

# LANCASTER JUDGES' LODGINGS

## UPDATE

Newsletter of the Friends of Lancaster Judges' Lodgings

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### The Judges' Lodgings in June

Although 21 June didn't provide us with quite the rousing fanfare we'd hoped for, at least there were no new restrictions to impose on Museums. The JL has therefore been able to continue open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and is attracting some highly satisfied visitors. There is some particularly favourable mention of the family-friendly initiatives which have been introduced into the museum and garden –

“We visited with our two children and they absolutely loved it. Staff are knowledgeable and lovely and Judges Lodgings is a real interesting space to visit. The gardens are incredible! It's a like a secret garden - totally unexpected. The children enjoyed playing croquet and then watering the flowers - a perfect end to our visit on such a hot summers day. The child pack with activities provided on arrival was a really nice touch as was the child carrier seat. It's very clear that a lot of thought and care has been put into making visits as fun and as easy as possible for families. The new breastfeeding room is a marvellous addition. Judges Lodgings is a wonderful example of how inclusive and welcoming museums/historic buildings can be. Thank you so much.”

And another –

“Fantastic place. We all enjoyed our visit. The staff were really helpful and offered lots of background information. 8 yr old enjoyed the quiz as he went round. Especially liked the games in the garden. (Nice weather!). Would highly recommend.”

It is so lovely and encouraging to get such very positive feedback, because the JL team have put a lot of hard work into refreshing the building and the garden is looking great – see below.

### June in the Garden

Jenny, the JL Site Manager, and her team of gardening volunteers, have performed wonders on the JL Garden over the past months. Looking back at the same time last year, we had some lovely images of single blossoms – now whole





vistas are opening up with colourful borders. The grass has been tamed into (almost) a lawn, so that even if not quite Hurlingham standards, a game of croquet may be enjoyed.



### The Victorian Tea Room

As long as there are no further set-backs from Government restrictions the Victorian Tea Room will be open on Saturday 24 July, 11.00am until 3.00pm, serving tea, coffee and soft drinks, with home-made cakes, biscuits and tray-bakes. In July 2019 when we first started this initiative it proved extremely popular with visitors, one even asserting that he had the best flapjack ever. It was a great disappointment that we were not able to repeat the success at all last year, so fingers crossed that there will be no problems this year.



We had a great team of volunteers when we first started the

Tea Room – i) to make the goodies, ii) to wait at table, and iii) to help wash up. If you would like to be involved and can spare a few hours to help with renewing the success of the Tea Room please let me know – [sue.widden@outlook.com](mailto:sue.widden@outlook.com)  
Many thanks.

### Lancaster Black History Group Project

The team from the JL is working hard on their share of the project – Slavery Family Trees – looking at different aspects of seven of the most prominent merchants and traders in Lancaster during the eighteenth century. All were interconnected through business and/or marriage and most were directly involved with enslaved peoples in the West Indies and Caribbean. The Gillows were at least indirectly involved and made a great deal of money from the trade of mahogany for their high-class furniture business. Access to the Gillow Archives in Lancaster University Library is now possible and we can see from entries in Gillow accounts how much William Lindow, for example, spent in 1772-3, when his new home at 1 Queen Square in Lancaster was designed, built and furnished by Gillow. On 26 November 1772 William Lindow is being invoiced for a long

list of items, including a set of 18 Mahogany Splat Back Dining Chairs, costing him £14.8s.0d and there are plenty of other entries of expenditure. The original accounts are quite difficult to read being written in florid script and lots of crossings out, but a picture is emerging of a wealthy man (Lindow) being prepared to spend to get the best for his new house.

## **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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