room

This extremely popular initiative by the Friends of JL will restart in July, if all outside circumstances go according to plan. Previously we held this on the second Saturday of each month, but July will be different. We will open the Tea Room on Saturday 24 July and then again on the second Saturdays of August, September, October and November, if all goes well. As before the Tea Room will offer cakes and tray bakes, tea, coffee and other beverages, to suit different dietary requirements, all served on our beautiful vintage china. We look forward to seeing you there. We will be looking for volunteers to bake for us, help to serve and of course, most importantly,

wash up afterwards. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out ([sue.widden@outlook.com](mailto:sue.widden@outlook.com)) and I will draw up a rota.

## 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.

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